

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2219/10
by Joe Higgins (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Val di Susa high-speed rail project

Would the Commission give a comprehensive and up-to-date report on the relationship of the European Union institutions with the high-speed train (TAV) project in the Val di Susa in the Piemonte region of north-west Italy and, in particular, answer the following:

1. What funding has been committed by the EU to the project?
2. Has any funding been drawn down to date and, if so, how much and for what purposes?
3. Is it aware that two residents of Val di Susa, Simone Pettinati and Marinella Alotto, were hospitalised after a brutal police response to a peaceful protest against the drilling of a *sondaggio* – a test borehole – near Susa on 17 February 2010?
4. Is it aware that the vast majority of citizens of Val di Susa and their local political representatives are strongly opposed to the TAV project?
5. Is it aware of the concerns of the local community that the extent of tunnelling envisaged for the TAV project would release dangerous levels of asbestos and uranium into the atmosphere and thereby endanger human health?
6. Is it aware that there is grave concern in the local community about the drastic effect the projected tunnelling would have on aquifers and the natural water flows in general in the valley?
7. Does it know whether a comprehensive environmental impact study has been conducted by local or national Italian authorities to detail the significant environmental impact of such a major project on an area of great natural beauty and touristic importance?
8. Will the Commission please report on any other relevant issues connected with this project?