

**Question for written answer E-4350/2010
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Edvard Kožušník (ECR)

Subject: Commission assessment of the project to complete the D8 motorway

The European Commission recently informed the Czech Ministry of Transport that it is suspending its assessment of the project to complete the D8 motorway linking Prague with the Federal Republic of Germany as a result of complaints from environmentalists. The Commission has given itself a period of up to four months in which to review the project, which is financed by the Operational Programme 'Transport'. The planned opening of the motorway will thus in all probability be postponed until 2012.

According to reports in the Czech media, the European Commission is reluctant to fund large road transport infrastructure projects in the Czech Republic, allegedly because it fears intervention by environmental groups. Completion of the D8 motorway around Ústí nad Labem is vital not only for this town, but also for the whole area. Even the slightest delay in its construction causes huge problems for this region of northern Bohemia owing, among other things, to the heavy volume of lorry traffic, which has a significant effect on overall environmental quality, especially with regard to exhaust emissions, noise and dust. Substituting for the unconstructed section of the D8 motorway, the overloaded I/30 from Ústí nad Labem to Lovosice is clogged with heavy goods vehicles and is thus, from a traffic safety perspective, one of the most dangerous stretches of road in the Czech Republic.

I would therefore ask the Commission whether there is any possibility of its speeding up its assessment of the project to complete the D8 motorway. Will the Commission seek to ensure that this procedure is not unduly drawn out and that the project can be completed in as short a time as possible?