

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0633/02
by Reinhold Messner (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Renewal of the motorway concession held by the Brescia-Padua motorway operating company and the building of the Pedemontana Veneta Ovest section of motorway (from Montebello to Thiene)

Without a public tendering procedure being held the agreement between the company holding the concession for the Brescia-Padua motorway and ANAS, the public body which runs the Italian road network, was renewed for another 9 years.

On the basis of the 'Ciampi-Costa directive'¹ motorway concessions may be extended by way of exception only in order to settle existing disputes (failure to adjust charges, recognition of work carried out for the 1990 football World Cup and the 1992 Columbus International Exposition, and any other disputes on which the opinion of the State legal advisory office must be requested). In this case, however, the justification for the extension seems to be the fact that the concessionaire has been assigned to building a number of new sections of motorway, included in the agreement and financial statement. These new projects include the Pedemontana Veneta Ovest, which is to link the A4 (at Montebello Vicentino) and the A31 (at Thiene) by means of a stretch of motorway 27.4 km long, plus 19 km of access roads. The estimated cost is Lit 540 661 000 000 (about EUR 280 million). This motorway is not merely a 'link' between the A4 and the A31, which are already linked to each other at the Vicenza north exit, but a new motorway to be added to the Valtrompia and Valdastico motorways, which are also envisaged in the financial statement of the Brescia-Padua motorway concessionaire, on which the questioner has already tabled questions to the Commission (E-0371/01² and E-4047/00³)⁴.

Can the Commission ascertain whether or not the Pedemontana Veneta Ovest motorway (Montebello Vicentino to Thiene) is a new project, for which the extension of the concession cannot be justified without a call to tender being issued?

¹ Directive of the Minister for Public Works, together with the Ministry for the Treasury, the Budget and Economic Planning of 20.10.1998, Protocol No 011790 of the Ministry for the Treasury.

² OJ C 235E, 21.8.2001, p. 189.

³ OJ C 174E, 19.6.2001, p. 220.

⁴ The investments for new projects authorised in the concessionaire's financial statement amount to a total of Lit 2 466 billion (EUR 1 273 million).