

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0231/04  
by Alexander de Roo (Verts/ALE)  
to the Commission

Subject: EIB loan to Schiphol Airport

For the financing of its fifth runway (known as the 'Polderbaan'), Schiphol Airport successfully applied for a European Investment Bank loan of EUR 150 million. Friends of the Earth Netherlands claims that the loan was approved (on 15 February 2002) before the requisite environmental impact assessment into the use of the 'Polderbaan' was completed (on 11 March 2002).

According to a report entitled: 'Flying with Big Business: The European Investment Bank and the Aviation Industry', published in November 2003 by Friends of the Earth International and CEE Bankwatch Network, the same applied to the expansion of Sofia Airport in Bulgaria, except that, in that particular instance, no EIA was carried out at all.

On what date did the EIB inform the European Commission of its intention to grant a soft loan to Schiphol Airport, and was that information accompanied by an environmental impact assessment that may be made public?

Does the Commission share my view that the EIB should have waited for the result of the EIA referred to above before approving the loan? How will the Commission approach the EIB with a view to reversing the matter?

How will the Commission approach the EIB with a view to ensuring that such circumstances do not recur?