

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4155/05
by Joost Lagendijk (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Plans by the Netherlands Government to build A6-A9 motorway through vulnerable natural areas

The Netherlands Government plans to build a motorway connecting the A9 and A6 motorways. This connecting road will lead to the fragmentation of Natura 2000 areas, will cut through the solid links between EHS areas (areas forming part of the national network of protected areas) and threaten protected areas for birds and protected habitats.

1. In the article 'Rekeningrijden beter dan snelweg A6-A9' (Charging for the use of roads preferable to A6-A9 motorway) (NRC Handelsblad, 7 October 2005), the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management confirms calculations by the Rijkswaterstaat (the Netherlands Office for Transport, Public Works and Water Management) showing that charging for the use of existing roads is a possible alternative to building the A6-A9 connecting road. Is the Commission prepared to press the Netherlands Government to explore this alternative to the building of the planned motorway?
2. Is that alternative, namely charging for existing infrastructure, an acceptable one, insofar as it removes the urgent social pressure to build a connecting road through a protected natural area?