WRITTEN QUESTION P-6758/08
by Carlos Carnero González (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Affects on the Mirasierra primary and secondary schools of work to extend Madrid Metro Line 9

The Government of the Madrid Autonomous Community has decided to start work shortly in the Fuencarral district to extend Line 9 of the capital's metro system to the new station at Mirasierra.

As reported widely in the local media, this decision has led to considerable public alarm in the district concerned, particularly among the parents of the 1 000 pupils at the Mirasierra secondary school and the 600 pupils at the Mirasierra infant and junior school.

The parents associations at these schools claim that the Government of the Madrid Autonomous Community has not consulted them sufficiently on works that will have a direct and negative impact on the schools' pupils. The secondary school is to be demolished and relocated to facilities some distance from its present site, and continuing to hold classes in conditions that are at the very least passable will be almost impossible at both schools (the primary school stands 7 metres from the planned works) while the work is going on. They feel that the metro could easily be extended using spaces elsewhere, thereby avoiding these consequences.

I fully share the concerns of the parents associations and I consider that the Government of the Madrid Autonomous Community has failed to comply firstly with the mandatory requirement under Community legislation in force to assess the impact of works of this size and secondly with the provisions of the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights regarding the right to a decent and good quality education.

Is the Commission aware of the situation described? Having heard the facts, does it intend to open an inquiry? Will it ask the Government of the Madrid Autonomous Community to supply the necessary information? What steps will it take to ensure that Community legislation is adhered to and the Charter of Fundamental Rights respected?