

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1181/09
by Vittorio Agnoletto (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Compliance with environmental rules (Directives 85/337/EEC, 97/11/EC, 2001/42/EC, 79/409/EEC, 92/43/EEC and 2000/60/EC) prior to the start of any work in connection with project EU-06010-P

Given that

- following the allocation, by means of the Commission decision adopted on 5 December 2008 with the agreement of Parliament and the Council, as required under the Multiannual Programme 2007-2013 for the development of the TEN-Ts, of € 671.8 m in funding for studies and works in connection with priority project No 6 (EU-06010-P);
- under the terms of the decision itself, as pointed out by the Commissioner responsible on 17 December 2008, the Commission services involved will make the award of funding contingent on scrupulous compliance by the project developer with the environmental rules in force, which have, moreover, already been incorporated in full into French and Italian law;
- verification of compliance with those rules would take place when details of the project are presented, prior to the start of any legislative procedures in the Member States concerned which would lead to operational decisions to earmark funding under national budgets; in October 2008 the Italian Government incorporated the project as presented in July 2007, on the basis that a new route would be proposed, but confirmed that a series of drafts would still be required before the project was finalised and that the individual environmental impact assessments would only be carried out once the final proposals concerning the work required to build the international section of track had been put forward;
- those studies have not yet been submitted, in particular as regards the new proposal put forward in October 2008;
- the decision of 5 December 2008 states that, subject to the suspension, reduction or cancellation of the Community contribution, 'the compulsory assessments must be fully completed and approved by the competent authority in accordance with national law prior to the start of the works described in the following list of activities',

does the Commission intend to monitor and insist on the performance of all the assessments linked to compliance with Directives 85/337/EEC¹ of 27 June 1985, 97/11/EC² of 3 March 1997 (EIA), 2001/42/EC³ of 27 June 2001 (SEIA), 92/43/EEC⁴ of 21 May 1992 (Habitats), 79/409/EEC⁵ of 25 April 1979, 91/244/EC⁶ of 6 March 1991 (Birds) and 2000/60/EC⁷ of 23 October 2000 (Water), prior to the initiation of works by the project developer, i.e. before any Community funding is granted, even in the form of an advance, and how it intends to assess, in the light of the findings, to what extent project EU-06010-P meets the relevant environmental and economic requirements?

¹ OJ L 175, 5.7.1985, p. 40.

² OJ L 73, 14.3.1997, p. 5.

³ OJ L 197, 21.7.2001, p. 30.

⁴ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

⁵ OJ L 103, 25.4.1979, p. 1.

⁶ OJ L 115, 8.5.1991, p. 41.

⁷ OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1.