

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2417/09
by Vittorio Agnoletto (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Environmental impact assessment for the Gronda di Ponente ('Western Rim'): projected linking motorway section under the 'Genoa motorway hub plan'

- On 21 December 2001 the Italian Government, by CIPE (Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning) Decision No 121, classed the 'Genoa motorway hub' as a strategic infrastructure of national importance; on 23 December 2002 ANAS and Autostrade per l'Italia Spa drew up the IVth Additional Document, approved by the Government under the decree law of 11 March 2004 and registered at the Audit Office on 20 May 2004, whereby, as part of the plan to be implemented in the Genoa area, the Gronda di Ponente was to be built, that is to say, a 12 km motorway section linking the A10 and A7 motorways.
- On 27 February 2006 Liguria Region, the Province of Genoa, Genoa City Council, and ANAS Spa signed a memorandum of understanding on the construction of the Genoa hub as a whole, including the Gronda di Ponente.
- On 3 August 2006 Liguria Region, the Province of Genoa, Genoa City Council, and ANAS Spa approved a further memorandum on the Gronda di Ponente route, which, while endorsing the earlier decision, called for particular attention to be paid to welfare cover and for economic activities to be moved elsewhere if they were likely to interfere with the infrastructure, but failed to put forward any environmental impact assessment, thus infringing the obligations laid down in Directives 85/337/EEC¹, 97/11/EC², and 2001/42/EC³ relating to major environmental impact assessment.
- Legislative Decree No 4 of 16 January 2008, amending and supplementing Legislative Decree No 152 of 3 April 2006 on the environmental rules transposing Community directives, stipulates that assessment of the environmental impact of plans, programmes, and projects is intended to ensure that human activity is compatible with the conditions for sustainable development, without exceeding the regenerative capacity of ecosystems and resources, while protecting biodiversity and enabling the benefits of economic activity to be shared fairly. According to this decree, major environmental impact assessment relates to plans and programmes that could affect the environment and the cultural heritage to a significant degree; the Genoa motorway hub and the Gronda di Ponente project fall into that category, but they were not the subject of any major impact assessment before the 2006 memoranda were signed.

What representations will the Commission make to the Italian Government, the regional and local authorities concerned, and the firms entrusted with the work with a view to ensuring that Directive 2001/42/EC is applied to the Genoa motorway hub plan as a whole, including the Gronda di Ponente, and that the major environmental impact assessment is carried out and published before any final decision is taken to schedule or assign the work?

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.