

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3172/09
by Andrea Losco (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Unreasonable failure in Italy to differentiate between motorcycles and cars for motorway toll purposes

Contrary to what happens in most EU Member States, including Germany, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Finland, Greece, Denmark, and the Czech Republic, in Italy *Autostrade per l'Italia S.p.A.*, the company that runs the motorway network under a government concession, charges the same toll rates for motorcycles as it does for cars.

Bracketing the two together in this way is completely unjustified, given that

1) there is absolutely no comparison between cars and motorcycles in terms of the total numbers on Italian roads and hence of their impact; 2) motorcycles cause less wear and tear of road surfaces (since they have two wheels instead of four); 3) they make less use of motorway services (as they cannot carry more than two people); 4) they emit lower volumes of noxious gases and thus have less of an environmental impact; 5) they do a great deal to reduce motorway congestion (especially on urban motorways).

Without encroaching on the Member States' right to levy tolls and/or user charges within their national territory, does not the Commission consider it advisable, bearing in mind that it has policies to promote environment-friendlier road transport, to recommend that all the Member States, and Italy in particular, should, not least by applying preferential rates, encourage the use of means of transport offering an alternative to cars, motorcycles being one example?