

**Members' Activities Division
European Parliament
B-1047 Brussels**

**NAME:
NACIONALITY:
PROFESSION:
ADRESS:**

PETITION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Right now, a major urban development project is being carried out in the city of Madrid: the remodelling of the ring road M-30. Not only does this project violate most of the European environmental policies, but it also explicitly challenges the Union's control mechanisms. This project has been reported to this Parliament on previous occasions and raises two issues of paramount importance that concern some of the residents living in the southern area of Madrid:

1. As area residents, we would like to inform the Parliament that the projects being carried out in this part of Madrid have an unprecedented environmental impact on protected green spaces and residential areas (Tierno Galván Park and Arganzuela Park). Despite this, none of these public works nor their combined effect on the environment have been subjected to an Environmental Impact Report. (In 2004, the EC started proceedings (legal record B-2004/2080) to clarify the reasons why this urban development project is exempt from the Environmental Impact Report). The road works consist of:
 - a. The construction of a ventilation shaft for two tunnels in a public park that is extremely close to a residential area. This shaft will be one of just two ventilation points for these two four-kilometre-long tunnels. At least 80,000 vehicles (more than 100,000 according to our calculations) are expected to travel through them each day. The expulsion of the pollution generated in the tunnel through the ventilation grilles (150m² x 2m) poses a serious risk to public health, even if they are equipped with the best filtering systems available.
 - b. The traffic from the Southern Bus Station (more than 1,500 buses per day) is expected to travel through these tunnels, only a few metres from the ventilation shaft and the homes in the area. This traffic will add to the air pollution produced by the ventilation of the tunnel and the noise pollution in a residential area that the Madrid City Hall admits is already seriously affected by this type of pollution (In April 2001, reports from the City Hall proposed this zone be an AAA – Acoustic Action Area).
 - c. Part of the traffic from the city's Southern Junction (National-IV and M-40) will also be redirected to this street. Tens of thousands of vehicles try to enter the centre of Madrid on a daily basis.
 - d. The remainder of this considerable traffic flow will be rerouted to another neighbourhood street (Embajadores). This will completely

isolate the neighbourhood and subject it to extremely high hazard and pollution levels.

- e. In addition, the capacity of the section of the M-30 (ring road) situated next to the neighbourhood is going to be increased. The obvious effects that this increased traffic will have on the neighbourhood will add to those given above.

As we have pointed out, no Environmental Impact Report has been made on any of these works. What is even more shocking is that no assessment has been made of the effects stemming from all of these road works that are being carried out in the same urban area. This constitutes a clear infringement of what is stipulated in *Directives 85/733/CEE, 97/11/CEE and 2001/42/CE* and openly contradicts article 174 of the Union's Constitutional Treaty and *Decision n° 1600/2002/CE* made by the European Parliament and European Council. In addition to failing to comply with environmental regulations, these road works violate the directives established by the Union regarding access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decision-making provided for in the following agreements: *Charter of the European Cities & Towns Towards Sustainability (Aalborg Letter)*, *The Aarhus Convention* and *Agenda 21 (United Nations)*.

2. However, what is even more serious is that the European Commission already advised the authorities leading this project that these types of road works could not be carried out in an urban setting without an Environmental Impact Report. In December 2002, the EC issued a reasoned opinion informing the Kingdom Of Spain that they failed to comply with the European directive requiring an Environmental Impact Report. The Kingdom of Spain claimed that this report was not mandatory since the project was being carried out in an urban area (Reasoned opinion of infringement 2001/5061 signed by Margot Wallström). For that very reason (carrying out road works in an urban area) the local government claims that the road works are exempt from the Environmental Impact Report. The administration that defended this position before the Commission was the Community of Madrid. Their president and most of their officials are in charge of City Hall and the project referred to herein. Considering these circumstances, it is obvious that the local government is consciously and deliberately failing to observe the European regulations and, therefore, explicitly challenging the political and legal framework established by the citizens of the European Union.

Consequently, in view of what has been stated above, I REQUEST THAT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: urge the appropriate European authorities to take urgent measures to supervise Madrid's M-30 remodelling project; press the Kingdom of Spain to stop these road works and to demand that the European directives be complied with; and set up a commission to study this project and to consider the possibility of visiting the City of Madrid in order to obtain information on the irregularities.

We would like to remind you that not only is the health of thousands of families at risk, but also the prestige of the European institutions, their representation and the concept of authority. It is all being threatened by the passing fancy of local political interests and urban speculation. When the "tunnelling machines" enter the ground under our homes

(in the summer months of 2005), they will be undermining the dream of many European families and that which area residents share with you and millions of other Europeans: a Europe of Citizens.

Sign:

20th May 2005