

RESUMEN DE PRENSA DE LA DECISIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN EUROPEA

(sólo lo concerniente a la M-30)

Este macroproyecto, uno de los más importantes de este tipo en Europa en el presente, debería haber sido sometido a un formal y global procedimiento de evaluación ambiental. En cambio, ha sido dividido en 19 proyectos más pequeños que no han sido sometidos a un procedimiento completo de valoración de impacto.

..., los requerimientos de la Directiva de Evaluación de Impacto Ambiental deben ser cumplidos. Esta Directiva exige que los proyectos de grandes infraestructuras sean evaluados por su impacto antes de que sean aprobados con el objetivo de minimizar el daño ambiental y las molestias. Esta (directiva), además, prevé una consulta pública.

Texto en inglés

Spain: Commission continues legal action for breaches of environmental law

The European Commission will take legal action against Spain on four cases of violation of EU environmental law. Spain will receive a first warning for its failure to execute a ruling of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) on an uncontrolled and illegal waste landfill in Punta de Avalos (La Gomera, Canary Islands). The Commission will also send first written warnings to Spain in three cases for having breached the EU directives which require that an environmental impact assessment be carried out before undertaking work on infrastructure and projects. The cases concern the M-30 ring-road in Madrid, development projects in Cabo de Gata (Andalucía) and Peñíscola (province of Castellón). In three of these cases, the projects have an impact on the EU-wide Natura 2000 network of nature protected areas and sites. Finally, the Commission will close one infringement case concerning three waste landfill sites following actions undertaken by the Spanish authorities to comply with an earlier Court ruling.

Comentario: As far as I can count there are only three cases - so it should read "These cases...."

"I welcome the fact that we have been able to resolve the case of three waste landfill installations in Spain", said Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas. "However, we are impatient to see the outstanding cases resolved by Spain."

Environmental impact assessment: Madrid M-30 ring road project

The Commission has sent Spain a first written warning for having breached the 1985 Directive¹ on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. The requirements of this directive have not been met as far as the M-30 ring-road project around Madrid is concerned. This project of the Town Hall of Madrid aims to modify the old ring-road and develop important urban development projects

¹ Directive 85/337/EEC on environmental impact assessments, which was modified in 1997 by directive 97/11/EC.

along the new ring-road, close to the Manzanares River, for a total cost of € 4,000 million.

This macro-project, one of the most important of its kind in Europe at present, should have undergone a formal and global environmental impact procedure. Instead, it was split into 19 smaller projects which have not been subject to a complete impact assessment procedure. The Commission's view was confirmed by an ECJ judgement in another case (Case 332/04) on 16 March 2006, which stated that Spain had not correctly transposed the environmental impact assessment directive as far as urban development projects are concerned.

It should be noted that the Commission does not question the necessity, the design or the importance of this project for the city of Madrid. Nevertheless, the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive must be complied with. This Directive requires major infrastructure projects to be assessed for their impact before they are approved in order to avoid or minimise environmental damage and nuisances. It also provides for public consultation.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/445&format=PDF&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>