



306282 01.04.2014

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

THE CHAIRMAN

TRAN/D/2014/15472

Ms Erminia MAZZONI
Chair of the Committee on Petitions
ASP 08F136

Subject: Petition No 0053/2013

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for asking the Committee on Transport and Tourism for its opinion on the abovementioned petition. We understand the concerns expressed by its signatories and hope that the new EU Guidelines for the Trans-European Network and Connecting European Facility, recently adopted by the Parliament, will respond at least to some of their demands regarding the Polish concept of Via Carpathia. We also agree that developing sustainable infrastructure will contribute to regional growth and will indeed stimulate regional development and will create new jobs.

However, as you very well know, the TEN-T Regulation, making a distinction between core and comprehensive networks, was based on a methodology negotiated jointly between the Member States, European Parliament and other stakeholders. After reading attentively the opinion submitted to you by the Commission, I fully agree with its detailed explanation as to which sections of the Via Carpathia concept were classified as part of the core and which as part of the comprehensive network. It also rightly points out that the only exception to the methodology was the S8 Białystok-Augustów stretch, not included into either of the networks, following environmental concerns raised by the European Commission.

Consequently, following the vote by the European Parliament, the S19 stretch south of the City of Białystok down to the border with Slovakia was included in the TEN-T network and therefore is eligible for the European funding from the EU Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the cross-border section of S61 (Suwałki-Budzisko to Lithuania) would indeed qualify for funding from the CEF. The Commission therefore rightly explained that it would be up to Polish government to plan and request EU-funding to upgrade roads from CEF/Cohesion Funds or other sources.

I hope you find my answer, on behalf of the Committee on Transport and Tourism, useful for your feedback to the petitioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Simpson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Brian Simpson