

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

**Green Party Member of the European Parliament
for the South East of England**

Commissioner Jacques Barrot
DG Transport
The European Commission
Brussels 1049
Belgium

31st August 2006

Dear Commissioner Barrot,

Last June I wrote to you objecting to the construction of the Via Baltica motorway in Poland.

In your reply - dated the 13th September 2005 - you indicated that the Directorate-General for Environment was already dealing with a complaint procedure on this issue. I should be grateful to know what progress has been made with that procedure.

I am particularly concerned given that the Polish Minister of Environment gave his approval to three road projects in the north east of the country - two new bypasses and the upgrading of a road to an expressway. The Polish Roads Agency has stated that it intends to commence work on the Augustow City Bypass in late September / early October. As outlined in my last correspondence, this is one of the oldest and largest forests in Europe - the conservation value of which has been marked by its designation as a Natura 2000 site, thereby protecting it under the EU Habitats Directive.

I urge the Commission to ensure that the Polish government stops work on all three projects and suspends any more work on Via Baltica until the results of a Strategic Environmental Assessment are available.

Unless action is taken to stop the work envisaged, irrevocable damage will be caused to areas of paramount importance in terms their maintenance of magnificent, rare and endangered species - which would be both a tragedy and a shame in this year, in which biodiversity has been set by the Union as one of its key priorities.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Yours Sincerely,



Caroline Lucas.
Green Party MEP for the South East of England