

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party  
*for the South East of England*

Stavros Dimas  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

18th June 2007

Dear Stavros,

I am writing to you about the construction of the M3 motorway through the Gabhra (Skryne) Valley in Country Meath in Ireland. The proposed route will pass through the Hill of Tara, a site of great archaeological and historical significance. Tara has been an important site since the Late Stone Age, and is famously known as the seat of the High Kings of Ireland. Amongst its numerous monuments is the recently discovered national monument of Lismullin, which will be destroyed if the motorway is built.

I understand that Ireland is receiving funding from the EU for the construction of the M3 motorway. The EU is required to ensure that where subsidies are being provided for infrastructure in Member States adequate steps are taken not only to protect the physical environment but also important archaeological and cultural sites.

I am concerned that, in this instance, alternative routes have not been fully considered, particularly since the discovery of Lismullin. If this is indeed the case, it implies that the EU's Environmental Impact Assessment Directive has been breached in the planning process. I appreciate that the Commission has had a number of letters about this issue from Irish and other MEPs and closed its investigation into potential breaches of EU law in 2005. However, the importance of Lismullin was confirmed as recently as April 2007, so I am calling on the Commission to revisit its decision.

I look forward to hearing what action the Commission can take to ensure that all the proper procedures have been followed in relation to the protection of such an important archaeological site.

With best wishes,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.