



Budapest, 02 February 2007

To:
DG TREN
DG REGIO
European Commission

Dear ...,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to talk with you personally concerning my suggestion for regrouping the EU aid to Hungary on the basis of Hungarian non-compliance of the Operative Programs concerning transport with the community legislation (reference number: SG/CDC(2007)A/218).

The essence of my position is the following: the planned EU aid for road and air transport in the framework of the National Development Reference Framework of Hungary is contrary to the market principles and the polluter pays principle as laid down in the Treaty establishing the European Community.

As a number of official documents of the European Union (including the 2001 White Paper on Transport Policy, and the Göteborg Presidential Conclusions) already stated that road and air transport do not pay their full costs, and that these costs must be internalised into the prices, it is clear that any further public aid to these sectors would be contrary to the principles of the free market and the polluter pays principle – i.e. this can be definitely stated without any further research concerning external costs.

Concerning the question of fraud, I never stated or implied that any EU aid to the road or air transport is a fraudulent activity. However I do assert that such aid will certainly contribute to the aggravation of fraudulent activities already committed on large scale.

As far as I can discern from the EU legislation, there is no obligation for the European Commission to approve any aid to air or road transport: the EU legislation makes this only possible if other necessary conditions exist. However the Treaty establishing the European Community must be strictly observed in all cases.

Best regards,

András Lukács
President
Clean Air Action Group
Hungary