



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Director-General

Brussels, 20 FEB. 2007
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CLEAN AIR ACTION GROUP
BUDAPEST

Mr András Lukás
President
Levego Munkacsoport

HU-1465 HUNGARY, Pf. 1676

Subject: Hungary - 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

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter dated 3 January. I know that officials in DG Transport & Energy and DG Regional Policy met you earlier this month to discuss the letter with you, although I must still apologise for the delay in responding in writing to your concern that the Commission should not approve any financing in the Hungarian Operational Programmes 2007-2013 for road projects.

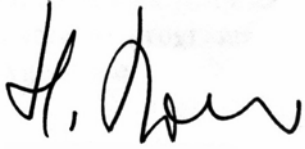
The Commission believes that the creation and completion of transport infrastructure is necessary for a fully functioning internal market that in turn will lead to growth and jobs.

In terms of modal share, transport projects that focus on rail contribute to a shift to more environmentally friendly modes and have been given considerable support up to now in Community budgets. They will continue to be well supported.

However, while rail is an attractive option, there is a case to be made to optimise the contribution that roads can make. It is a fact that the largest share of intra-EU transport is carried by road. A road project may for example reduce the inaccessibility of outlying regions and settlements improve safety rates or reduce levels of congestion and the damaging consequences arising from that.

To summarise, the Commission takes a balanced view on infrastructure development and considers a range of social, economic and environmental factors in determining what programmes and projects it is willing to support. While it is not the role of the Commission to determine national transport policy in the Member States it does expect them to take a similarly all encompassing view and will certainly assess their proposals for funding in this light.

At the project level the Community does not support projects that are not in line with Community environmental protection legislation. If you have concerns on specific projects then these should be raised first with your national authorities.


po Matthias RUETE
Heinz HILBRECHT
Directeur

c.c.: Ms C. Day, SG
Mr D. Ahner (DG Regio)