

We refer to your e-mail of 25 February 2003 to Philippe Maystadt, President of the European Investment Bank. On his behalf, we would like to reply to the questions that you have raised with regard to the D8 motorway project located in the Czech Republic.

In the context that all EIB projects should be consistent with EU environmental policies and law, including the EIA Directive as well as the Habitats and Birds Directives, the D8 project is currently under appraisal by the Bank's staff. In this respect, the EIB is coordinating with the European Commission, as potential co-financier of the project through ISPA. According to the EIB's environmental assessment, the project is acceptable from a nature conservation point of view. Notwithstanding the fact that the "Natura 2000" sites have not yet been officially identified in the Czech Republic, the issue of nature conservation has been examined in detail by the Bank and the Commission, together with the promoter, and further mitigation measures will be added later if a "Natura 2000" site is identified.

Whereas the EIB welcomes comments from interested third parties on projects it is considering for financing, we think that the environmental legislation in Europe offers civil society appropriate ways to communicate their views to the owners of the projects concerned.

Yours sincerely,

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Peter Carter
Environmental Coordinator
Projects Directorate

Yvonne Berghorst
Senior Information Officer
Information and Communications Department
Tel. 00352-4379-3154
Fax 00352-4379-3189
E-mail : y.berghorst@eib.org
<http://www.eib.org/>