NEWS RELEASE
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Multi-billion Euro revision of Trans-European Transport Networks - a waste of time and money

Karel van Miert\(^1\) today unveiled a report which sets transport’s infrastructure investment agenda for the next 20 years. NGOs say it will waste taxpayer money and bring more environmental damage.

The report, kept highly secret until today, reveals 22 new trans-European infrastructure projects, which will cost more than 250 Billion Euros. The report also carries forward the 11 projects out of the 14 on the 1996 Essen list which remain unfinished.

“The Van Miert Report is a Member-State wish list which has nothing to do with reality. It is a very efficient way of wasting public money”, commented Beatrice Schell, T&E Director.

The report’s primary focus is on infrastructure provision. Yet other issues are much more important for achieving a well-functioning and sustainable transport system. These include reducing traffic levels, coordinating the environmental, social and economic aspects of transport and putting into place an effective pricing system. The report does mention these crucial issues, but buries them between the lines of the wordy 75-page document. “Infrastructure building is tempting, particularly in an economic recession, when jobs are scarce,” said Beatrice Schell. “But all the evidence tells us that infrastructure building seldom brings a long-term solution to employment problems.”

NGOs are also concerned with the lack of transparency surrounding the drafting of the report. If such projects manage to get the highest approval without any proper consultation with stakeholders, they fear it means citizens will be shut out throughout the process.

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More information
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