



European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 15th of September, 2022

Dear Ms. Kadri Simson,
European Commissioner for Energy

The MEPs who signed this document sent you a letter on 23 March 2021 - which we attach - of which we have not yet received a response from the European Commission.

There is now new information on this subject, which we would like for you to could consider:

1- A new study concludes that the two projects (airline and substation) are not necessary.

The technical report of 26 November 2021 commissioned by the Council of Local Initiatives for the Environment (CILMA) of the Girona Provincial Council (Provincial Administration) concluded that, **the need for the substation of Riudarenes and the 400kV airline could not be confirmed**, because **alternatives** to the railway axis's feeding needs had been identified which have a **lower impact** on the territory in economic terms, and environmental impact.

2 - New support from top democratic institutions calling for its repeal

The **Parliament of Catalonia** and the **Girona Provincial Council** have approved two resolutions (2014 and 2022) calling for the project to be paralysed and repealed, since the need of the project had not been accredited.

At the same time, the **Congress of Deputies of Spain** approved a Non-Law Proposal asking for derogation (2016) and recently made a statement by the majority of parties asking the Spanish government to apply the agreement.

Besides, it has also been requested by the 26 municipalities affected.

3- European Directives on habitats and birds are being broken, with 67 species that are threatened of extinction.

The project would have a huge ecological impact on 13 protected habitats and on more than 140 species protected by the Spanish Laws (Royal Decree 139/2011 of 4 February) and EU

directives (Apply II and IV of Habitats 92/43/EEC and Annex I of Birds 2009/147/EEC). Notably, 67 of these species are in a state of threat.

4- The MAT line and the MAT station are located in a critical area of very high ecological interest:

The location and distribution is within a few metres of a Natura 2000 network area and about 3 PEIN zones (Natural Interest Spaces Plan). It crosses a wet area, protected in a national Strategic Plan. In addition, it would be located next to a Special Protection Area for Birds (ZEPA). Crossing the branch through three nesting areas of protected raptors. In addition, the substation would be located at the intersection of three strategic wildlife corridors (Zones of Strategic Interest ZIEC).

For all these reasons mentioned above, the signatories are asking the European Commission to provide answers to the questions we put in the previous letter.

Signed by MEPs:

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