

Mr Siim Kallas

EU Vice President and Transport
Commissioner
European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi
Berlaymont
B-1049 BRUSSELS

from No TAV Valleys (Italy), April 12th , 2010

NO TAV citizens at the European Parliament on April, 20th, 2010 meet their Deputies: Letter of Invitation to Mr Siim Kallas, EU Vice President and Transport Commissioner

Dear Sir,

A delegation of citizens representing Italian, French and Spanish associations who signed The Charter of Hendaye will be received by some Members of the European Parliament on Tuesday, **April, 20th, 2010 at 10 a.m. in the Hall LOW, R.3.1.** of the Parliament in Strasbourg.

The Charter of Hendaye is a text signed by associations and movements of citizens who oppose the construction of high speed railways.

We kindly ask you to participate to this ceremony as maximum responsible of transport policies in the European Commission.

We think that in the next months the public debate about the building high speed railways will have a growing importance. On the one hand, because the promoters of high speed trains are attempting to give credit, in the public opinion, to the thesis that this technology is the answer to the need to reduce greenhouse gas, rather than optimizing the usage of existing railways; on the other hand, because the priority of transports must be directed to the daily mobility of the majority of travelling users, not to the transport of a "*travelers' elite*".

The construction of high speed railways has produced a strong opposition in some areas of the European Union: we hope that our presence in Strasbourg will be able to let as large as possible a number of European deputies know The Charter of Hendaye and our main issues, considering as well that some sections of those railways will be financed by the European Union with no attention to an objective analysis concerning the parameters of priority of railway sectors crossing the borders, the analysis comparing costs and benefits and respect for the environment.

Our expectations are that the meeting may be a moment of true democracy, that citizens can be listened to carefully by their deputies and by you.

The organization of this reunion is being taken care of by Mrs Sonia Alfano (Italian Deputy ADLE Group) and Mrs Catherine Grèze (French Deputy, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance Green).

We thank you in advance for your kind attention and send you our best regards.