

EL 7 SET ENGLISH - by Brenda Cundell

MEPs request that local and autonomous administrations should be more involved in the fight against town planning abuse

A delegation from the Petitions Committee recently visited the Comunitat Valenciana

The delegation from the European Parliament Petitions Committee has published a report on the conclusions drawn from their recent visit to some Spanish autonomous communities, including the Comunitat Valenciana. During their visit the MEPs visited, among other places in the province of Castellón, developments at Torre La Sal, in Cabanes, where they met with representatives from groups affected by development projects in Castellón, Oropesa, Cabanes, Alcossebre and Peñíscola.

In their report, members of the Committee criticize the stance of Esteban Gonzalez Pons, Regional Minister for Land, and the confrontational atmosphere which pervaded the whole interview they held with him and representatives from the business sector.

Conclusions

From the conclusions reached by the members of the European Parliament Petitions Committee who visited Spain, it can be gathered that there are many problems in many Spanish autonomous communities, with application of the law on land which regulates the rights of the individual over their legitimately acquired properties. They also saw more frequent pressure than is normal from the business sector, which they believe has much to gain from this lucrative activity, when developing massive town planning projects. According to the committee, the autonomous Governments and Councils respond in various ways, from making commitments which are fair to residents, to passive, and sometimes active, acceptance of development plans, and their regional laws reflect these differences.

The Committee believes that residents, whether they are Spanish or not, are those who are most affected by town planning programmes, and inevitably they are the ones who lose. In too many cases, according to the concluding document, they are not only the ones to lose, but they risk losing everything for which they have worked. They believe that this is more common in the Comunitat Valenciana than anywhere else. Thus the delegation from the petitions Committee states that in this region they encountered the greatest arrogance and the least number of explanations concerning development projects which have been the cause of destruction of many beautiful and fragile coastal areas. The Comunitat Valenciana is the one which has generated the most petitions which, in the MEPs' view shows how disproportionate the developers' dreams of town planning are to the nightmares of the residents who, as citizens

of the EU and residents, deserve something better.'

In the MEP's view, this does not rule out the existence of a serious problem in other parts of Spain, which are also mentioned in the report. The solution to the problem of excessive development essentially rests with the local authorities and the autonomous governments which approve the laws. On the other hand, it indicates that national government's role is to ensure complete compliance with European legislation and the obligations under the Treaty where it refers to fundamental rights, the environment.

Recommendations

Among the Committee's recommendations, they demand that the European Commission should take up a stance and assess the matters dealt with in this report, particularly regarding the possibility of any infringement of community law and the fundamental rights and principles contained in the Community Treaty and which affect citizens who have become victims of massive development.

They also demand that the Spanish authorities and regional governments, and particularly the Valencian government (which has an obligation to respect and apply the provisions of the Community Treaty and of EU legislation), should recognize the legitimate rights of citizens to the property they have legally acquired, and that they should establish more clearly defined criteria in law for the application of Article 33 of the Spanish Constitution on public interest, to avoid or prohibit the infringement of people's property rights by the decisions of local or regional authorities. They also question the methods used for designation and the often excessive powers which certain local authorities have authorized for developers and builders at the expense of local communities and citizens who have acquired their homes and properties legally.

The Petitions Committee urges local authorities to consult with their citizens and to allow them to participate in the development of town planning projects to encourage sustainable and acceptable urban development, in the interest of local communities and not just in the interest of the developers, estate agents and others. Equally they energetically condemn the secret practices of certain developers, who decide on the legitimate property of European citizens with subterfuges, by interfering with the land registry and the report demands that local authorities provide appropriate legal guarantees against these practices.

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Infraestructuras adjudica las obras de acondicionamiento de la carretera CV-148 en Cabanes

La inversión supera los 1,2 millones de euros

CABANES
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La conselleria de Infraestructuras y Transporte ha adjudicado las obras de acondicionamiento de la carretera CV-148 ubicada en el término municipal de Cabanes, comarca de la Plana Alta de Castellón con un importe que supera los 1,2 millones de euros. El objeto del proyecto es el acondicionamiento de los trabajos necesarios para la realización de las obras siguientes. Por una parte, se llevarán a cabo la ejecución del tramo de acondicionamiento entre el punto kilométrico 12+080 y el 14+580, lugar de entronque con la glorieta "Cabanes Sur" ya construida. Por otro lado, se construirá la glorieta "La Costa" para concentrar el ramal de salida del futuro tronco principal previsto en el "Nuevo proyecto de construcción de la carretera Oropesa-Cabanes entre el pk. 6+500 y la CV-10", y los diversos caminos de servicio.

Así, el tramo de acondicionamiento comienza en la glorieta "La Costa" donde en un

futuro está previsto el entronque con el ramal de salida del tramo de carretera de la CV-148 desde el p.k 6.500.

En el tramo de acondicionamiento, sin control de accesos, se han previsto dos intersecciones situadas en los puntos kilométricos 13+000 y 14+000. Finalmente el tramo, entronca con los ramales de la glorieta "Cabanes Sur", ya ejecutada, en la carretera CV-10. Estas obras se enmarcan en las actuaciones en el Plan de Infraestructuras Estratégicas de la Comunidad Valenciana 2004-2010, que prevé una inversión en política de carreteras superior a los 3.522 millones de euros en este periodo y que tiene entre sus principales objetivos planificar, gestionar e impulsar todas las infraestructuras esenciales para el crecimiento y el bienestar de la Comunidad Valenciana.

Características de las obras

El tramo a acondicionar comienza en la glorieta "La Costa" incluye dos intersecciones más en los puntos kilométricos 13+000 y 14+400, así como la mejora del

drenaje en todo el tramo.

El tramo a acondicionar es en la actualidad un vial de 4,50 metros de anchura, sin arcenes ni bermas, por lo que resulta un carril por sentido de circulación de tráfico de baja intensidad de carácter local. Con el desarrollo de las obras de conexión de la nueva carretera Oropesa-Cabanes con la CV-10, el tramo objeto del proyecto mantendrá su función de acceso al sur del casco urbano de Cabanes desde la carretera CV-148, acceso que también podrá ser realizado desde la CV-10.

Además, el nuevo vial servirá, como en la actualidad, para la conexión con diversos caminos locales de uso principalmente agrícola y para el acceso a las propiedades colindantes.

Por tanto, el tramo a acondicionar se proyecta con una calzada de dos carriles de 3,5 metros cada uno y arcenes y bermas de 1 metro respectivamente. El trazado en planta tiene un radio mínimo de 450 metros y máximo de 3.000 metros, únicamente en la zona de aproximación a la rotonda de "Cabanes Sur" se reduce el radio a 200 metros.

Primera piedra del tramo La Pobla-Vilanova



El pasado lunes 2 de abril el conseller de Infraestructuras y Transportes, José Ramón García Antón, junto con el presidente de la Diputación Provincial de Castellón, Carlos Fabra colocaron la primera piedra del nuevo tramo La Pobla Tornesa-Vilanova d'Alcolea de la Autovía de la Plana. Al acto, celebrado en el término municipal de Cabanes, asistió

también el alcalde de la localidad, Artemio Siurana. Las obras consisten en la conversión en autovía del tramo de la CV-10 entre La Pobla Tornesa y la intersección con la CV-152 de acceso a Benlloch. El presupuesto de la obra asciende a 42.532.095,20 euros y el plazo de ejecución de las mismas es de 12 meses.



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