

Paul MURPHY

Member of the European Parliament

10 December 2011

Message of solidarity from Paul Murphy MEP.

Dear comrades and friends,

I salute the idea of an international day of protest against unnecessary, expensive, socially and environmentally damaging prestige projects and want to express my solidarity with your protests today in France, Italy and Germany.

I very much agree with the conclusions and demands of the Hendaye Charter which states that all of these projects constitute an ecological, socioeconomic and human disaster for the territories they cross: destruction of natural spaces and agricultural lands, a new barrier of harmful effects and degradation of the environment with important negative impacts for the residents.

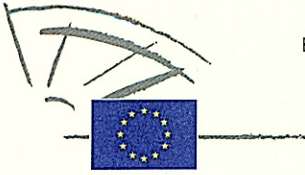
I therefore agree that these projects are not in the interests of the local populations that have to bear all the negative consequences of these profit driven projects.

I fully support your demand to immediately stop those projects and support your democratic right to resist and protest against these projects. Given that local people did not have a say in the planning of the individual projects, mass protest is the only means to demonstrate your justified opposition to these harmful projects.

I visited Val Di Susa in August this year and could see for myself the mass support the NO TAV campaign has amongst the people living in the Susa Valley. I was able to visit the militarised zone and was shocked by the de facto declaration of war of the Italian State against its own people. The massive and unjustified repression that is being used is another indication of the undemocratic character of the decision making process of those projects.

Unfortunately, the referendum on the "Stuttgart 21" project was lost late in November. I understand that this is a very disappointing for many of you who have fought so hard over the last years. 101 Monday demonstrations are a very impressive record of people power and determination. I can understand that the movement against Stuttgart 21 will need to take some time to reflect and discuss on what to do next. However, I am convinced that this is not the end of the story. There will be new opportunities to revive the protests and to continue to argue that Stuttgart 21 is not in the interest of ordinary people and definitely not in the interest of those who live very close to where the actual station is meant to be built. Your struggle has been very inspirational to me and I hope I will be able to come to Stuttgart again soon to join you in your ongoing struggle.

I will continue to challenge the unelected and undemocratic European Commission who is co-financing and pushing for many projects that you protest against today.



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I will continue to support your struggle publicly and hope to be able to further assist in building your movements and hope to see many of you again soon.

Yours in solidarity,

Paul Murphy

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