

**To**  
**The Ministry of environment and physical planning**  
**Public relations office**  
**Mr. Saso Sekulovski**

Skopje, 30.07.2008

**Subject: Additional comments to the Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the Demir Kapija- Smokvica highway project**

Dear Mr. Sekulovski,

At the public hearing held on July 25, 2008 in Gevgelija, regarding the environmental impact assessment study for the Demir Kapija- Smokvica highway project, the representative of the Ministry of environment announced that the Ministry will accept additional comments to the study during this week.

Eco-sense would like to use this opportunity and raise the issue of the archaeological sites on the route of Alternative "B" (appendix I-4 Habitat map).

Namely, at the public hearing, when the question of existing archaeological sites on the route of Alternative "B" was raised, the experts explained that these sites are not certain and that the red dots indicating them on the map are merely indication of where these sites could be. However, in the Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the Demir Kapija- Smokvica highway project, these sites are well described. The sites Gudlanica and Trskata are located on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> kilometer of the route itself, and are already known to exist and to be of Neolite period and Roman period respectively.

We strongly believe that if the sites are clearly known to exist and still happen to be on the route of Alternative "B", the route should be changed in order to protect the sites from damage during construction works. We recommend to the Ministry of environment and Road Fund that they take this into consideration when preparing the main design of the project.

Eco-sense is also seeking the expert opinion from the Cultural Heritage protection Office of the Ministry of culture.

Sincerely,

Ana Colovic  
Center for environmental research and information  
Eco-sense  
Skopje