



NO TAV Movement

A guarantee for the future

www.notav.info - www.notav.eu - www.notav-valsangone.eu - www.notavtorino.org
www.ambientevalsusa.it - www.lavallecheresiste.blogspot.com - www.spintadalbass.org

Press release

from the Valley who resists and will never surrender, August 30th, 2011

EUROPEAN RESISTANCE AGAINST LARGE UNNECESSARY PROJECTS

**COMMON MOBILITATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF
VENAUS-BUSSOLENO**

GIVING BACK TO THE CITIZENS THEIR RIGHT TO DECIDE

Since there is a proliferation of large infrastructural projects all over Europe, the Italian NO TAV Movement organized the first **Thematic Forum against Large Unnecessary Projects** in Venaus and in Bussoleno (Susa Valley) from Aug. 26th to Aug. 30th, 2011.

Three hundred participants on behalf of movements and associations from Italy, Germany, Spain, France and Ireland examined and discussed ten large European projects. They noticed that in all these Countries projects about high speed railways, motorways, airports, oil rigs and pipelines are planned without asking people's advice.

These Large Projects are mainly useful to the interests of large private enterprises and to the many politicians who work for them. In this way billions of euro are at the citizens' expense to the detriment of investments that are far more useful from a social point of view. In many cases, while the environment is irreparably destroyed, people who live in the areas involved in the project do not benefit from it.

The Forum was the opportunity to verify that, even when citizens commit themselves to propose some different options, their democratic right to actually take part in the decisions (as the Århus¹ Convention states) is not recognized.

Citizens have set up opposing movements in the Susa Valley, in the Sangone Valley, in Turin, in Genoa, in Low Friuli, in Stuttgart (Germany), in the Basque Countries, in Nantes (France), in Barcelona, in Florence, in Abruzzo, in Marche, in Umbria, in Asti and in Mayo (Ireland).

The meeting highlighted the fact that all over Europe citizens' demonstrations and opposing actions are often criminalized and violently thwarted with the use of tear

¹ http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/environment/general_provisions/128056_en.htm



gas, water cannons, a large number of arrest and lawsuits, aiming at frightening the activists and throwing discredit on them in the eyes of public opinion. Nevertheless , the opponents keep rallying.

The meeting allowed the participants to make some important decisions in order to develop some common instruments (a web site) and communicating resources (a video) to strengthen their resistance and make it better known.

Some solidarity actions are going to be undertaken in order to give a European extent to local demonstrations. With regard to that, the attendance of some delegations of Italian and German Movements to the rally which is going to take place in November in Paris against the building of the Notre-Dame-des-Landes (Nantes) Airport has been announced.

Besides, the Second European Day against All Unnecessary Large Projects, which will see simultaneous events and actions in several European Countries and Regions, is going to be organized at the beginning of December 2011.

While the second edition of the Forum against All Unnecessary Large Projects will be organized in 2012 in either a French or a German town which will be chosen later on. In the following year the next Forum edition will probably coincide with the World Social Forum in Tunis, which is foreseen in February 2013.

All the participants have confirmed their commitment to introduce in any social and environmental struggle, just like in the political and social debate on an international level, a new category: the category of large unnecessary projects.



www.presidioeuropa.net/11-12-2010



1989 - 2011, 22 years of popular opposition to the new railway line Lyon - Turin