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**Dachverband für
Natur- und Umweltschutz**
CIPRA Südtirol

Bolzano, 21st January 2021

**European Commissioner of transport
Adina Vălean**

**Ministra delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti
Paola De Micheli**

**Bundesminister für Verkehr und digitale Infrastruktur
Andreas Scheuer**

Open letter: Protect the health of the people along the Brenner axis!

Dear Commissioner Vălean,
esteemed Minister De Micheli,
esteemed Federal Minister Mr Scheuer,

The Brenner Pass is by far the busiest Alpine crossing. Every year, more lorries travel over this north-south connection alone than over the four Swiss Alpine passes Gotthard, San Bernardino, Simplon, Great St. Bernard and the two French crossings in the inner Alpine arc, Frejus and Mont Blanc. The annual increases are also the strongest at the Brenner compared to all other Alpine crossings. This means that not only is the burden of transit on humans and nature along the Brenner route at a constantly unbearably high level, but the traffic load is also increasing even faster than at the French crossings; in Switzerland, on the other hand, the transit pressure is even decreasing.

The EU Directive 2008/50/EC introduced a binding annual average limit value of 40µg/m³ for nitrogen oxides in the air throughout the European Union, which has been in force since 2010. Along the entire Brenner motorway on the South Tyrolean side, these limit values have been consistently exceeded since their introduction, thus continuously breaking European law.

The Air Quality Report 2020 of the European Environment Agency shows around 54,000 premature deaths for the EU member states that are attributable to NO₂.

As chairman of Federation of Environmental Protection in South Tyrol, I appeal to you, for the reasons mentioned above, to commit yourselves first and foremost and with your full political commitment to the health and integrity of the population along the Brenner axis. You have all the necessary instruments in your hands to implement concrete and tangible measures in the short term.

A levelling of the tolls and other charges of all Alpine crossings to the Swiss level would significantly reduce the large share of detoured traffic at the Brenner and force the switch from road to rail. In addition, the diesel privilege along the entire Brenner corridor should be abolished. The population along the Brenner axis has been suffering from the constantly increasing transit burden for decades. They can no longer wait for medium- to long-term measures such as the Brenner base tunnel, which can be used in 10 years at the earliest and for which not a single metre of access route has yet been planned in Italy and Germany.

In this context, we support all the traffic measures already planned and implemented on the North Tyrolean side, such as the sectoral driving ban and the block clearance for heavy goods traffic as well as the speed reduction for passenger car traffic and consider it sensible to extend these to the entire Brenner corridor.

Your political decisions are responsible for the health and well-being of the people along the Brenner axis. Take concrete steps now to noticeably improve their quality of life.

Trusting that you will do so, yours sincerely.

Klauspeter Dissinger

Chairman

Federation of Environmental Protection in South Tyrol