



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
Directorate C - Quality of Life, Water & Air  
ENV.C.2 - Marine Environment & Water Industry  
Head of unit

Brussels, 01 JUL. 2013  
AS

Mr. Roland Gilmore  
76 Friars Avenue  
London SW15 3DU  
UK

Dear Mr. Gilmore,

Thank you very much for your message including your questions concerning the reconstruction of the London sewage system. I can assure you that the Commission is fully aware of the waste water activities in London and is following the situation closely after the ruling of the European Court of Justice in the case C-301/10.

As you will be aware, the Thames Tunnel is only part of the action, in addition to treatment plant upgrades and the construction of the Lee Tunnel, to ensure compliance with the above-mentioned ruling. It is for the United Kingdom to find the most appropriate solution to the situation in London and not for the Commission. In addition, the Commission is aware that there are many good examples of blue-green infrastructure policies in Europe and in other parts of the world including the US. However, any proposal made by the United Kingdom to remedy the excessive spills occurring in London will also need to look at the potential environmental impact of the solution proposed and viable alternatives under the requirements of Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. At our latest meeting with the UK authorities on this case, we were assured that these matters would be assessed and this information made publicly available in compliance with the above Directive. In this context I would urge you to continue to engage in the discussions and decision-making process at national level to help ensure that the best solution for London is found.

Yours sincerely,

Astrid Schomaker