



## Association des Cyclistes de l'UE

### EU Cyclists' Group

Honorary Member: Vice-President of the European Commission Neil Kinnock.

[www.eu-cg.info](http://www.eu-cg.info)

Mr Pat Cox  
President of the European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz  
1047 Brussels.

Dear Mr President,

This year a number of events have contributed to a notable increase in bicycle use by European civil servants: European Mobility Week, the very successful car-free Sunday in September, the splendid summer weather, and by no means least, the conversion of the Rue de la Loi from an urban motorway to a street with infrastructure purpose-designed for pedestrians and cyclists.

The increase in the number of cycle commuters has been observed among members, assistants and staff of the European Parliament, as well as the other institutions of the European Union. This development is of course to be heartily welcomed and, as I am sure you are aware, is fully in line with the sustainability principles promoted by the European institutions. The EUCG, with a membership of about 600, represents the interests of these commuter cyclists who work for the European Institutions.

To maintain the momentum of the modal shift from private cars to environmentally friendly bicycle use – and the consequent reduction in traffic problems as well as improvement in personal health – it is now important to encourage and support the staff who have started to cycle. An essential aspect is the availability of secure bicycle parking facilities at the European Parliament buildings in Brussels. We understand that measures are being envisaged that aim at supplying more bicycle parking space inside the underground garage of the Altiero Spinelli building.

While welcoming such a move, we feel that by itself it is not enough. In our view the insufficient number of bicycle racks near the main entrance in Rue Wiertz is also of crucial importance.

You will, we are sure, agree that the current situation of bicycles locked to any available structure is unacceptable; it is an unsightly and unsatisfactory situation caused by the desperate need for more good-quality bike parking *immediately* while a longer-term solution in accordance with sustainable transport objectives is found. Bicycle theft from around the Parliament buildings is already serious problem and can only lead to an increase in other types of “opportunity theft” from cars and people if thieves are known to operate in the area.

The EUCG is willing and ready to make its technical expertise and many years' experience available to the services of the European Parliament in order to help find the most satisfactory solution based on best practice in numerous other buildings of the European institutions.

We look forward to your positive reaction to our suggestion, and attach a few photos which clearly illustrate the severity of the problem far better than any comments we could make..

Yours sincerely,

(s.)

Russell Gasser,

President, EUCG.

[russell.gasser@cec.eu.int](mailto:russell.gasser@cec.eu.int)

Cc: [...]