



MEMORANDUM

We have written this letter as the Committee for the Protection of the Natural Environment of the Kourris-Xylourikou Valley. It concerns the proposed FOUR lane highway through our area, the Koumandaria area which has been a beautiful and historic vineyard for hundreds of years. We consider it to be the jewel of Cyprus and we feel that it is now under threat.

Our village of Lania is set in an area of rare plants and trees (we have oaks hundreds of years old) as well as species of birds and plants not found anywhere else. As you can understand, such a through road of high speed vehicles with just one single destination, the top of Troodos, cannot but destroy all in it's path along the beautiful mountainside.

Four lanes mean the massive removal of SIX million tons of earth that threaten to cover everything! It is not just the shifting of all this earth though but also the soulless fencing in that this type of road calls for. Add to these the assured psychological, acoustic, visual and environmental pollution and it will become obvious that this operation is monstrous and dangerous, especially when you consider the fact that it will be just 200 meters from the village. In other words, have mercy on us.

We must also inform you that the whole idea of reclamation of our land is turned on it's head, something accepted even in official circles. A terrible waste of funds. It is also contrary to the existing system of property changes and subsidiary roads.

The proposed work is also in direct opposition to the Master Plan which is already being promoted for our village. As we have already said at the beginning, our area is defined and relies on the existence of the vineyards that are the main source of income for our villagers.

Note the great importance of the grapes, raisins, wines and Koumandaria that are some of the most important weapons in our exporting arsenal and a great source of foreign exchange for Cyprus. A quick glance at the Ministry of Trade statistics will confirm this.

We must, finally, tell you that our village has the will to fight for it's rights and it's just claim. We declare our persistence to continue our historical existence and safeguard our homes and families from this unacceptable and hugely expensive burden which threatens the peace and wellbeing of our village. This jewel in the crown of Cyprus is visited by thousands of people from all over the world who come to experience it's uniqueness.

We demand our human right to a peaceful life. We are relying on your support.

We thank you
The Committee