

"LAWYERS FOR THE TUA"

STATEMENT

The construction of the Foz Tua dam began. The destruction of the Tua Valley is thus imminent. It is one of the most beautiful, valuable and well preserved landscapes in Portugal, being part of the legacy and identity. We cannot stay indifferent to the irreversible destruction of an heritage of enormous ecological, social and economic value. For this reason we have decided to take legal actions.

Ten objective reasons to stop the construction of the Foz Tua dam.

1. It is illegal . The dam in the Tua Valley infringes the Convention for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural World Heritage (1972), which Portugal ratified with the Law 49/79 of June 6th.

2. It is a violation of the constitutional right to environment. The Foz Tua dam leads to unacceptable restrictions of the common right to environment, equally fundamental as other rights, liberties and personal guarantees.

3. It does not respects Unesco statutory nomination. The Foz Tua dam is in flagrant violation with the values on the nomination of the Alto Douro Wine Region as a World Heritage site.

4. It does not reaches the stated objectives. Foz Tua is part of the National Dam Program which overall production would generate 0.5% of the energy consumption in Portugal (3% of the electricity) reducing only 0.7% of the energy importation and 0.7% of the greenhouse gas emissions. Foz Tua will only produce the meagre 0.1% of all energy consumption in Portugal.

5. It isn't needed. The objectives of the National Dam Program have already been exceeded as a result of the ongoing power capacity increasing: on a short-term the supply of 7020 MW of hydroelectric energy will be installed (the NDP objectives was to reach 7000 MW), 2510 MW with water pumping equipment (the NPD expected to reach 2000 MW). This numbers will be reached without any new dam.

6. It is too expensive. If the new dams go ahead the Portuguese people will have to pay in their taxes and electricity bill its cost reaching to about 15 thousand million – an average of €1.500 per inhabitant. With these dams, along the 75 concession years, households and companies in Portugal will have to pay 8% more for the electricity

7. There are better alternatives. All the energetic objectives may be achieved in a much more effective and cheaper way if other alternative possibilities are taken, namely: (i) investments in energetic efficiency, having 1/10 of the cost per kWh than the new dams; and (ii) increasing power capacity of the dams existing already, having 1/5 of the cost per kWh than the construction of Foz Tua dam; (iii) Within few years the price of the solar energy will be competitive with the electric grid.

8. It is a cultural disaster. The Foz Tua dam will destroy Tua historic railway line and a valley of natural and man-made landscape of rare beauty and of high cultural and touristic value. The dam also puts pressure on the nomination of the Alto Douro Wine Region as a World Heritage site.

9. It is an environmental disaster. The Foz Tua dam will irreversibly destroy agricultural land and rare river habitats, it will endanger protected as well as threatened species, it will cause added coastal erosion risks as a result of the sediment retention, and it will inevitably cause a water quality degradation.

10. It is a social and economic disaster. The dam endangers the wine quality production in this part of Alto Douro, as the result of the serious risk of microclimatic change. The possibility to enhance touristic assets of high economic value will be lost, like white water sports, the mountain railway and eco-tourism. To create a permanent workplace in tourism is 11 times cheaper than to create one in the dam.

Some projects are reasonable, on behalf of Portugal sustainable development. Others like the Foz Tua dam impoverish us all. We don't accept the destruction of a natural heritage that hasn't any benefit for Portugal neither for the common good. It is our responsibility to ensure that the future generations have as well the possibility to make the best of the Tua Valley.

The signatories of this Statement are united in a common will: **SAVE THE TUA**

Statement signatories

Afonso Henriques Vilhena

Agostinho Pereira de Miranda

Alexandra Vaz

António Furtado dos Santos

Augusto Lopes Cardoso

Carla Amado Gomes

Elizabeth Fernandez

Fernando Fragoso Marques

Hernâni Rodrigues

Jan Dalhuisen

José António Campos de Carvalho

José Manuel Lebre de Freitas

Manuel Almeida Ribeiro

Manuel Magalhães e Silva

Maria da Conceição Botas

Pedro Cardigos

Pedro Raposo

Raul Mota Cerveira

Rita Matias

Vítor Miragaia