

Dr. Alex Enrich Prast
Editor in Chief *Oecologia Australis*

Madrid, July 9th. 2012

Dear Dr. Enrich,

this is the cover letter corresponding to the manuscript "**Beyond the Biological perspective of the road-fauna conflict: vertebrates in the decision making of Spanish motorway operating companies**" for revision and, if considered of interest, publication in the Special issue on Road Ecology of *Oecologia Australis*, edited by Alex Bager and Clara Grilo. I have delivered the corresponding files in the web site.

As you will see, the paper presents a new approach to the analysis of wildlife-highway problems focused on the perception, concern and willingness to act of concessionaires during the operational phase. Nowadays, there is increasing scientific literature that analyzes the impacts of transport infrastructure on wildlife from 'the biological perspective'. However concessionaires are main stakeholders of the issue and the analysis of how they face this problem is essential for efficient impact mitigation. Thus, we present new data coming from a survey sent to Spanish concessionaires in charge of the management of infrastructures during the operational phase.

We believe this approach is completely novel and valuable given the difficulty of obtaining this kind of information proceeding from several companies competing in the same sector. Besides, It presents a new point of view of the problems that has not been posed previously thought it is key to adequate impact mitigation. Finally the methodology and approach used may be a reference of great interest for application to a larger scale in order to integrate the information available during the operational phase to better understand the magnitude of the problems generated, and effectiveness of mitigation measures currently adopted

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Therefore, I hope you will find the paper interesting and in the scope of the journal you edit. For any contact, please use my address below the signature. Thanks for all, waiting for your news

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