

Why we do not want the three openings to the Port of Venice closed by the Mo.S.E. system

Berlusconi's government has imposed the municipalities of Venice and Cavallino-Treporti the Mo.S.E. system. This lacks the legal regulation of environmental impact, against the rules of the European Community. We do not want the Mo.S.E. system because of:

- the dimensions of the worksite and the finished project;
- the devastation of the environment during its construction that will take at least ten years;
- the irreversible change of the landscape of the Lagoon of Venice;
- the exorbitant cost of the work (3762 millions Euro) and its upkeep;
- the impact on the activities of the port of Venice;
- the impact on the ecosystem and the habitat of the lagoon;
- the lack of real defence of Venice from "high water".

With Mo.S.E. almost all the funds that are destined to save Venice and its lagoon will be spent on this project. This work occupies a very fragile territory and a protected ambience.

This is not the way to save Venice, its history, its unique life and environment or the habits of its people, who continue to leave the town. With Mo.S.E. we shall go on using boots for "high water" up to 110 cm. above sea level, the most frequent, while Mo.S.E. would be closed only for upper levels. If an event like on November the 4th 1966 happens again (the tide was almost 2 m. in the town), in case of malfunction or breakdown there could be enormous damages. Moreover if the level of the oceans rises because of the climate heating, Mo.S.E. will not serve any purpose.

Venice can free itself from high water through alternative solutions that cost less, take less time, are reversible and are better able to protect Venice.