

Citizens' survey on extending the port in Godorf

Vote NO on 10th July!

Dear Citizens of Cologne:

The citizens' survey on the proposed extension of the port in Godorf gives the citizens of Cologne an opportunity, for the first time, to express their views about an important, major and expensive infrastructure project. The situation is different from the construction of the waste-incineration plant in the early 1990s or the construction of the north-south tram line.

Certainly, vast quantities of goods are transported and distributed in the Cologne metropolitan area. To make this possible, sustainable solutions need to be found. Lorry transport places a great strain on the environment. That is why the GREENS rely not only on shipping but also and primarily on a switch from lorry transport to freight traffic by rail.



To accommodate anticipated future growth in the volume of goods, a City Council majority consisting of members of the SPD and CDU parties would like to build an additional harbour basin in the Sürth Meadows (Sürther Aue) conservation area.

Doing so would irreparably destroy this unique conservation area.

According to Häfen- und Güterverkehrsgesellschaft, the city agency responsible for freight and waterway transport and logistics, the extension would cost EUR 67 million. Given our sorrowful experience with major projects in the past, it can be assumed that this project will also ultimately cost much more.

There must be very good reasons to justify an intervention of this scale. It must be demonstrated that there is no reasonable alternative to this extension of the port in Godorf. This extension has been debated for more than 20 years. Many are not persuaded by the arguments of the

proponents! That includes the GREENS!

Take an opportunity to see for yourself that the transport of goods in our region can be accomplished more sustainably, and with less harm to the environment, than the SPD, CDU, labour leaders and the Chamber of Industry and Commerce always claim.

A port extension will not reduce lorry transit traffic in Cologne. Most lorries do not have the port as their destination and simply pass through Cologne instead. And because the city's greatest traffic load is the result of lorry transit traffic, the GREENS rely on rail transport instead. This is why the GREENS favour expediting the extension of terminals for combined freight traffic between the lorry, rail and inland-shipping sectors. A new terminal is scheduled to be built in

the north of Cologne. The plans for the terminal are complete but still have not been implemented.

Container transshipment operations can be improved through better use of the existing port area in Niehl without adding to traffic loads in the north of Cologne. It is also possible to network the port in Niehl with other port operators in the Rhine region, from Bonn to Neuss. A joint Cologne/Neuss/Düsseldorf port corporation is in preparation.

Read more about the individual arguments against the port extension here. Don't be uncritically dazzled by proponents' simplistic claims. To insist that thousands of jobs depend on the port extension in Godorf is simply wrong; the project would create no more than a handful of jobs.

Exercise your right to vote! If the people of Cologne do not participate in large numbers, it will only provide grist to the mill of opponents of more citizen partici-

pation and direct democracy.

Support Cologne's first citizens' survey!

For the first time, all residents of Cologne over the age of 16 may vote - even those who do not come from countries of the EU.

This is a great opportunity for more codetermination by the citizens for issues that concern us here in our city. Seize this opportunity! Show that you take an interest in the future of Cologne!

1. There are alternatives!

Logistics concepts need to be designed with the entire region in mind. There is still a lot of unused capacity - so there's no need to extend the port in Godorf.

2. Save nature!

For a densely populated city like Cologne, the destruction of the Sürth Meadows would be a major loss, because we need to preserve every bit of unspoiled nature here.

3. The port extension is not a jobs machine!

The port in Neuss spans 500 hectares but employs only 55 people. The proposal for Godorf would add 20 hectares ...

4. The extension would waste EUR 67 million in tax funds!

And in times when money is tight, this money could certainly be devoted to more useful projects, e.g. for railway extension.

Eleven good reasons to vote No on 10th July: www.gruenekoeln.de

Impressum

Fraktion Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen
im Kölner Rat,
Rathaus - Spanischer Bau, 50667 Köln
Tel.: 0221 / 22125919;
Fax: 0221 / 22124555
verantwortlich: Jörg Frank
eMail: gruene-fraktion@stadt-koeln.de
Weitere Infos: www.gruenekoeln.de
www.buergerbefragung-godorfer-hafen.de
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