

**Question for written answer E-004462/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Svetoslav Hristov Malinov (PPE)

Subject: Recovery of incompatible state aid in Bulgaria

With regard to JOCE C/273/2011 and a Commission communication of 5 September 2014, Bulgaria published a list of swap transactions which should be subject to independent assessment. Two of the most striking swap transactions, however, were not included in the list, namely the swap of 270.8 ha of formerly state-owned forests and wooded dunes in the picturesque site of 'Kamchia sands' (Dolni Chiflik Municipality) which had previously been part of a protected area.

The estimations suggest that the state aid granted to two related private developers by means of swap transactions completed in 2007 amounts to more than EUR 100 million, far above the 'de minimis' threshold of EUR 200 000 (the administrative price being less than EUR 5 per m², while the market prices in the area exceeded EUR 50 per m²).

1. Is the Commission aware that two swap transactions for a total of 270.8 ha in the site of 'Kamchia sands' will not be subject to the state-aid recovery procedure?
2. What reasons did Bulgaria give for excluding these two swap transactions from the recovery procedure?
3. What measures will the Commission take to guarantee that Bulgaria is properly implementing the assessment and recovery procedures?