WRITTEN QUESTION E-1873/99 by Margot Keßler (PSE) to the Commission

Subject: Designation as a conservation area pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC (Fauna and Flora

Habitat Directive)

What legal and technical stage has been reached in the efforts to have the Schmücke region in Thuringia (Germany) designated as a special area of conservation within the meaning of Directive 92/43/EEC¹?

What steps has the Commission taken in this respect, or what steps is it planning to take in the future, to help bring this matter to an early conclusion?

The answer to this question should pay particular attention to the possibility of conflict arising from the potential mining of limestone at Gorsleben and the plans for the B 71 motorway route with respect, inter alia, to the importance of the area within the Wippertal-Wipperdurchbruch-Hainleite-Schmücke-Finne biotope system.

How does the Commission think the efficiency of the internal decision-making processes might be improved?

OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7

383277.EN PE 281.742