

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4052/00
by Ioannis Averoff (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Implementation of Community environmental legislation - structural fund financing in the Epirus region

Two hydroelectric plants are to be built in the municipalities of Egnatia and Metsovo in the Ioannina region of Greece. One is already under construction in the area of Mikro Peristeri (Paleokhorio district) and the other is planned for the area of Anilio.

In both areas there are monuments at risk of being destroyed by these projects and in neither case have the procedures for informing the public been observed or public opinion been taken into account.

Furthermore, the projects are receiving 45% of their funding from the operational programme for energy under the 2nd Community Support Framework for Greece.

In addition to the general framework set by Article 12 of Council Regulation (EC) 1260/1999¹ laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds, concerning the observance of environmental legislation, Articles 6 and 8 of Council Directive 85/337/EEC², as amended by Directive 97/11/EC³, provide for the public concerned to be given information and for their opinion to be taken into account when the projects are funded.

Directive 85/337/EEC, as amended by Directive 97/11/EC, has not yet been fully transposed into Greek national law. What measures will the Commission take to ensure that Community Directive 85/337/EEC, and Articles 6 and 8 thereof in particular, is implemented in practice in the above areas to avoid the adverse impact of the above projects on the cultural and natural environment in the region of Ioannina?

¹ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1

² OJ L 175, 5.7.1985, p. 40

³ OJ L 73, 14.3.1997, p. 5