

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0094/03
by Laura González Álvarez (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Planned diversion of water from the River Castril to the Jabalcón Canal (Granada, Spain)

The Association for the Protection and Promotion of the River Castril, along with leaders of several irrigator communities, local councils themselves, members of the Castril-Jabalcón Platform and a range of ecological organisations have all informed me of their opposition to the plan to channel water from the River Castril to the Jabalcón Canal, which was presented by the Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation and was to receive European funding. This project was first publicised in 2000, but was clearly unviable and was withdrawn as a result of strong public opposition. At the same time, another project, entitled 'improvement of the river banks and reforestation in the Castril river valley', is also being presented, and has already been the subject of two thousand complaints.

This diversion project, which is envisaged as 'a necessary part of the national hydrographic plan', would seriously affect farmers in the area, many of whom are organic farmers, and would impact on the countryside, on fauna and flora and on the Sierra de Castril natural park, with its precious ecosystem.

Implementation of this project could violate the following directives:

- (a) Directive 85/337/EEC¹, as amended by Directive 97/11/EC² on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment;
- (b) Directive 92/43/EEC³ on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

What steps will the Commission take to ensure compliance with Community legislation governing the environment, and more specifically with the directives referred to above?

¹ OJ L 175, 5.7.1985, p. 40.

² OJ L 73, 14.3.1997, p. 5.

³ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.