

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0550/03
by Laura González Álvarez (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Environmental impact of wind farms

Environmental, cultural and local community groups have drawn our attention to their concerns about the uncontrolled proliferation of wind farms in the province of Guadalajara (Campisalabos, Cantalojas and Villa) and those that are planned in the Tiermes-Caracena (Canalejas, Sierro and De Grado) area in Soria. Farms at Hijes and Somolinos have not been authorised on environmental grounds.

The Tiermes-Caracena area is classified as an Important Bird Area (IBA No 079) and is located between the Altos de Barahona and Macizo de Ayllón Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds. The area is home to large populations of griffon vulture, black vulture, golden eagle, owl, Egyptian vulture and the highly-endangered Dupont's lark.

The archaeological site at Tiermes (which has been declared a cultural asset by the Castilla-Léon regional government), covering a period ranging from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages, includes an important necropolis and an entire Roman town. The medieval buildings include the twelfth-century church of Our Lady of Tiermes. The local inhabitants, who, despite having applied to the relevant authorities, have yet to receive the information they require on the matter, consider this situation to be a serious threat to the area's rich natural and artistic heritage.

Would the Commission not agree that directives

- 97/11/EC¹ on environmental impact assessments,
 - 79/409/EEC² on the conservation of wild birds,
 - 92/43/EEC³ on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, and
 - 90/313/EEC⁴ on the freedom of access to information on the environment
- might have been breached in this instance?

What steps does it intend to take with a view to ensuring that the above directives are duly implemented?

¹ OJ L 73, 14.3.1997, p. 5.

² OJ L 103, 25.4.1979, p. 1.

³ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

⁴ OJ L 158, 23.6.1990, p. 56.