

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3881/03  
by Emmanouil Bakopoulos (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject: Encroachment on the Almyra wetlands in the prefecture of Xanthi

From the mid-1980s the coast in the region of Xanthi has been subject to intense development, a process which has led to the disappearance of large areas of wetlands.

In addition, the last few years have seen the illegal artificial draining of the Almyra wetlands which are contained in the RAMSAR Convention as some sections of these wetlands which are special protection areas (pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC<sup>1</sup>), and antiquities have been found in other sections.

The work which began in 1997 covers approximately 25 hectares, and this area has been earmarked for housing. The government has so far done nothing to restore the environment there.

Is the Commission aware of these developments and, if so, what measures has it taken to restore the environment of the Almyra wetlands?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 103, 25.4.1979, p.1