

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0647/04
by María Bergaz Conesa (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Urban waste water treatment in Benidorm, (Alicante province) Spain

The way in which the water treatment plant in Benidorm pours inadequately treated waste water into the sea, polluting the unspoilt and protected Sierra Helada coastal area, with serious consequences, contravenes Community legislation on the environment, in particular Council Directive 91/271/EEC¹ concerning urban waste water treatment. Under the directive, towns the size of Benidorm were to have a system for the collection and stringent treatment of urban waste water by 31 December 2000 at the latest.

Can the Commission request information from the Spanish authorities regarding the volume and composition of the waste water being poured into the sea in the environmentally sensitive area of Sierra Helada?

Can the Commission confirm whether the quality of the maritime waters in this area conforms to the guideline values under Directive 76/160/EEC² concerning the quality of bathing water?

What measures does the Commission intend to take in this instance to ensure that Community law is correctly applied?

¹ OJ L 135, 30.5.1991, p. 40

² OJ L 31, 5.2.1976, p. 1.