

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0666/04
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to the Commission

Subject: Breach of environmental legislation

By Decision 1070 of 13 May 2002, the Directorate for Forests of the region of Thessaly approved the establishment of a quarry for the extraction and processing of inert materials at Xera in the district of Potamia, municipality of Agia, on an area of pastureland covering 30 615 hectares.

Given that:

- the area in question has been designated a protected area within the meaning of the Natura 2000 network,
- the Ministry of Development delivered an opinion (APD10/B/F6.12 Gen/6422 of 9 May 2000) to the Directorate for Industry in Larissa stating that Article 4 of Law 2115/93 prohibits the establishment of quarries within a two-kilometre radius of designated archaeological sites or protected areas and that, therefore, it is not possible to set up a quarry within an area forming part of the Natura 2000 network,
- the extractive industries produce an exceptional volume of waste which affects the environment in terms of the quality of surface and ground water, natural stability, dust and erosion, and the quality of terrestrial and aquatic habitats,
- the siting of the quarry at a short distance from communities will affect sheep-rearing and apple-growing in the region, thereby creating problems in relation to farmers' incomes,
- traffic problems will be created on the main route linking the town of Larissa, Agia and the coastal area of the Prefecture of Larissa since this road network, which is already congested, particularly during the summer months, will carry the entire volume of HGV traffic transporting the inert material,

what measures will the Commission take to stop the development of an activity which is contrary to both Community and Greek environmental legislation?