

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2706/07

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to the Commission

Subject: Construction of a leisure harbour on Ibiza

On 24 April 2007, the Official Journal of the Balearic Islands (Spain) No 61 published a resolution of the Balearic Environmental Committee authorising the construction of the Es Viver recreational harbour.

Various civil society bodies have presented individual complaints to the Commission's DGs for the Environment and on Fisheries, as well as to the Spanish Fisheries and Environment Ministries, because they believe that the construction of this harbour, with berths for 885 vessels of up to 40 metres in length, and provision for the building of 536 parking spaces at ground level and 400 underground, in an area with access to the sea, where various industrial constructions such as wharves, dry docks and shipyards will be located, will all gravely harm the island's environment, and contribute nothing to the sustainability of its natural resources.

This building scheme apparently forms part of a large-scale business operation, according to the civil society bodies, who link it with the construction of roads and the golf course, located within the Ses Salines Nature Reserve; the appropriate Commission DG received complaints about this work quite some time ago.

All this building work is located in an area of prime biological importance with regard to the habitat quality of the marine phanerogram meadows. The scheme, for which there is no EIA, acknowledges that the marine communities, and particularly the *Posidonia oceanica* beds, will be wiped out over an estimated area of 120 000 square metres.

The scheme will furthermore directly affect a Special Bird Protection Area which has been declared an SCI, namely the Ses Salines Nature Reserve. For that reason, it will be infringing the Habitats Directive.

Is the Commission aware of this building scheme? What steps does it intend to take to ensure that Directive 85/337/EEC<sup>1</sup> and the Habitats Directive 92/43/EC<sup>2</sup> are complied with?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 175, 5.7.1985, p. 40.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.