

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2719/07
by Bernat Joan i Mari (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Alcúdia desalination plant

The Spanish Ministry of the Environment and the Government of the Balearic Islands, on the basis of a collaboration agreement signed in April 2005 on the implementation of waterworks of general interest, proceeded to award the contract for building and operating the Alcúdia desalination plant. The first phase has already begun, and has a budget of € 61 913 040.

This has already had extremely serious repercussions on the environment, which are not covered by the EIA. In Alcúdia itself, 7000 m² of oak and pine woods have been felled, and tons of earth and stones have been dumped in the Maristany wetlands. In order for this work to be carried out, around one hundred individuals were expropriated.

The building of the Alcúdia desalination plant will increase water prices, energy costs and CO₂ emissions.

The plant's major remit will be to facilitate housing development speculation on the north coast of Majorca, where a major upsurge in population is forecast.

The damage done by the desalination plant will affect:

- (a) SCI (site of Community interest) ES 5310005 - Bahía de Alcúdia, with its habitats and species of Community interest covered by Directive 92/43/EEC¹, not least its 'Posidonia oceánica' beds;
- (b) Natura 2000 Network sites: S'Albufera and S'Albufereta;
- (c) the countryside in Natural Areas of Special Interest (ANEI) and Special Bird Protection Areas.

1. Can the Commission tell me whether this project was co-funded between 2000-2006, or is going to be co-funded between 2007-2013, with Community money (ERDF or Cohesion Fund)?
2. How is Directive 85/337/EEC² on assessing the impact of certain projects on the environment, specifically as regards publishing public consultation and the environmental impact statement, etc., being complied with?
3. Has Directive 92/43/EEC on the preservation of natural habitats been complied with, particularly as regards the date and the body making the statement as to impact or lack of impact on Natura 2000 Network sites?
4. Is the Commission aware that this scheme is being implemented without any respect for the EIA?

¹ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

² OJ L 175, 5.7.1985, p. 40.