

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5874/07

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to the Commission

Subject: Pollution in Romania

Pollution in the region of Lake Bicz in Romania has now reached devastating proportions. In spite of all the pronouncements of the responsible ministry in Bucharest, no measures have yet been taken to remedy the problem.

In an attempt to increase tourism, the EU is financing the construction of guesthouses and other visitor facilities in the region. However, Lake Bicz has become so polluted that neither bathing nor other water sports are possible. The resident population of the region are generally very poor and barely make ends meet from the small-scale farming which is the norm, and there is no hope of other sources of income in the medium term. The region, which has all the prerequisites for development into a recreational area for tourists, could bring prosperity to all the inhabitants if the serious environmental problems were solved and the Commission introduced measures to remedy the pollution in line with the environmental aims set out in Article 174(1) of the EC Treaty.

Our questions are as follows:

1. Does the Commission have any more precise information on the pollution of Lake Bicz?
2. Does the inaction of the Romanian Ministry of the Environment not run counter to the efforts of the EU to encourage tourism in the Lake Bicz region? Should it not be reprimanded or called upon to take action, in accordance with the polluter-pays principle laid down in the EC Treaty?
3. What steps does the Commission intend to take in order to deal with this problem?