

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6180/07

by Josu Ortuondo Larrea (ALDE) and Ignasi Guardans Cambó (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Complaint about the building of a wind park in the Galician Natura 2000 Network SCI 'Brañas de Xestos' (Spain)

A Wind Park called 'Couto de San Sebastián' is being built in open countryside in 'Brañas de Xestos' the Site of Community Importance (SCI) (Code No ES1140008) lying between the towns of Estrada, Silleda and Forcarei in Galicia (Spain), which forms part of the Natura 2000 network. The Galician ecological association ADEGA and the local people affected have submitted administrative complaints to the Galician Autonomous Government about the fact that rules on protecting the environment are being violated, and an area belonging to the Natura 2000 network is being invaded.

For that reason, the complaint has been submitted to the Commission about the possible infringement of Community legislation covering the district in question, e.g.. Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on preservation of woodland birds, Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the preservation of natural habitats and forest fauna and flora, and Council Directive 85/337/EEC on assessing the impact on the environment of certain public and private projects.

Has the Commission assessed whether this countryside area belonging to the Natura 2000 Network is indeed being violated? Is the Commission going to open infringement proceedings against the Spanish Government for failing to comply with Community law?