

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0496/08
by Gerardo Galeote (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Jardines del Prado de San Sebastián, Seville, Spain

In Seville city centre are gardens known as the Prado de San Sebastián, adjacent to the María Luisa Park, the University of Seville and the court buildings. These gardens, dominated by orange trees, palm trees and jacaranda trees, contain several ponds and children's play areas, as well as terraces.

The gardens in their present form date from 1997 and host various musical and cultural events, such as the Festival of the Nations and the Tapas Fair, held around Corpus Christi.

The landscaping was carried out with EU assistance, with 70% of the total cost (ESP 567 million) provided by the ERDF over the period 1994-1999.

Seville City Council plans to build a university library 25 metres high on the present site of the gardens, which will mean the destruction of more than 20% of the park's trees. The possibility of applying for Community funding is being considered for this venture too.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Andalusian Operational Programme ended in 2003, are any checks carried out on co-financed projects once they have been completed and are in use?

Is it possible to obtain European funding to replace one co-financed project with another?

With regard to the proposed new project, can the Commission state who would have the final say should the Regional Government of Andalusia, an intermediate body between the Commission and the Spanish State in the selection of projects for the period 2007-2013, decide in favour of building a new infrastructure that would presumably damage the environment and be incompatible with the preservation of Seville's historical heritage? If the project is approved, could it benefit from ERDF financing for the period 2007-2013? What kind of projects selected by the responsible authorities in the Member States are subject to examination by the Commission and when does this take place?