

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5974/08

by Panayiotis Demetriou (PPE-DE) and Ioannis Kasoulides (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Misappropriation of woodland in the occupied village of Livera in the northern part of Cyprus

Greek Cypriot refugees report that 15 hectares of woodland belonging to Greek Cypriots in the Turkish-occupied village of Livera in the province of Kyrenia in the northern part of Cyprus have recently been cleared; they are backed by photographic and film documents which we have at our disposal and can make available to the Commission. Incalculable environmental damage has been caused since the wood in question contained the Cyprus tulip (a protected species), pines and wild plant cover. It should be noted that the area in question had been proposed for inclusion in the EU's NATURA 2000 programme owing to its natural diversity.

Given that luxury dwellings - some of which are supposed to belong to the highest political leadership in the Turkish Cypriot community - have recently been illegally constructed on neighbouring Greek Cypriot property, it is reported that the woodland in question which has been cleared of trees and undergrowth will be set aside for the construction of a tourist complex with luxury flats.

In view of the above, will the Commission say whether it intends to make representations to Turkey which is occupying the northern part of island and has it fully under its control, so as to put an end to the destruction of the natural environment and, of course, the misappropriation of Greek Cypriot property in occupied Cyprus?