

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6186/08

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to the Commission

Subject: Galician aquaculture plan and possible infringement of Community law

In September 2008 the autonomous government of Galicia (Spain), on a proposal from the Department of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, approved the Galician aquaculture plan which contains a land-use plan for the coastline in relation to aquaculture activities. The plan involves the installation of 24 aquaculture parks, 11 of which will be extensions of existing plants with 13 new constructions.

Is the Commission aware that the co-funding for this plan from the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) will mainly be used to subsidise land-based industrial aquaculture for flatfish, to the detriment of marine aquaculture, traditional fishing practices and measures to improve the fish and shellfish resources indigenous to the Galician coastline?

Is the Commission aware that this aquaculture plan does not meet the conditions laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006¹ of 27 July 2006 on the European Fisheries Fund, specifically with regard to Articles 28 (scope of intervention in aquaculture production), 29 (measures for productive investments in aquaculture) and 30 (aqua-environmental measures)?

Is the Commission aware that this plan will occupy an area of almost three million square metres of prime coastline, including sites forming part of the Natura 2000 network and areas containing habitats and species of European interest and priority habitats and species in accordance with Council Directive 79/409/EEC² of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds and Council Directive 92/43/EEC³ of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, and the plan is thus in contravention of Article 30(2)(d) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund, which aims to promote sustainable aquaculture compatible with the Natura 2000 network? Is it aware that the plan makes no provision for any treatment system, which means that water with a high organic load containing parasites, antibiotics and chemical pollutants may be directly discharged into the sea on a coastline with a high fishing and shellfishing potential, in contravention of Directive 91/271/EEC⁴ of 21 May 1991 concerning urban wastewater treatment and Directive 2000/60/EC⁵ of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy?

¹ OJ L 223, 15.8.2006, p. 1.

² OJ L 103, 25.4.1979, p. 1.

³ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

⁴ OJ L 135, 30.5.1991, p. 40.

⁵ OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1.