

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2152/09  
by Willy Meyer Pleite (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject: Indiscriminate proliferation of quarries in O Courel

The Commission has sent a written warning to the Spanish authorities about the irregularities detected in various slate-quarries located in the district of O Courel (Lugo/Galicia), an area listed as part of the Natura 2000 Network; these quarries clearly fail to comply with European environmental legislation, namely Directive 85/337/EEC<sup>1</sup>, amended by Directive 97/11/EC<sup>2</sup> on assessing the impact of certain public and private projects on the environment, and Directive 92/43/EEC<sup>3</sup> on the preservation of natural habitats and of woodland fauna and flora.

Specifically, four of these quarries are at issue: La Campa (which has had Xunta de Galicia authorisation since 2007, a preparatory measure for the granting of the municipal licence the quarry does not yet have, due to the major environmental shortcomings detected in its current operations); La Illusion Fraccion II (authorised in 2006) and the two segments of Culpa II, in the river Lor basin, which are affecting a site of community interest, namely SCI Ancares-O Courel.

Would the Commission be so good as to provide me with the conclusions of the investigation which it has been carrying out since 2005 into the situation in these quarries and its impact on the environment and on workers' health?

What reply was received from the Spanish authorities in response to the Commission's written warning?

What measures does the Commission intend to take to put a stop to the indiscriminate proliferation of quarries in an area which ought to be enjoying special environmental protection while guaranteeing its social and economic development on the basis of sustainability?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 175, 5.7.1985, p.40.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 73, 14.3.1997, p.5.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.