

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2164/09

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to the Commission

Subject: The National Park of East Macedonia - Thrace in the Republic of Greece: Timari Beach, Agiasma Beach, Keramoti Gulf

The National Park is under threat due to non-compliance of the new Ministerial Decree (October 2008) with the existing pSPI, SPA and/or Ramsar boundaries.

At the *Agiasma Beach* and at the *Timari Beach* between the Vassova and Eratino Lagoons, a coastal area of the primary and secondary sand dune habitat (habitats under the EU Flora, Fauna Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC¹, known as the 'Natura Directive') was reduced in conservation status from A to B for the benefit of tourism. The dune ecosystem will be destroyed. At the Agiasma Beach 70 illegal small weekend houses have been constructed and new parcels from the marshes and dunes are claimed every year.

The Keramoti Gulf: Parts of the coastal shallow zone A have been downgraded to a B Zone for the development of fish and shellfish production – the land part of the area has remained in zone A. The continuity of the high protection status of the shallow sea is necessary.

How will the Commission prevent the deterioration of the European natural heritage located at the Timari Beach, the Agiasma Beach and the Keramoti Gulf in the National Park of East Macedonia – Thrace in the Republic of Greece?

¹ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.