

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2183/09

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to the Commission

Subject: The National Park of East Macedonia - Thrace in the Republic of Greece: North-Eastern Ismarida Marshes

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

The North and North-Eastern Ismarida Marshes: The Bosbosi River, as main tributary of Lake Ismarida (former Mitrikou), and parts of the most important Mediterranean freshwater and semi-haline marshes are down-graded from an A to a B zone, to give the opportunity for land reclamation and drainage. These habitats, especially when flooded in winter and spring, host the highest densities of rare bird species of the whole National Park and are of enormous importance for bird migration and wintering.

There are a number of other changes on the border of the park which do not comply with the proposal of the management body.

It will be necessary to carry out a clear new biotope-oriented mapping and make a demarcation of the whole park area (based on modern maps, aerial photographs and in situ research).

How will the Commission prevent the deterioration of the European natural heritage located at the North-Eastern Ismarida Marshes in the National Park of East Macedonia – Thrace in the Republic of Greece?