

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2184/09

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to the Commission

Subject: The National Park of East Macedonia - Thrace in the Republic of Greece: Lake Vistonis, North Vistonis Riparian Forest, Eastern Vistonis Shore

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 Western shore of Lake Vistonis – Marshes: Important salt marshes and freshwater marshes (that are priority habitats under the EU Natura Directive), on the western shore of Lake Vistonis are taken out of zone A and transferred to B, for the benefit of agricultural development.

The North Vistonis Riparian Forest: Important salt marshes, freshwater marshes, and parts of the riparian forest and the northern shore of Lake Vistonis (which are priority habitats under the EU Natura Directive 92/43/EEC¹) are taken out of zone A and are transferred to B or even C (riverbed of Koshinthos = Xiropotamos).

The Eastern Vistonis Shore - Marshes: At the eastern and south-eastern shore of Vistonis Lake all marshes east of the new (illegal) flood protection dam have been reduced from A to B Zones; here there are still important salt marshes (priority habitats under the EU Natura Directive) which are being destroyed in benefit of agriculture.

How will the Commission prevent the deterioration of the European natural heritage located at the Western shore of Lake Vistonis, the North Vistonis Riparian Forest and the Eastern Vistonis Shore in the National Park of East Macedonia – Thrace in the Republic of Greece?

¹ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.