

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2185/09

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to the Commission

Subject: The National Park of East Macedonia - Thrace in the Republic of Greece: Mirodato-Avdira Beach, Agios Ioanni Beach - Almyra

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.

*Mirodato-Avdira Beach and Agios Ioanni Beach – Almyra:* Very valuable salt marshes and coastal sand dunes in the Mirodato – Avdira Beach and in Agios Ioannis and the area of Almyra are excluded from the higher conservation status for the benefit of tourism infrastructure and housing areas. A whole settlement has already been constructed on the marshes, and new plots are being claimed every year. In the interim ministerial decree from 1996 some parts were already excluded; now even bigger areas are unprotected, including priority habitats under the EU Natura Directive 92/43/EEC<sup>1</sup>, and still very important wetland bird populations breed and stay over winter.

Greek NGOs have consulted the highest national court about the construction plans on the Almyra Lagoon, and construction has been stopped temporarily but draining pumps are still being used and are still being claimed.

How will the Commission prevent the deterioration of the European natural heritage located at the Mirodato-Avdira Beach and the Agios Ioanni Beach – Almyra in the National Park of East Macedonia – Thrace in the Republic of Greece?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.