

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2187/09

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to the Commission

Subject: Threats to the National Park of East Macedonia-Thrace in the Republic of Greece:
Coastal Marshes and Dunes North of Fanari Village, Arogi-Messis Beach, Aliko Beach

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

The coastal marshes and dunes north of Fanari village: the north of the harbour of Fanari wetland areas and coastal white and grey dunes (that are habitats under EU Natura Directive 92/43/EEC¹), including salt-marshes with *Juncetalia maritimi*, are being downgraded from former A or B status to C zones with the sole purpose of developing them as tourism and construction areas. EIAs for new hotels are already available. This area functions as an important ecological buffer for the highest-value areas of Lagos Lagoon in the north and is vital for conservation.

Arogi-Messis Beach: Extremely valuable priority habitats under the EU Natura Directive, especially sand dunes and salt marshes, are being excluded from the A Zone for tourism development; an illegal field road (foreseen as a foot and bicycle trail, financed by EU programmes) has already eased access to the area.

Aliko Beach: In the coastal area of Alyki Lagoon extremely valuable priority habitats under the EU Natura Directive, especially sand dunes and salt marshes are being excluded from the A Zone for tourism development; a coastal strip has already been developed illegally with a road, lamps, camp-site installations and permanent huts/shacks. The area is considered a tourism zone for local minorities, but housing and other construction activities are unacceptable inside a National Park.

How will the Commission prevent the deterioration of the European natural heritage located at the coastal marshes and dunes north of Fanari village, the Arogi-Messis Beach and the Aliko Beach in the National Park of East Macedonia-Thrace in the Republic of Greece?

¹ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.