

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3048/09
by David Hammerstein (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Plan to expand the "Les Ginesteres" industrial zone in Collbató (Barcelona)

I would like to inform the Commission of the plan to expand the "Les Ginesteres" industrial zone in Collbató (Barcelona) by 21 ha. The project poses a threat to the neighbouring protected areas of the Parque Natural de la Montaña de Montserrat (Montserrat Natural Park) and the Natura 2000 network: a Special Bird Protection Area (SBPA) and Site of Community Interest (SCI) "Montserrat-Roques Blanques-riu Llobregat" (code ES5110012). This area is considered a "critical and priority sector" for the conservation of the Bonelli's eagle (*Hyaetus fasciatus*), which has nesting sites and hunting grounds in this region. The project also threatens an area of Mediterranean pine forest, a habitat listed as being of non-priority Community interest (code 9540).

No environmental impact statement was drawn up, as stipulated in Article 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC¹ which applies to the Natura 2000 network. According to Decree 328/1992 on the plan of sites of natural interest and Decree 114/1988 on assessment of the environmental impact, it is the environmental impact statement that constitutes a proper assessment.

The Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Catalonia has ruled that this project should not be carried out because of the need to preserve the natural resources and scenic, historic and cultural values of a landmark site such as the Parque Natural de la Montaña de Montserrat and because it does not take into account the Spanish Sustainable Development Strategy.

No consideration has been given to other credible alternatives, or to its impact on the population, landscape, rural environment and heritage. The information process has been misleading and lacking in transparency, and may be in breach of the Directive on public access to environmental information (2003/4/EC)².

Is the Commission aware of this situation which has an impact on areas regulated by Community Directives 79/409/EEC³ and 92/43/EC?

What measures does the Commission intend to take in view of the possible infringement of the Habitats Directive and the Directive on the right of access to environmental information?

¹ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

² OJ L 41, 14.2.2003, p. 26.

³ OJ L 103, 25.4.1979, p. 1.