

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3300/09  
by Bill Newton Dunn (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Peatlands at Gordonbush

Peatlands cover 3% of the world's land area yet contribute more carbon dioxide to the atmosphere than the global aviation industry. Conservation and restoration of peatlands will return the balance to storing rather than emitting CO<sub>2</sub> and provides benefits such as flood control and biodiversity retention. Industrial development disturbs the peatlands and exacerbates emissions. Peatlands are often part of, or adjacent to, Natura 2000 sites, as at Gordonbush in Scotland. The Caithness and Sutherland peatlands are under increasing pressure from industrial development.

What action has been taken by the Commission to protect and enhance these sites which are important bird habitats, and what plans has it to do so in the future?