

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3586/09
by David Hammerstein (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Compensatory measures

In 2006 the Spanish electricity company Red Eléctrica de España¹ undertook a project known as REMO² (for the strengthening of Western Mediterranean electricity) which affected several sites of community interest³ and ⁴. The environmental impact statement made by the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM) for this project⁵ specifies Red Eléctrica's obligations, namely the compensatory measures required to maintain the European ecological network Natura 2000 in spite of the project's implementation.

Despite not having fully undertaken the above compensatory measures⁶ (according to the report published by the MARM), Red Eléctrica is sending out information in brochures⁷ and in the media⁸ on a series of projects other than those mentioned in the environmental impact statement⁹, which are being undertaken with the same compensatory measures as the REMO project.

Evidently, the more projects companies undertake in support of Natura 2000, the better it will be for the network. Nonetheless, the information being sent out by Red Eléctrica could create confusion among citizens and administrations regarding the companies' obligations and altruistic acts carried out by those companies.

What does the Commission think about this dissemination of information which seems to be mixing up unfulfilled obligations stemming from an environmental impact statement with other parallel projects carried out for the Natura 2000 network, which could create confusion among citizens and administrations?

¹ <http://www.ree.es/>

² <http://cocrn.tarifainfo.com/conservacion/400kvremo.html>

³ <http://cocrn.tarifainfo.com/conservacion/remo/es0000049Alcornocales.pdf>

⁴ <http://cocrn.tarifainfo.com/conservacion/remo/es0000337Estrecho.pdf>

⁵ http://cocrn.tarifainfo.com/conservacion/remo/DIA_REMO.pdf

⁶ <http://cocrn.tarifainfo.com/conservacion/remo/seguimientocompensatorias.pdf>

⁷ http://www.ree.es/medio_ambiente/pdf/REMO_conservar_para_vivir_mejor.pdf

⁸ <http://cocrn.tarifainfo.com/conservacion/remo/esunnegocio.pdf>

⁹ From its report (sic): As well as the measures outlined in the EIS, the following have also been undertaken:

- The co-financing of a documentary on the phenomenon of migration.
- The publication of a Spanish translation of *The Ornithology of the Straits of Gibraltar*, by L. Howard L. Irby pub. 1895.
- A study of various alternatives for the sustainable use of the environmental and cultural resources of the Isla de las Palomas (Tarifa, Cadiz)
- The building of a birdwatching tower in the Palmones river marshes
- Construction and equipping of a migration tracking station for the Straits of Gibraltar.