

**Question for written answer E-002237/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sergio Berlato (PPE)

Subject: Check of proper use of EU resources to implement the LIFE VIMINE Project

As part of its LIFE VIMINE Project, the European Union has recently co-financed a project presented by Venice City Council, with Padua University's Industrial Engineering Department as project coordinator. The other partners are Magistrato Alle Acque - Venice, the Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Consorzio di Bonifica Acque Risorgive, Agenda 21 Consulting srl, AttivaMente cooperativa sociale onlus, Selc soc. coop. and Foundation for Sustainable Development (The Netherlands). Apparently some beneficiaries of these Community resources have been using them partly for propaganda and support for the establishment of the North Venice Lagoon Park. EU resources have apparently even been spent on distributing forms deliberately but subtly slanted to persuade members of the public to answer in a predetermined way, to demonstrate their supposed support for the project to set up the North Venice Lagoon Park. There is nothing to suggest that the European Union intends, through the LIFE VIMINE Project or otherwise, to encourage the creation of a Venice lagoon park which the vast majority of residents of Venice and local economic and social entities have repeatedly and openly opposed. Can the Commission therefore explain:

- whether it considers it necessary to check the legitimate use of EU resources, given that local and environmental conservation are achievable without necessarily setting up parks and imposing unsustainable restrictions, such as those envisaged in Italian State Law on Protected Areas No 394/91 and Regional Law No 40/1984?
- Does it intend to intervene to prevent anyone from unlawfully diverting public resources into propaganda and support for the establishment of a park which nobody wants apart from a tiny minority of individuals who seem bent on guaranteeing the interests of a few at the expense of the overwhelming majority of the public? In fact the public wish to treat the wealth of natural resources as an opportunity for the resident human population and certainly do not want to impose unsustainable restrictions which stifle social and economic activity. In the last resort, they do not want to encourage the inevitable desertion of the countryside by people who have protected the environment from encroaching property speculators, unregulated cementing and the poisoning and degradation of their locality acting, not on a whim of fashion, but out of necessity.