

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0322/03  
by Karla Peijs (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Guyana Shield Initiative

Is the Commission aware of the importance of the Guyana Shield for the conservation of the global biodiversity, its importance as a global CO<sub>2</sub> sink and as one of the major freshwater reservoirs in the world, and its importance for the many indigenous peoples living in this area?

The EU is a party to the international environmental treaties like the Biodiversity Convention, the Climate Change Treaty and the Desertification Convention and therefore bound to implement the objectives of these conventions. Its Water Initiative has become a central element in the programme for sustainable development. The Guyana Shield is one of the most important regions of the world with regard to these objectives. Taking these objectives into account, what measures has the Commission taken to safeguard the natural and environmental values of the Guyana Shield for posterity?

What are the objectives of the ACP and ALA development aid programmes for the Guyana Shield countries and what activities with regard to safeguarding the natural and environmental values of these countries are financed by these programmes?

Is the Commission aware of the Guyana Shield Initiative (GSI) of the Netherlands Committee for the IUCN (NCIUCN), the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) and the European Working Group for Amazonia (EWGA), which aims to promote the integral conservation of natural and environmental values for its inhabitants as well for the world, and is the Commission willing to support this important Initiative, politically as well as financially?