

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0531/04  
by Elisabeth Schroedter (Verts/ALE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Construction of a salt-water spa and discharge of thermal salt water from the spa into the River Spree without an environmental impact assessment

A salt-water spa is to be built in the town of Burg in Land Brandenburg, Germany . The plans provide for the thermal salt water from the spa to be discharged directly into the River Spree. As a result, the water quality of the river will deteriorate. Current technology involves compressing and depositing the salt. However, discharging it into the water has been approved without a prior environmental impact assessment. Brandenburg's regional government intends to finance the project using EU funding from the ERDF.

1. Is the Commission of the opinion that an environmental impact assessment was required in the above case under the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC<sup>1</sup>)?

If so, does the Commission intend to call on Brandenburg's regional government to comply with EU law?

If not, how does the Commission intend to guarantee the implementation of and compliance with the EU's Water Framework Directive?

2. Is the Commission of the opinion that it is compatible with the principles of the Structural Funds as set out in Article 12 of the Regulation laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds (Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999<sup>2</sup>) that the construction of a salt-water spa in Burg can be directly supported, or its development indirectly supported, by the ERDF despite the failure to comply with the Water Framework Directive?

If so, how does it justify this?

If not, will it call on Brandenburg to repay the funds?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 161, 26.6.1999, p. 1.