

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1363/04  
by Ulla Sandbæk (EDD)  
to the Commission

Subject:           Saami indigenous rights

The Saami people are having great problems with preserving their traditional way of life, where their rights to traditional fishing waters and to the traditional hunting grounds and reindeer pasture areas are of crucial importance.

What has the Commission done so far about the problem that many Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish Saami are still excluded from traditional indigenous land and water rights, for instance salmon-netfishing in the Tana river, and the problem posed by the absence of a coherent plan for indigenous land and water rights that aims at preserving and strengthening the indigenous nature-dependent life style of the Saami people, and what does it plan to do in the future?