

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1372/04
by Giorgio Celli (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Failure to comply with the aims of the Llubí-Crestaxt watercourse project

With regard to Commissioner Barnier's answer to question P-0766/04¹ on the Llubí-Crestaxt-Pollença watercourse project on the island of Majorca, Spain, clarification is needed as regards the following point: a change in the local Balearic regional government as a result of the elections in June last year brought the construction of the northern stretch of the transversal artery to a standstill and a modification was proposed that fundamentally alters the aims of the original Llubí-Crestaxt (Sa Pobla) project co-financed by the European Union.

The modification changes the route of the watercourse and instead of linking Llubí with the Crestaxt aquifer it pointlessly connects it with somewhere else. It also abandons the three aims of the Llubí-Crestaxt watercourse, which was to allow the surface water surpluses to infiltrate into the strategic Crestaxt aquifer, in order to restore the piezometric levels and act as a reserve for the driest periods. These modifications were approved by the Governing Council of the Balearic Islands and the work is being carried out without sufficient technical justification for the new route and the new objectives.

In view of this serious situation entailing a modification or, more exactly, a new project with completely different aims from those of the initial project co-financed by the European Union, can the Commission say:

- whether the Government of the Balearic Islands informed the Commission of the modification or new project with regard to the route of the watercourse and the nature of the objectives, presenting the arguments justifying the decision;
- whether, if it was not notified about this modification adopted by the Governing Council and now being carried out, it will take any steps to suspend or request repayment of the Community funding intended for the original project?

¹ OJ C