

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0472/06  
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to the Commission

Subject: Project entitled 'Funding of Natura 2000: Handbook and Workshops' (2005/S 73-070009) implemented by DG Environment

On the basis of an invitation to tender issued by the Commission's DG Environment, in October 2005 WWF Germany was given the task, as consortium leader, of drawing up a handbook on the funding of Natura 2000 and organising workshops in the 25 EU Member States. The project deals only with information about Community funding sources.

1. What steps is the European Commission taking to ensure that WWF, a nature conservation organisation, is performing this task in an unbiased manner?
2. The workshops are aimed at public administrations, landowners, farmers, fishermen, NGOs, etc. How will cooperation with the key stakeholders be implemented in practice?
3. Primary funding for Natura 2000 measures will be provided by the Member States/regions, since there is no specific EU budget for Natura 2000. Why is this project disregarding national funding sources?
4. Cooperation with the Member State authorities responsible for Natura 2000 is essential, particularly in connection with the running of the workshops. What steps is the European Commission taking to ensure that the authorities responsible for Natura 2000 are involved in a project which has not been initiated by them?