

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1100/09  
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to the Commission

Subject: Establishment of a European Criminal Court for the Environment

Various sources, including the special edition of Eurobarometer 295 (03/08), show that most European citizens are very concerned about environmental protection and believe it has a direct impact on their daily lives.

Since the environment has become one of the competences of the European Union, a number of rules have been adopted, but the true problem remains the implementation of those rules in the Member States. The recent Directive 2008/99/EC<sup>1</sup> on the protection of the environment through criminal law requires that Member States make provision in their national legislation for criminal penalties in respect of serious infringements of provisions of Community law on the protection of the environment.

Given the importance of compliance with EU environmental legislation, does the Commission not think it should explore the possibility of establishing a European Criminal Court for the Environment, or better still, an International Criminal Court for the Environment? What is the Commission's position on this and what action does it intend to take?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p.28.