

Has the Commission carried out an environmental impact study in connection with the foregoing? If so, what was the outcome? If not, does the Commission intend to carry out such a study with a view to assessing the ecological impact on the Ses Salines d'Eivissa i Formentera Natural Park, and above all, the possible violation of the Community Directive on Birds 79/409/EEC, the Habitats Directive, and any other EU environmental legislation?

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 103, 25.4.1979, p. 1.

Answer given by Mrs Wallström on behalf of the Commission

(14 March 2003)

The Commission is aware of the situation the Honourable Member is referring to in this written question, having just received a complaint on the subject. That complaint is currently being examined.

Regarding the Honourable Member's question, the Commission would point out that the performance of impact assessment studies on individual projects falls entirely within the jurisdiction of the competent national, regional or local authorities, and that it is for project developers to supply such studies to the competent authorities in order to obtain project consent.

In any event, as guardian of the Treaties the Commission will take the necessary steps to ensure that Community law is observed in this instance.

(2003/C 222 E/189)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0210/03

by Christine De Veyrac (PPE-DE) to the Commission

(3 February 2003)

Subject: URBAN II initiative

The declaration concerning the URBAN initiative, annexed to the interinstitutional agreement of 6 May 1999 ⁽¹⁾, states that a budget of up to EUR 200 million may be assigned to URBAN II by mobilising the flexibility instrument.

Does the Commission intend to mobilise this reserve in the framework of the next budgetary exercise?

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 172, 18.6.1999, p. 21.

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission

(4 March 2003)

The Urban II Community Initiative had not been planned when the Berlin financial perspectives were approved in 1999. The Initiative was created in 2000, at Parliament's behest in particular, and its funding comes from some of the budget appropriations initially intended for innovatory measures.

The declaration on the Urban Initiative mentioned by the Honourable Member states: 'In view of the reduction in the amount provided for innovatory measures, relating to the Urban Initiative, the institutions agree that they will examine the possibility of allocating up to EUR 200 million for this purpose, by mobilising the flexibility instrument during the period 2000-2006.'

The Commission believes that the declaration mentioned by the Honourable Member in her written question relates to the possible repayment of EUR 200 million to the innovatory measures budget. So it does not intend to mobilise the flexibility instrument in favour of the Urban Community Initiative.