

which lays down that any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Site of Community Importance, but likely to have a significant effect thereon, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for such sites?

(<sup>1</sup>) Boletín Oficial del Estado (BOE) of 23 January 2002.

(<sup>2</sup>) Declared a Biosphere Reserve of a land surface of 847 km<sup>2</sup> and a maritime area of 387 km<sup>2</sup> under the Unesco MAB programme on 7 October 1993.

(<sup>3</sup>) In Lanzarote: bird protection areas on the islands of Lanzarote and Risco de Famara; an ornithologically important area of Llanos de la Corona-laas Honduras; and the Sites of Community Importance Archipiélago Chinijo (ES010045), Los Islotes (ES010044), Seadales de la Graciosa (ES7010020), La Corona (ES010047), Los Jameos (ES010054), Seadales de Gauasimeta (ES7010021) and Cagafrecho (ES7011002) and in Fuerteventura: Bird Protection Areas of Isla de Lobos, Jable de Corralejo, Macizo de Pozo Negro-Vigán, Playa de Sotavento and Península de Jandía; and the Sites of Community Importance of Isote de Lobos (ES010031), Corralejo (ES010032), Seadales de Corralejo (ES010022), Pozo Negro (ES0000096) y Playa de Sotavento de Jandía (ES010035).

(<sup>4</sup>) OJ L 73, 14.3.1997, p. 5.

(<sup>5</sup>) OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

### Answer given by Mrs Wallström on behalf of the Commission

(28 March 2003)

Firstly, the Honourable Members question the Commission on the possible failure of the Spanish authorities to apply Directive 85/337/EEC (<sup>1</sup>), as amended by Directive 97/11/EC (<sup>2</sup>), properly in relation to the granting of oil prospecting permits for the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura. It should be pointed out first of all that the abovementioned Directive applies to the projects listed in Annexes I and II. Oil prospecting is not listed in those annexes and, as a consequence, Directive 85/337/EEC, as amended by Directive 97/11/EC, does not appear to apply in the case in question.

As regards the application of Directive 92/43/EEC (<sup>3</sup>) in the case under consideration, the Commission, in its role of guardian of the treaties, will contact the Spanish authorities as soon as possible to ensure compliance with the obligations under that Directive regarding the protection of habitats and species.

(<sup>1</sup>) Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, OJ L 175, 5.7.1985.

(<sup>2</sup>) Council Directive 97/11/EC of 3 March 1997 amending Directive 85/337/EEC, OJ L 73, 14.3.1997.

(<sup>3</sup>) Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992.

(2003/C 268 E/103)

### WRITTEN QUESTION E-0455/03

by **Graham Watson (ELDR)** to the Commission

(19 February 2003)

*Subject:* Food allergies and restaurant ingredients

With reference to my previous question E-2809/2 (<sup>1</sup>) and the answer provided by Commissioner Byrne on 12 November 2002, I ask the Commission, who is the ultimate consumer of foodstuffs if it is not the restaurant's client, i.e. the person who eats the meal?

Could the Commission confirm the minimum size of print on food packaging with regard to ingredient labelling?

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ C 52 E, 6.3.2003, p. 218.

**Answer given by Mr Byrne on behalf of the Commission**

(18 March 2003)

Further to the answer given to the Honourable Member's Written Question E-2809/02, the Commission would point out that Directive 2000/13/EC<sup>(1)</sup> lists the particulars which must be shown on the labelling of foodstuffs intended for supply to end users, restaurants, hospitals, canteens and other similar mass caterers.

The labelling obligations therefore apply to foodstuffs purchased by restaurants for the preparation of dishes, but not to the actual dishes served in these restaurants.

The Directive in question does not specify the minimum size of print to be used on food packaging with regard to ingredient labelling, but Article 13 states that the particulars on labels must be marked in such a way as to be easily visible, clearly legible and indelible.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 March 2000 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs, OJ L 109, 6.5.2000.

(2003/C 268 E/104)

**WRITTEN QUESTION E-0458/03****by Bernd Lange (PSE) to the Commission**

(19 February 2003)

*Subject:* Commission activities and cooperation relating to alternative fuels

Work is clearly being carried out in the various Commission departments in the field of alternative fuels, which will undoubtedly be of great importance for their future development. It appears, for example, that there is a high-level working group on hydrogen in DG Research, several working groups on alternative fuels in DG Transport, as well as related activities in DG Environment.

1. What activities are being undertaken by the Commission's various departments in the field of alternative fuels?
2. Are these activities coordinated at all and, if so, how is this being done?
3. What is the strategy behind these activities?

**Answer given by Mrs de Palacio on behalf of the Commission**

(14 April 2003)

Alternative fuels are part of a wider Commission policy aiming at security of energy supply and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Energy efficiency and alternative fuels are considered as the two most important pillars. The Commission has outlined its view on alternative fuels for road transportation in a Communication<sup>(1)</sup>, with the objective to attain a 20% market share by 2020, as outlined in the Green Paper on the security of energy supply<sup>(2)</sup> and the White Paper on a common transport policy<sup>(3)</sup>. Proposals on the promotion of biofuels<sup>(4)</sup> are presently in the interinstitutional process.

The activities on alternative fuels are well co-ordinated within the Commission. The services involved in these activities are the Directorates General Energy and Transport, Research, Environment, Enterprise and Taxation and Customs Union. All initiatives promoted by these various services are subject to interservice consultations.