

which exist between the parts of South-East Spain and the Western United States, it was thought that American experts might be able to provide a valuable insight into some of the key issues associated with the proposed Ebro transfer.

The Commission provided the names of prominent American experts but was not involved in the decision to establish a team of experts nor in the choice of the experts. The Commission did not have any direct contact with the experts and was not involved in their investigation although it was informed of its status on a regular basis. The Commission advised that the experts be given access to a wide selection of material concerning the proposed Ebro transfer, including not only official documents but also reports from non-governmental organisations, academics and others that had raised concerns in relation to the proposed transfer. The Commission also advised that the report be made public and widely accessible.

The idea of an independent investigation was very strongly supported by Mr Amalio Garrido from the region of Murcia. It is understood that Mr Garrido has an unpaid position as a Commissioner for sustainable development with the regional government in Murcia. He also represents a municipal drinking water supply company in the Murcia region. The information and advice referred to above was provided to Mr Garrido. The host organisation for the commissioning and execution of the study was the University of Cartagena in Murcia.

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(2003/C 242 E/169)

**WRITTEN QUESTION E-0667/03**

**by Chris Davies (ELDR) to the Commission**

(6 March 2003)

*Subject:* Transposition dates for DG Environment directives

Can the Commission state the transposition dates for all DG Environment directives since September 1999 and the dates (if any) on which the UK Government confirmed to the Commission that they had been transposed into UK law and in which cases the Commission has commenced proceedings in order to secure compliance?

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

(2 April 2003)

There are twenty-six directives for which Directorate General Environment is responsible, which are relevant for transposition by the United Kingdom and for which transposition was due after September 1999. These are listed in the table which is sent direct to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat. As can be seen from the table, six of the Directives listed have been transposed. For the rest, infringement proceedings are on-going. Eleven of the cases listed relate only to the failure to transpose in Gibraltar.

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(2003/C 242 E/170)

**WRITTEN QUESTION E-0681/03**

**by María Sornosa Martínez (PSE) to the Commission**

(7 March 2003)

*Subject:* Incorrect transposition of the Birds Directive into Spanish law

The European Commission brought infringements proceedings against the Kingdom of Spain for failing to correctly transpose and implement Directive 79/409/EEC<sup>(1)</sup> on the conservation of wild birds. The irregularities detected by the Commission at the initial stage related to the seventh additional provision of Law No 4/1989 on conservation of the countryside and wild fauna and flora, which provided that authorisation for the hunting of partridge using decoys could be granted by the relevant autonomous administration, with the limitations required to ensure conservation of that species, in places where this