

FORM FOR TABLING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

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To the: COUNCIL
 COMMISSION

| ORAL QUESTIONS | WRITTEN QUESTIONS |
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| Oral Question with debate (Rule 108) <input type="checkbox"/> Question Time (Rule 109) <input type="checkbox"/> | Written Question (Rule 110) <input type="checkbox"/> Priority Written Question (Rule 110 (4)) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

AUTHOR(S): Caroline Lucas MEP

SUBJECT: (please specify) Recognition and protection of tranquillity in EU policy

TEXT:

Tranquillity in the landscape – the absence of artificial noise, intrusive development and associated activity, and the presence of perceived naturalness and associated features such as rivers, streams and semi-natural vegetation patterns – is a powerful contributor to the sense of well-being of many people. It is one of the main characteristics that define the experience of rural areas. There is also a strong urban need for tranquillity given the nature of much of modern city life, with the high level of noise and disturbance in city streets and the artificial nature of much of the modern work environment.

Landscape tranquillity is also a requisite for the successful protection of many habitats and their associated species listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Directive 92/43/EC, Directive 79/409/EEC). Furthermore, tranquillity will be an important consideration of Parties to the Council of Europe's Landscape Convention (ETS no. 176) as they implement Articles 5 and 6 and promote landscape protection, management and planning.

Given this,

What assessment has the Commission made of the need to protect tranquillity within the European Union?

What legislation exists or is being developed which recognises the importance of, and protects, tranquillity?

Will the commission commit to protecting tranquillity as a specific objective?

Signature(s): Date: 19/6/06