

ESG on Strasbourg

Exciting developments in the ESG's battle against Bay pollution will be taking place during February. Having accepted an invitation from the MEP Neil Parish to meet with the Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas, a delegation, made up of ESG members and advisors will be heading northbound, this time for Strasbourg in February to present the case and need for urgent action.

Some of you may remember that last July, the ESG visited the legal directorate in Brussels laying the charge against Spain of not adhering to EU benzene directives as proven by the air sample taken by the group. A petition was also submitted as well as the full sample report and media coverage on the massive cross border protest against industrial pollution and for a clean environment. The ESG welcomes the opportunity of taking the matter straight to the most senior environment official in Europe as it continues to wait for a legal assessment.

The ESG team will comprise of Janet Howitt, Henry Pinna and advisor Professor Benach who will be accompanied by David Dumas QC of Hassans the law firm co-funding the trip. MEP Neil Parish who has made this meeting possible had expressed the need to present this environmental problem (of the Refinery in particular) as a cross border issue by including a Spanish MEP. After some initial contacts it may be possible that such support has been obtained.

The historical problem of industrial pollution in the Bay will be covered by the ESG as well as the failure by the Spanish authorities to make real inroads into setting up an epidemiological study or reduce levels of pollution significantly.

With the support from David Dumas the legality and compliance of such industries will be questioned, while Professor Benach's presence will provide the necessary urgency for action to be taken to protect public health and the environment according to the European Unions aims and objectives of a healthy and sustainable lifestyle for all its citizens.

The ESG welcomes this chance of meeting the Commissioner and reiterates its determination and commitment to press for environmental change and improvement at any opportunity that presents itself.

Donations are welcome and needed. Please contact Pat Scott on 71020 or Janet Howitt on 43156 for details.

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