



# EUSKO ALKARTASUNA Europako Parlamentua



Brussels, 2008-04-10

I, Mikel Irujo, as a member of the European Parliament, as co-promoter among other organizations like the German Speleological Federation, of the *European Forum for the protection of caves and Karstic Environmet*, would like to give my whole support to the work that many people is doing in order to investigate the very rich subheritage Europe has.

Therefore, I would like to remind you that the Title XIX of the EC treaty states the following;

1. Community policy on the environment shall contribute to pursuit of the following objectives:

- **preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment,**
- protecting human health,
- prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources,
- promoting measures at international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems.

2. **Community policy on the environment shall aim at a high level of protection** taking into account the diversity of situations in the various regions of the Community. It shall be based on the precautionary principle and on the principles that preventive action should be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source and that the polluter should pay.

In this context, **harmonisation measures answering environmental protection requirements shall include, where appropriate, a safeguard clause allowing Member States to take provisional measures**, for non-economic environmental reasons, subject to a Community inspection procedure.

3. In preparing its policy on the environment, the Community shall take account of:

- **available scientific and technical data,**
- environmental conditions in the various regions of the Community,
- the potential benefits and costs of action or lack of action,
- the economic and social development of the Community as a whole and the balanced development of its regions.

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Filling deeply concerned for the irreplaceable loss of the definitive closing of the caves found in Germany, I consider essential a systematic survey of these kind of precious caves in general and their surroundings. Therefore, and knowing that sad episodes like this are happening all over Europe, I call to all administrative bodies to work together in order to avoid this loss of natural, environmental and cultural heritage, and to fight against this lack of protection.

I am also aware of the importance of recovering data and information once these type of geomorphologic treasures appear, and, for the richness of knowledge to all, an in depth and exhaustive study must be done, by letting the sufficient time to the experts in matters such as speleologist, archaeology, biology, climatology etc. to do their pertinent job.

Promising that from the European Parliament I will try hard to do my best in this field, receive all my best wishes support and force;

Yours sincerely,

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**Greens /EFA party**  
**European Parliament**

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