

Review: The APUCSM in Straßburg talking to the vicepresident of the European Parliament Mr. R. Wieland !!

Date of the visit was the 10.3.2010, our delegation of three man, Sr. Valentin Mendenez, Dr. W. Janzen and I was reduced to an one man delegation, me, due to force majeure in the form of snow chaos (see report in the Arena). As reinforcement I took along my daughter based on the fact that four ears hear more then two.

The invitation was originally extended to Dr. W. Janzen as a result of having received extensive information about the situation here in Santa Margarita. The conversation took part at the European Parliament in Straßburg, in the following the key elements from a one hour intensive talk.

Mr. R. Wieland emphasized again the known fact that unfortunately the European Parliament has no direct power in the case of the Ley de Costas to do something for us.

Santa Margarita is not really known as an individual case.

It was clear to note that the comments of the Spanish government, telling that the Ley concerns only single isolated cases, illegal build and all is just done for the benefit of the people and the environment, is still to a large part believed. Our statement that more than 100.000 people are affected was received with astonishment. This, even though the Petition Committee of the European Parliament has already been busy with it for years and the resolution of the Auken Report of March 2009 and the threat of sanctions is really well known! The Petition Committee is at the moment very active again in the case of the Ley de Costas. Most likely triggered by the present Spanish Presidency, some MEPs have confronted Mr. Zapatero directly in the plenum of the parliament (Mrs. M. Andreasen and others). The MEP M. Cashman has directed a public letter to Mr. Zapatero.

The Petitions Committee is currently the only contact point to tell the European Parliament what the application of the Ley de Costas means to Spain.

What to do? Now is the time to make ourselves heard!!!!

Sending petitions are considered by the MEPs of Parliament as an effectful measure to make the views of the citizen or voters known, as in the case of the Ley de Costas, items of environmental matters enjoy special attention, in other words, "environmental protection" is in!

Filing a petition is rather simple by using the provided formatted possibility via the internet.

Attention! Sending letters to MEPs who crave public attention brings usually little or no reaction.

The most effective political pressure is generated if the affected person writes to their local representative directly and asks for assistance!

Here clearly the British Europeans are the most active, the Germans far less.

Simultaneous letters by many to many results in more pressure and reactions.

Names and addresses can be obtained via the Internet Europa Parliament.

It is a general advice to organize themselves, overstepping regional boundaries following the motto, many voices, a lot of noise, much attention a lot of action.

The treaty of Lisboa! (A sign of hope)

Spain by signing the treaty has accepted the validity of ruling by the European Court of Human rights.

Paragraph 17 spells the rights for private property out in simple clear language which is not compatible with the Spanish constitution.

The Implementation Regulations are currently being negotiated!

Now is an excellent opportunity to write to our elected representatives to demand that no national exceptions are accepted (as it was done when Spain joined Europe).

Fellows, affected and harmed, lets write to our elected European Representatives now!

Konrad Ringler