

**Dossiers de LA VERITAT**

**Can Ferret (Castelldefels)**  
**y la Unión Europea**

**Hurgando en las pilas de papeles sobre las luchas ciudadanas de Castelldefels, que LA VERITAT conserva para no tener que callar, hemos encontrado esta interesante carta de la ciudadanía de Castelldefels a la Unión Europea sobre el tema, que colgamos en Internet por si algún día algún huevo del juez Garzón fuera fertilizado, y su bebé hiciera justicia sobre un asunto que olerá mal por los siglos de los siglos, amén.**

**Atentamente**

**Manel Franquesa, subdirector**

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**¡ADVERTENCIA!**

**¡Peligro de ignorancia!**

**¡El texto está en inglish!**

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Passeig del Collet, 4, B, 1º 1ª,  
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EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
HEAD OF UNIT  
ENVIRONMENT B2 - Nature and Bio-diversity

17 May 2002

Ref: ENV/NHY/AFT A/10722 D/320268

Dear Mr. Hanley,

Thank you very much for your letter of 25 February.

We have prepared an official complaint regarding the piece of land known as Can Ferret in Castelldefels, Province of Barcelona, Spain and this has been sent to Mr. Kremlis. Would it be possible, in addition to any legal action it may be in the Commission's powers to take, for a letter to be sent to the local department of the environment reminding them of their responsibilities to adhere to European Directives? (See address below.)

The municipality of Castelldefels has been the object of uncontrolled speculation over the last five years, under the guise of providing overspill housing for Barcelona. It has been a cheap ticket for the self-enrichment of certain individuals in the municipal authorities. Can Ferret is unusual in that it is a case of outright theft of public land. The adjoining finger of green space, Ca n'Aymerich, which forms a narrow biological corridor to Garraf National Park, has just been approved by the Urban Commission of the Generalitat of Catalunya for the construction of a large commercial centre and theme park. There is now no open green land left in the Castelldefels municipality

Our efforts, however, continue and now also concern the neighbouring municipality of Gavà, where a much larger, strategic piece of land known as Pla de Carat (now the only biological gateway between Garraf National Park and the Llobregat Delta basin) is under serious threat. The local council has recently announced plans to build a huge urbanisation (5,000 dwellings) across this corridor, effectively sealing it off from the Delta basin. This plan is known as Pla de Ponent and the green corridor can be clearly seen on the maps enclosed (Pla de Ponent, map 5). The construction company (VERTIX) is pressuring the Gavà town council to approve the plan before new guidelines on urban planning come into force (*El pla territorial de Barcelona*).

Theme Park came as a complete surprise and left the town reeling with no time to contest the measures, the issue of Pla de Carat has been simmering for the last ten years. These plans must be strenuously opposed as it is vital to maintain connectivity between the ecosystems.

There are a number of reasons why we are unable to protect the area without the assistance of the European Commission, most of them come down to overwhelming political and financial interests. It is democratically untenable for the Head of the Department of the Environment and the Head of the Department of Urban Development to be embodied in one and the same person (the case in both Castelldefels and Gavà councils). The relations between municipal bodies and Catalonia's biggest landowner/construction company also make for a hopelessly contradictory, if not downright sordid, situation (see enclosure No 2...). Not only that, the prime investor is a savings bank whose left arm is a foundation which professes to protect the patrimony of the Catalan countryside in the interests of the people, and whose right arm acts as the principal source of investment for its destruction. As ordinary citizens the obstacles facing us are unsurmountable without the assistance of a higher authority.

A number of documents accompany this letter: a description of Pla de Ponent, the DEPANA proposal to designate the whole Montroig-Montpedròs region as a natural reserve and part of the Green Belt around Barcelona, and maps showing their location and relation to the Llobregat Delta, already the object of an Official Complaint submitted to the Commission (Ref. D/823262 and File No. 10-187 dated 26/11/01).

We are most grateful for the interest the Commission has shown in this case and thank for taking the time to read this.

Yours sincerely,

Colein Honegger, Sue Correa, David Correa, Sally Hine and Luis Jorba

(Associació per la defensa del medio ambient i el creixement sostenible de la població de Castelldefels)

Address of the local town council:

Ajuntament de Castelldefels  
Departament de Medi Ambient i Urbanisme  
Plaça de l'Església, 1  
08860 Castelldefels  
Província de Barcelona  
Espanya

## ENCLOSURES

### CAN FERRET FOLDER

Documents relating to the Can Ferret official complaint including reports on fauna and vegetation.

Copy of Official Complaint/Request for further information

1. Report on Birdlife
2. Report on Vegetation
3. Map of Can Ferret
4. Map of Castelldefels showing location of Ca n'Aymerich/Can Ferret

### ~~SERRES GARRAF-ORDAL FOLDER~~

Documents relating to Pla de Ponent as part of the Serres Garraf-Ordal proposal.

1. Map showing Pla de Ponent (Gavà) and Ca n'Aymerich/Can Ferret (Castelldefels)
2. Ordnance survey map of Baix Llobregat
3. Map of projected Green Belt around Barcelona and protected areas
4. Map showing proposal for Serres Garraf-Ordal park
5. DEPANA proposal (funded by European Union!) in Catalan (see <http://www.amics21.com/serresgarrafordal>)
6. Platform Manifesto describing area under threat in English
7. Translation of document on municipal authorities and VERTIX\*

*\*sensitive information*