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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

33rd meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2013

File open

**Threats to Marine Turtles
in Thines Kiparissias Bay
(Greece)**

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT

*Document prepared by
the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change of Greece*

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT

October 2013



URGENT

HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Planning Division

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(NEMS)**

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Inf: Dr C. Ververis
Mr C. Cryssomalis
Our Ref: 56674/2117

Athens, 17 October, 2013
To: Ms Ivana d'Alesandro
SG Bern Convention
Council of Europe
Biodiversity Unit
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Cc: International and EC Affairs
Department
15, Amaliados St., 115 23, Athens
Secretary General Office,
17 Amaliados St. 115 23 Athens
General Director for the Environment Office
15, Amaliados St., 115 23, Athens

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE LETTER OF THE SG BERN CONVENTION IN RELATION TO COMPLAINT NO 2010/5: THREATS TO MARINE TURTLES IN THINES KYPARISSIAS (GR 2550005), GREECE.

Related documents: 1. Your letter dated 11-10-2013 (NEMS ref 56674/2117/14-10-2013)

Dear Ms d' Alessandro,

I am writing to respond to your letter (11-10-2013) about the infringement 2011/2156 in Kyparissia Bay (GR 2550005). Since March 2013, and as far as our Department is concerned, there have been some important steps towards the protection of the area.

- The Ministerial Decision of Suspension/Prohibition of all construction and agricultural activities in the broader coastal area was issued on May, 24, 2013 (OJGG 180, 24.5.13)
- In the meantime, with a Ministerial Decision issued on July, 23 (ΑΔΑ: ΒΑΒΠΟ-ΦΙ1), a basic set of Management measures concerning the reproduction of the sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) were set. Local authorities with the cooperation of the NGO "Archelon" were responsible for the implementation of those measures.

- After a decision of the Committee, (which was set up on March, 4, 2013), Professor K. Georghiou (Department of Botany, University of Athens) took up a detailed study of the area in June in order to provide all the necessary Environmental data that will form the basis of a Joint Ministerial Decision. The above mentioned study is due in two weeks time.
- The Decision, which will be ready until January, 2014, will offer a specific legal protection regime for the site (GR 2550005) during the next 2 (+1) years according to par. 9, article 6 (Law 3937/2011). An integrated management plan will include measures for the cessation of all disturbing activities and infrastructures with an emphasis to sand dune restoration, where this is possible.
- The updating of the Specific Environmental Study that was carried out in 2002 (LIFE programme B4-3200/98/442) and the institutionalization of a Presidential Decree (as the next step of the JMD) of the area protection within the next 2 years is the final task of the Committee.
- As far as the demolition protocols are concerned, this is a responsibility of The Regional and Judicial Authorities of Peloponnese, which are expected to implement the related decisions.

We will be at your disposal for any further information you may need,

cc Division

NEM Section

Dr C. Ververis

C. Chrysomallis

Mrs M. Skaltsa

Yours sincerely

Dr. E. TILIGADAS

Director General for the Environment

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT

March 2013

The Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change, Ms M. Evangelidou, answered the above EC letter on November 22, 2012 (Our ref. 5074/22-11-2012), which was then sent to the Commission through our International and EC Affairs Department. In this letter, there is a clear schedule of Actions that the Greek Government is taking to prevent further degradation of the natural habitats and the improvement of the situation. Among others, this official schedule includes:

- The immediate (until June) issuing of a Ministerial Decision of Suspension/Prohibition of all construction activities on the beach.
- The preparation (until June) of a Joint Ministerial Decision according to the article 21 (Law 3937/2011) that will offer a specific legal protection regime for the site during the next 2 years. The protection regime will face all conservation problems in an integrated way for the whole Natura GR 2550005 site.
- The preparation (until June) of a Management Plan that will be implemented for the next 2 years (starting from June, 2013).
- The updating of the Specific Environmental Study that was carried out in 2002 (LIFE programme B4-3200/98/442) and the institutionalization of a Presidential Decree Draft of the area protection within the next 2 years.

The Ministry has already set up a Committee (which I am member of) with the aim of concerting the above actions and ensure the observance of the schedule.

Charalampos Ververis, PhD
Environmental Scientist
Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change