

European Commission DG ENV  
Mr Günter Raad  
Head of Unit D 3  
B - 1049 Brussels

Zurich, 4 February 2014

**Complaint to the European Commission - CHAP(2013) 01076**

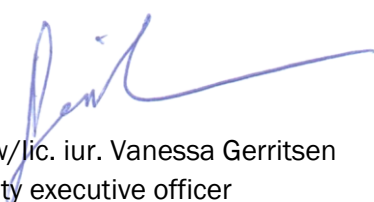
Dear Mr Raad

On 6 December 2013 we sent you an update on the **Political situation on Cyprus concerning illegal bird killing – with reference to Complaint CHAP(2013) 01076.**

We have not so far received any notification that the above letter has been received and given due consideration. It is an urgent necessity that you be made aware of the current situation, especially in the light of new and extremely worrying proposals now before the Cypriot parliament. The bills concerned would fundamentally alter domestic Laws 152/2003 and 152(1)/2003 on bird protection. Under the amended legislation, illegal killing and trading of wild birds would be reduced to administrative offences and culprits would no longer be subject to criminal justice. Any such erosion of the Cypriot law applying Directive 2009/147/EC would utterly invalidate Cyprus' signing of the EU Birds Directive, opening the floodgates for illegal bird killing on an even more massive scale than heretofore. Our concerns are made all the deeper by the fact that these proposals stem from official sources within the Republic of Cyprus.

Yours sincerely,

Foundation for the Animal in the Law /  
Stiftung für das Tier im Recht (TIR)

  
MLaw/lic. iur. Vanessa Gerritsen  
Deputy executive officer

Migratory Birds Conservation in Cyprus  
MBCC

  
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