

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

Zurich, 2 April 2014

Re: your letter of 28 March 2014 – CHAP(2013)01076

Dear Mr Raad
Dear Mr Speight

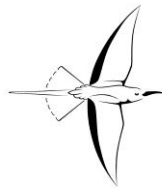
Thank you for your letter. It is indeed necessary that urgent measures be taken to combat the illegal preparation of ambelopoulia in Cyprus. The Tunis Action Plan also requires that strong action be taken, so we welcome the opening of file EU Pilot 2970/12 and look forward to concrete steps by the Commission.

Although as you say the Commission cannot interfere with the prosecution process of a Member State, our complaint (CHAP(2013) 1076) does make perfectly clear the nature of the present inadequacies in the Republic of Cyprus system, and also why additional police and game fund officers are unable to increase the efficiency of State action against wildlife crime. Better training of anti-bird crime officials, including within the judiciary, is a prerequisite for increasing the efficiency of enforcement on the island.

We have just endured a very poor year on the part of the Cypriot authorities in 2013. It is very much to be hoped that those appalling experiences will not be repeated.

Edith Loosli, president of MBCC Migratory Birds Conservation in Cyprus, has recently travelled to Cyprus and will be monitoring bird killing in the notorious SE corner of the island during a period of six weeks. This will provide an opportunity to witness first-hand if any progress is being made in the short-term, following the Commission's intervention and the assurances received from the Cypriot government.

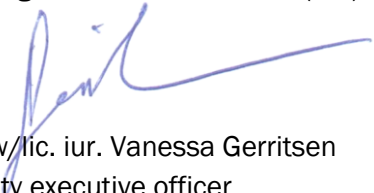
Considering the importance of this coming monitoring campaign and the prolonged absence in Cyprus of Ms. Loosli due to the fieldwork involved, we would ask you to extend the indicated pe-




riod for receipt of further relevant information regarding Complaint CHAP(2013) 1076 to two months and so to a deadline of the end of May 2014.

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


Edith Loosli
President

Cc:

European Commission's Environment DG, Commissioner Mr Janez Potočnik, 1049 Brussels

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