



EU Commission – Environment Directorate General
Dir E – Implementation and support to member states
E3. Environmental Enforcement
Mr. Paul SPEIGHT (Head of Unit)
European Commission

Athens, April 4th, 2017

Ref No (WWF): 39/2017

Re: Supporting evidence in relation to the nesting habitat of *Caretta caretta* in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos and the operation of a landfill site within its boundaries (C-600/12).

Dear Mr Paul Speight,

Regarding case C-600/12 on the operation of a landfill in the nesting area of *Caretta caretta* in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos, Greece, Natura 2000 GR 2210002 – Kolpos Lagana Zakynthou kai nisides Marathonisi kai Pelouzo, which led to the ECJ decision of July 17th, 2014, we would like to update the European Commission on some negative developments.

The landfill site was active during the whole summer season of 2016 (see pictures and documents attached (Annex I) [<https://we.tl/WtreMpHfec> –available for the next 7 days]). In late October 2016, the local community, as a protest against the continued operation, blocked the access to it (see links (Annex II)) [<https://we.tl/WtreMpHfec> –available for the next 7 days]. This suspended waste collection in the whole island. Since late November 2016, Zakynthos is in a state of emergency, due to the huge amount of uncollected litter in the island.

In response to this unprecedented crisis, a road map has been agreed upon by competent authorities (see Annex III) [<https://we.tl/WtreMpHfec> –available for the next 7 days].

While all competent authorities, including the Municipality of Zakynthos, the Region of Ionian Islands and the Ministry of Environment and Energy, have committed to an immediate operation of a mobile integrated waste management unit in the area of Livas – i.e., outside the Natura 2000 area-, this unit is not operating to date.

In addition, no alternative plan for the already accumulated amounts of litter has been developed. In the past few days, the National Marine Park of Zakynthos revealed the operation of an illegal landfill site within the boundaries of the protected area, where the litter is being transferred (see attached letter of the NMPZ and pictures (Annex IV) [<https://we.tl/WtreMpHfec> –available for the next 7 days]).

It is of utmost importance that Greece:

- 1) complies with the ECJ Court decision, without any further delay;
- 2) ceases the operation of the landfill in Skopos and immediately takes measures for the restoration of the area;



- 3) hastens the operation of the mobile waste management unit, as an immediate and short term solution to the waste crisis affecting the island;
- 4) implements a medium and long-term plan for waste management on the island of Zakynthos.

We would appreciate if the included information would be taken under consideration and that appropriate action is taken to ensure non-further degradation and greater protection, of the sea turtle habitat and implementation of the EU waste legislation.

The European Commission must ensure that Greece complies with the ECJ court decision of July 2014 (C-600/12). In view of the above, we ask you to initiate the procedure prescribed in article 260(1)(a).

We are at your disposal for any further information.

Sincerely Yours,

The Environmental NGOs,

MEDASSET
MOM
WWF Greece

CC – List of recipients:

1. Ministry of Environment and Energy, Office of Alternate Minister Mr. Socrates Fanellos, yper@ypen.gr
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3. Ministry of Environment and Energy, Department of Biodiversity and Protected Areas, Mr. Georgios Alvanopoulos, g.alvanopoulos@prv.ypeka.gr
4. Region of Ionian Island, Office of the Head of Region of Zakynthos Mr. Eleftherios Niotopoulos, antipin.zak@pin.gov.gr
5. Municipality of Zakynthos, Office of the Mayor of Zakynthos Mr. Pavlos Kolokotsas, dimoszakynthou@gmail.com
6. Management Body of the National Marine Park of Zakynthos, info@nmp-zak.org, lsourbes@nmp-zak.org
7. ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece, conservation@archelon.gr