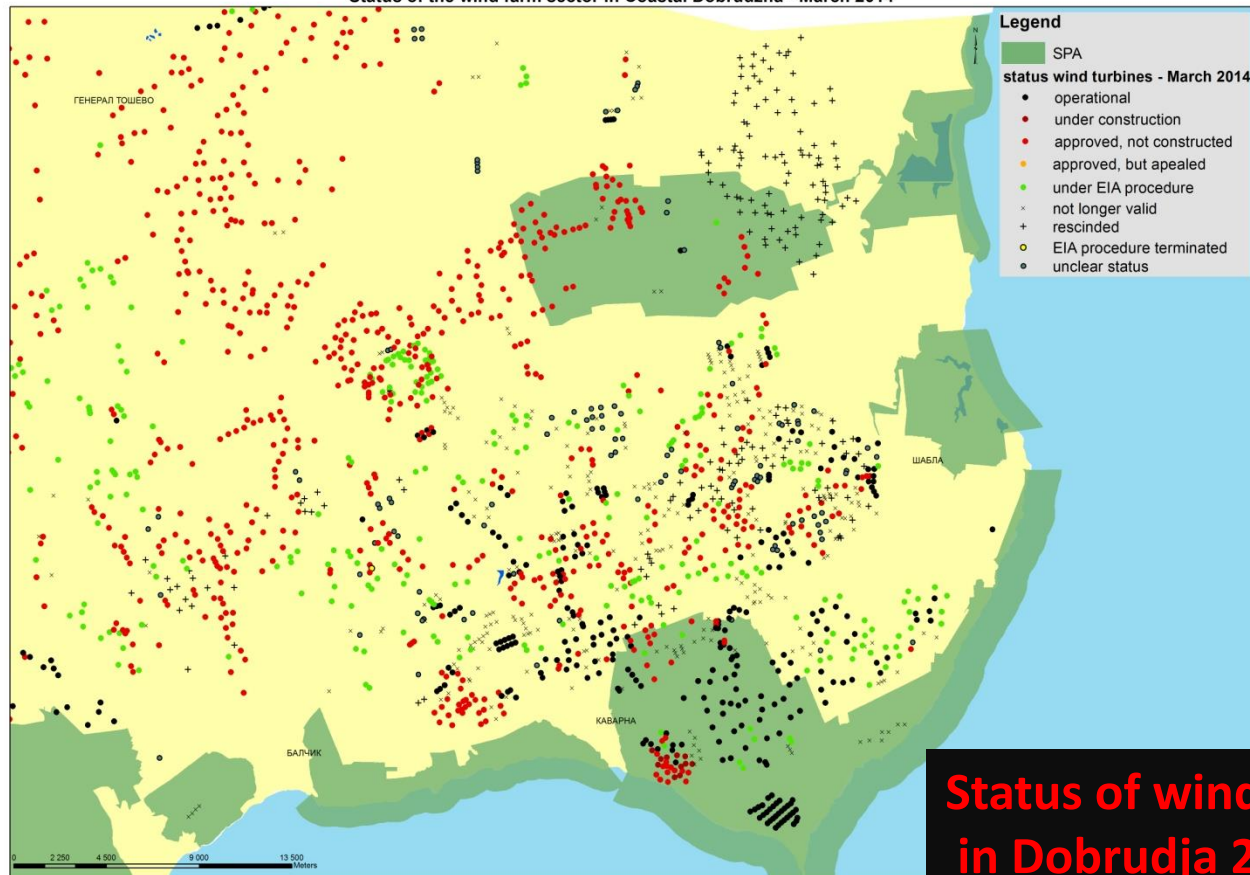


Windfarms in Balchik and Kaliakra – Via Pontica (Bulgaria)

Case file update 2016

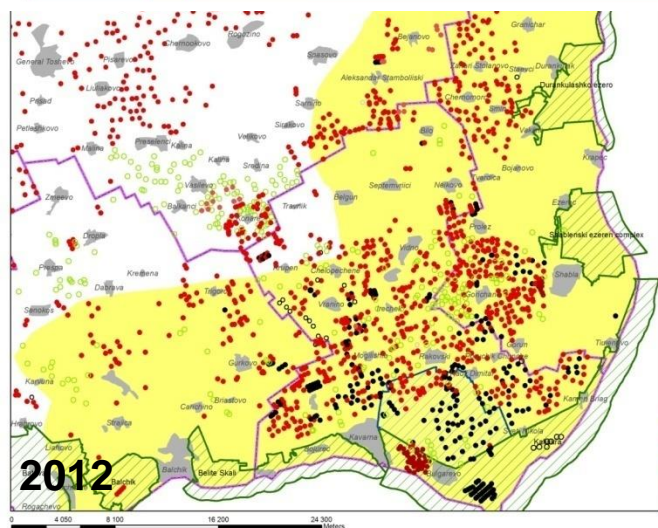


Status of the wind farm sector in Coastal Dobrudzha - March 2014



Status of wind farm development in Dobrudzha 2016:

- Operational – 354 (in 2015 – 330)
- Approved - 1295 (in 2015 – 1423)
- Under active EIA procedure - 267
- Under EIA procedure, not action taken, but not cancelled - 242
- Temporary stopped by MoEW - 166 (in 2015 – 235)
- No longer valid – 435 (in 2015 – 373)
- Unclear status - 59



Ruling of the European court of justice since 14 January 2016

Bulgaria failed to comply with EU nature conservation law, in particular the Birds Directive, Habitats Directive and EIA Directive

Bulgaria is under a legal obligation to take the necessary measures to comply with the judgment of the Court (art. 260 TFEU)



We state that:



➤ the impacts on the site should be removed and the sites restored and we believe that the way to do that is to remove the wind turbines

➤ **Thus the Bulgarian Government should**

- ✓ stop the operation of the wind turbines until proper measures are implemented
- ✓ cancel the permits for operation of wind farms
- ✓ remove turbines
- ✓ Assess the damages
- ✓ apply monitoring of the level of restoration of the site
- ✓ stop to subsidise the wind farms, that are subject of the court ruling

No real actions are taken so far!

Some actions are communicated only in the report to Bern Convention

WE ASK FOR

➤ Keep the file open

➤ Ask the Bulgarian Government for

- ✓ regular and more detailed progress report on implementation of the recommendation in relation also to ECJ ruling
- ✓ clear action plan of activities for implementing the recommendation
- ✓ report and the action plan to be discussed amongst interested parties before submission to Bern
- ✓ apply strict control on the ban for construction of wind farms in Dobrudja
- ✓ in one year to complete the review of the permits according to the changed law

