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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

38th meeting
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2018

Other complaints

**Alleged threat to Bodrum Tilkicik Bay from the
development of a marine project
(Turkey)**

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Turkey*

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Government Report On: Alleged threat to Bodrum Tilkicik Bay from the development of a marine project

In the letter dated 28.06.2018 taken from the Secretariat, it is stated that there is a complaint about marina activity planned to be made in Tilkicik Bay, Bodrum District of Muğla Province. Claims of the complainant have been examined by our authorities.

The area in which the project is planned is not an important nature area, as indicated by the complainant. There is no such protection status as "important nature area" in our country approved by the competent institutions. The area remains in a part of the city which is highly populated, as can be understood from Appendix- 1 photo.

Besides, it is not possible for this application to be rejected without consideration by the competent authorities, as the complainant has stated. There is EIA legislation in our country for the evaluation of such activities.

The EIA process carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization is still ongoing. During the "Information, Scope and Special Format Determination" meeting within the scope of the process, it is reported that detailed studies should be carried out in order to determine the current state of marine and terrestrial ecosystem.

Especially attention must be paid to possible reproduction of the Mediterranean Monk Seal breeding caves in the vicinity of the activity area. Identification of the biodiversity characteristics of the marine environment and the possible impacts of the proposed activity and what to do about their elimination; identifying the current status of the marine environment within the framework of the marine flora and fauna characteristics of the area of activity; determining the ecosystem status and project's effects on this framework; if there is a filling activity and if the bottom is to be scanned, or in the vault areas to be laid, especially benthic flora and fauna and the project's effects on terrestrial and marine ecosystems are given as a prerequisite in the EIA Report.

In the ongoing meetings, the following paragraph was added to the flora and fauna section of the EIA Report;

"The proposals made by ministries in the EIA report, all the legislation and regulations will be followed in all aspects of the Island Marina project. There are risks to the marine ecosystem that may occur in the marine flora and fauna that are identified on the basis of the research conducted in the project area and the surrounding area. The monitoring of the proposal to the proposed recommendations and the periodic monitoring of the effects of the procedure on marine ecosystems by specialists will ensure that the necessary safeguards are taken to prevent any possible effects. To this end, a program for marine ecosystem monitoring studies for 2 years will be established covering construction and operation periods. The marine ecosystem surveillance work will be carried out by specialist on the subject like hydrobiologists and marine ecologists.

Yet, no final decision has been made about the subject matter activity.

Appendix 1

