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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

36th meeting
Strasbourg, 15-18 November 2016

Complaints on stand-by

**Presumed large-scale exploitation and
marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs
in Greece**

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
The Ministry of Environment & Energy, Greece*



URGENT

**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY of ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY
DIRECTIRATE GENERAL OF ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

**Directorate of Biodiversity Protection
Soil & Waste Management
Biodiversity & Protected Areas Departement**
147, PATISSION St. GR 11251 ATHENS
tel : +30 210 8646065, fax : +30 210 8662024

Inf : Mr. Chryssomalis Chr. (ch.chryssomalis@prv.ypeka.gr)

Our ref : 13515/338

Athens, 15.3.2016

To : **The Bern Convention Secretariat
Biodiversity Unit**
F – 67075 STRASBOURG Cedex

C.C : 1. - Minister's Office
Deputy Minister's Office
Secretary General Office
Dir. Of Intern. & EC Affairs
119 MESSOGION AV. ATHENS 11526

2. Gen. Dir. for the Development,
& Protection of Forests &
Rural Environment.
Dir. of Plan. & Forest Policy
Dept. for the Trade in Forest.
Products & CITES Species
Lead Management Auth. CITES
31 CHALKOKONDILI ST. ATHENS
10432

3. Gen. Secret. of Sust. Fisheries
Div. of Fish. Policy & Resources
150 SYGROU AV., ATHENS 17671

Subject : **Response to the letter of the Berne Convention Secretariat in relation to the Complaint 2014/6.**

Related doc : 1. Your letter of 15.12.2015 (our ref. 13515/338/15.3.2016) : Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs in Greece
2. Our doc. no 32266/1401/21.7.2015 to the Bern Convention Secretariat

In response to your letter of 15.12.2016, and taking into account related communication and document with the Lead Management Authority CITES of the Department for the Trade in Forest Products & CITES Species we would like to inform you in addition to our related document no (2), the following :

On the issue of potential trade in bivalve mollusc of the species *Lithophaga lithophaga*, the species is listed in CITES Appendix II, and respectively in Annex B of Reg. (EC) No.338/1997. Consequently, the trade in specimens of this species from and to the EU (from Greece to third countries or vice versa) requires a CITES permit issued by a Greek CITES Management Authority. Based on the information available to our office and screening through the archives of the past decade, neither import or export permits for specimens of the species have ever been issued by any of the Greek CITES Management Authorities, nor has corresponding request been submitted.

Yours sincerely

C.C. Division Dept.
C. CHRYSOMALIS

M. CRITICOU
Director General of Environment Policy