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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

39th meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2019

Complaints on stand-by

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

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Environment and Energy*



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY
DIRECTORATE OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY
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TO: The Bern Convention Secretariat

SUBJECT : Complaint 2014/8: Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs in Greece

RELATED :

- (1) Your letter with date 20/5/2019
- (2) Our Document with ref. 13613/332/14-2-2019 to the General directorate of Fisheries
- (3) Document with ref. 837/31450/26-8-2019 of the General Directorate of Fisheries (Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food)

Dear Ms Obretenova,

Regarding Complaint case 2014/8 “Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs in Greece”, we would like to notify you as follows:

We have received an update from the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, and particularly the General Directorate for Fisheries (GDF), regarding Complaint n° 2014/8: *Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs in Greece*, notifying us on the continued efforts of the competent authorities to combat the exploitation of protected molluscs. (Related Document (3)).

The following actions have been highlighted:

- (1) The Directorate of Fishing Activities and Product Control, under the GDF, has taken measures to inform and raise awareness among the wide public, by disseminating a brochure, via the website of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food. The material can be accessed here: http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/Alievmata/enhmerotiko_ostraka060818.pdf
- (2) Informative actions were also carried out, targeting professionals (traders, caterers, hotels) through the local Chambers of Commerce. In particular, in addition to sending the informative documents, photographic material has also been disseminated, and direct communication has been effected where there is suspicion of trafficking in protected molluscs.
- (3) The institutional framework for the control of fishery products is also being currently reviewed, in order to improve the effectiveness of controls and to extend the scope of control in the field of circulation and distribution to the consumer.
- (4) Finally, in the context of the implementation of the Sectoral Operational Program “Fisheries and Maritime” 2014-2020, there has been funding allocated for actions to control fisheries activities, in particular financing of awareness-raising activities for professionals and consumers in sustainable fisheries. To that effect, a contract has recently been signed with the Information Society (the Greek State-owned company acting as an intermediary body for the management of NSRF funds available to Greek companies for subsidized IT and innovation activities).

We are currently in communication with the GDF in order to collect more particular information regarding the aforementioned actions, particularly actions (3) and (4), and we will keep you updated as necessary.