



Strasbourg, 31 January 2022

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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

42nd meeting

Strasbourg, 29 November - 2 December 2022

Complaint on stand-by: 2014/08

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

- GOVERNMENT REPORT -

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

Ministry of Environment & Energy
General Directorate of Environmental Policy
Directorate of Natural Environment Management & Biodiversity
Department of Biodiversity

Athens, 31 January 2022

To the Secretary of the Bern Convention

Dear Ms Sticker,

Subject: Complaint No. 2014/8: Complaint on stand-by: Greece: Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine-shelled molluscs

In response to the Secretariat's letter on the 30th April 2021, Greece would like to provide the following updated information to the attention of the Spring 2022 Meeting concerning the complaint on stand-by entitled 'Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs':

1. No fines were imposed during the reporting period between 1st January 2021-31st December 2021, despite the extended checks against illegal fishing of fan mussels and date shells in Greece carried out by the Hellenic Coastguard. This piece of information was submitted to the Directorate-General of Fisheries of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food from both the Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy and the Hellenic Coastguard (Directorate of Fisheries Control). Furthermore, no fines were imposed against illegal trade and trafficking of these species by the competent authorities during the afore-mentioned period.
2. The Directorate-General of Fisheries of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food has initiated the reform of the existing penalty framework aiming primarily to incorporate the EU legislation on Common Market Organization (CMO) for fishery and aquaculture products. This initiative aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the checks carried out for complying with national and EU legislation on Fisheries and especially with the legislation on the crackdown of illegal trade and trafficking of protected species catch. The adoption of the related legislation and the enforcement of the advanced control mechanisms, including also the sector of mass catering, will have been completed until the end of June 2022.

I remain at your disposal for any clarification you may need.

Sincerely yours,

The National Focal Point to the Bern Convention
Dr Evangelos Badieritakis