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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

40<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2020

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**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 04/02/2020

Dear Mr Eoghan Kelly

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:

The following actions should be mentioned:

- (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](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) 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).
- (5) A project was recently launched by the Green Fund, the main funding entity supervised by the Ministry of Environment and Energy, entitled “*Mapping of protected marine shelled molluscs on national level and proposed measures for their conservation*”. The project, which will be implemented by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research during the next two (2) years, is expected to substantially contribute in the protection of the marine shelled molluscs in the country.

**The Director**

**A. Psaila**