

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

Commissioner Potočník
DG Environment
The European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi
B1049 Brussels
Belgium

January 19th 2010

Dear Commissioner,

As I am sure you know, north eastern Poland is one of the most bio diverse parts of Europe and yet faces significant threats posed by development. I have corresponded previously with the Commission about Via Baltica and the urgent need to ensure that the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives are properly upheld in this region of Poland. Yet local conservationists remain deeply concerned about the impact that EU funded development is having on the area, particularly birdlife. The sites at specific risk include the Biebrza marshes, an SPA, SAC, Ramsar site, and a National Park.

Can the Commissioner please advise whether he is satisfied that the Polish authorities are fully implementing EU Directives in their planning around Via Baltica and other developments in north eastern Poland? Or whether concerns remain that planners are looking at each project individually rather than abiding by recent rulings on the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment? And if the Commission is not satisfied, what action is it taking, including the withholding of funds?

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.