

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

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

February 16th 2007

Dear Commissioner,

I would like to take this opportunity to enquire about breaches of the Habitats Directive by the Greek authorities. A number of protected sites on Zykanthos, which are nesting grounds for the *Caretta caretta* turtle, are still being developed, in breach of European legislation and a European Court of Justice ruling.

I am sure you must be horrified that such blatant environmental destruction is happening in your home country and are doing your utmost to ensure that the management of the Zakynthos National Marine Park are addressing this problem as a matter of urgency. I would appreciate you letting me know the time scale for enforcement of the legislation. I understand that the President of the ZNMP has agreed a plan with owners of local buildings that undermines the sites protected status. Furthermore, local residents have blocked access to the beach for ecological monitoring purposes at times. This is clearly a sensitive issue. However, I trust the Commission is playing an active role in ensuring that dialogue with the local community is ongoing, whilst no compromises with regards the implementation of the Habitats Directive are being condoned.

I look forward to your response.

With best wishes,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.