

4th May 2004

Commissioner Margot Wallström  
DG Environment  
European Commission  
Rue de la loi 200  
1049 Bruxelles

Dear Commissioner,

URGENT: COMPLAINT against Cyprus for breach of EC environment legislation

RE: Protection of birds - Cyprus

I am writing to you with regard to illegal bird-trapping in Cyprus. Each year an estimated 12 million birds are illegally trapped while on migration through the country. The use of such trapping methods as mist nets and lime sticks, which contravenes the Birds Directive, is still widespread.

Given that Cyprus is now a full Member State, and has failed to ensure full implementation and enforcement of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), I respectfully ask you to open an infringement procedure against the Cyprus pursuant to Article 226 of the EC Treaty.

Please let me know of the Commission's progress in this procedure and any other action it is taking to ensure Cyprus' effective implementation of European law.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Caroline Lucas MEP