



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENVIRONMENT
Directorate E - Implementation & Support to Member States
ENV.E.3 - Environmental Enforcement
Head of Unit

Brussels, 15. 06. 2017
ENV.E.3/MB/ad/CHAP(2017)

Czech Republic

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

In reply to your complaint from 12 March 2017, registered under CHAP(2017)00949, and completed by your letter of 17 April 2017, I would like to provide you with the following information:

In your complaint, your main concern is that the Management of the National Park Šumava currently implements the policy of non-intervention and non-interfering with natural processes and that also the recent amendment of the Czech Act on the Nature protection further promotes undisturbed functioning of natural processes in the Czech National Parks. This policy led in your view to destruction of 20 000 ha of forests in Šumava.

You mentioned that the Birds directive, Habitats Directive and Water Framework directive were breached, however you have not specified concretely which provisions of the Directives were breached and how. Also, on the basis of the pictures you have sent us and also on the basis of information at the disposal of Commission services, it cannot be concluded that the forests are destroyed, as the natural renewing processes are ongoing and young trees are growing.

The Commission services are aware of the complex situation in the National Park Šumava and have been discussing this issue with the Czech authorities. In view of the Commission, it is vital to establish clear and stable conservation priorities and management regime (conservation measures) in the park overlapping with Natura 2000 sites in order to avoid adopting questionable and mutually contradictory management measures in the future.

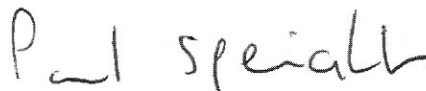
Under the Habitats Directive (Art.4.4. and 6. 1), the NATURA sites in Šumava should have their conservation priorities set and necessary conservation measures established. Conservation priorities shall be set in the light of the importance of the sites for the maintenance or restoration, at a favourable conservation status of a natural habitat type in

Annex I of the Habitats Directive or of a species in Annex II and for the coherence of Natura 2000, and in the light of the threats of degradation or destruction to which those sites are exposed. The necessary conservation measures include, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designated for the sites or integrated into the development plans, and appropriate statutory administrative or contractual measures which correspond to the ecological requirements of the natural habitat types in Annex I and the species in Annex II present on the sites.

A Set of Recommended Measures (Souhrn doporučených opatření pro evropsky významnou lokalitu Šumava¹) establishing the conservation objectives and management measures of the SCI CZ0314024 Šumava was approved in August 2016 and in my view this can be considered as a first step to the implementation of Articles 4.4. and 6.1. of the Habitats Directive.

I would thus like to inform you that no breach of EU legislation could be found on the basis of your complaint, and it will therefore be closed. If you have any additional information in relation to your complaint, we would be most grateful to receive it at your earliest convenience and at any rate within four weeks of your receipt of this letter. In the absence of such additional information, we will be closing file CHAP(2017

Yours sincerely,



Paul SPEIGHT

¹ http://drusop.nature.cz/ost/archiv/sdo/ug_file.php?FULLTEXT_UPLOAD=&RECORD_ID=834