



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

FOR THE ATTENTION OF:

President Poroshenko

Prime Minister Groysman

in copy:

Minister of Ecology, Ostap Semerak

Member of the Verhovna Rada, Ostap Yednak

by email

Questions concerning a large infrastructure project in the Carpathian Mountains

Brussels, 20 December 2018

Honourable President of Ukraine,

Dear Mr Poroshenko,

Honourable Prime Minister,

Dear Mr Groysman,

We wish to express our concern about the information we have received recently during our meeting with a mixed delegation of the Free Svydovets Group from Ukraine and the British NGO Earthsight. They have informed us about two serious inter-linked problems affecting the Carpathian mountain range in Western Ukraine.

On the one hand, they described the illegal deforestation, which is made possible by corruption at all levels of the state forestry service, from logging to the commercialisation of the timber.

On the other hand, unknown investors are planning to build an enormous ski resort in the Svydovets massif. This resort, with a capacity for 28000 visitors daily, would have catastrophic consequences on the ecosystem and biodiversity of this area, as well as on the River Tisza. According to our information, this project violates three conventions of which Ukraine is a signatory: the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, with its Emerald Network, the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, and the Aarhus Convention. The request by the Hungarian government for a crossborder environmental impact assessment, obligatory under the Espoo Convention, has apparently not been answered so far.

We would kindly like to ask for more clarification and information about the Svydovets ski resort project and its planning process, as well as about the government's steps and actions against the timber logging corruption schemes.

Please be assured that we strongly support sustainable forestry and we support Ukraine in their wish to create jobs and a prosperous region. Nevertheless, we are highly alerted by the alleged violation of international conventions and the illegal exploitation of Ukraine's rich resources to the detriment of the local population while hampering a prosperous sustainable development of the region.

We are looking forward to your reply and kind regards,



Michael Gahler, Standing Rapporteur on Ukraine



Rebecca Harms, Co-President of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly



Dariusz Rosati, Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation to the EU-Ukraine PAC