



Mr Karmenu Vella

European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Brussels, 26.09.2018

Subject: Regarding the illegal construction of Narewkowska Road in Białowieża forest

Dear Commissioner Vella,

In summer 2018, MEP Rebecca Harms and I, MEP Thomas Waitz, submitted a question for written answer to the European Commission. Question No. P-003650/2018 called for a halt to the construction of Narewkowska Road in the Białowieża forest in Poland due to the lack of a prior adequate environmental impact assessment. To our satisfaction and relief, in your written answer of 3 August 2018 you stated that the European Commission had demanded that Polish authorities cease the construction work until compliance with environmental regulations is assured.

Last week, however, we received worrying information from members of CEE Bankwatch Network. In a letter addressed to my office, they stated that, despite the Commission's request, the State Forest Holding has now started upgrading the Narewkowska Road, laying asphalt to cover a 400-metre section of the fifteen kilometre road each day. Even though the order to stop the works has been ignored by the Polish authorities, there has been no firm reaction from the European Commission so far.

We strongly urge you to react to the new allegations and to **firmly demand that the Polish authorities stop the upgrade of Narewkowska Road** until proof of compliance with EU



legislation can be provided. Further, if such compliance cannot be demonstrated, there must be a definite halt to the asphaltting of the road.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Waitz, MEP (Greens/EFA, Die Grünen AT)

For the Greens/ EFA

MEP Karima Delli

MEP Pascal Durand

MEP Bas Eickhout

MEP Maria Heubuch

MEP Yannick Jadot



MEP Benedek Jávor

MEP Eva Joly

MEP Philippe Lamberts

MEP Florent Marcellesi

MEP Molly Scott Cato

MEP Bart Staes