



30.11.2016

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 0276/2016 by Christos Taklis (Greek) on the risk posed to animals by the fences that have been erected to prevent migration flows to Europe

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner is seeking a ban on the fences that various States have built to cut off migration flows to Europe, because animals are becoming trapped in them and dying when attempting to cross, and at the same time they are obstructing animals which usually move between countries. He stresses that this creates a problem for the threatened lynx species (Balkan Lynx), despite the large amounts of money that have already been spent on saving it.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 15 July 2016. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 30 November 2016

Wide-ranging species of EU interest such as the Eurasian lynx, the wolf and the brown bear are protected under EU nature legislation¹ and the ecological connectivity of their habitats needs to be ensured as an important measure to enable populations of these species to thrive.

The Commission is aware of the concerns expressed about the possible impact on wildlife arising from razor wire fences installed along the borders of some EU Member States and is monitoring the measures taken to ensure that EU nature legislation is respected. The Commission also encourages Member States to cooperate in cross-border conservation efforts.

Conclusion

¹ Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, OJ L 020, 26.1.2010, p.7, and Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p.7

The Commission cannot issue any decision banning such fences. The implementation of EU nature legislation, including specific measures necessary for the conservation of those species, is a primary responsibility of the Member States.