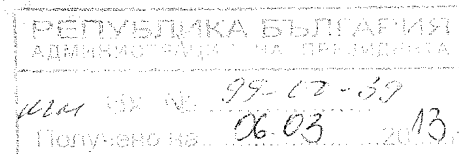


EuroNatur, Konstanzer Str. 22, D-78315 Radolfzell



Mr. Rosen Plevneliev
President of Republic of Bulgaria
2 Dondukov blvd.
1123 SOFIA
BULGARIA

Gen. Dr. St. Klugev
Executive Director

February 25th, 2013

Dear Mr. President Plevneliev

With great concern we took notice of a recent decision of the Ecological Council of the Bulgarian Ministry for Environment and Water (MoEW) to change the Management Plan of the Pirin National Park. This decision is meant to legalize completed violations and open new opportunities for the construction of further ski infrastructure in the Pirin National Park.

Already in the past years the Pirin National Park – which is still inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list – has faced a severe destruction of its natural values through the uncontrolled development of the Bansko ski zone. Further negative impact on the World Heritage site Pirin would most probably lead to the loss of the UNESCO World Heritage status of the Pirin National Park and in consequence to a dramatic loss of image and reputation of Bulgaria.

Beside this we consider the further development of the Bansko ski zone and the further destruction of the Pirin National Park as a severe violation of the European Habitat Directive and also the Bulgarian Act on Protected Areas.

We are convinced that a sustainable tourism development of the area is possible without compromising the great natural value of the Pirin National Park.

We encourage you, honored Mr. President, to prevent further construction of new ski infrastructure in the Pirin National Park.

Yours sincerely,

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