

FAX 0030 210 4220767

European Nature Heritage Fund, Bahnhofstr.35 D-71638 Ludwigsburg

The Honourable
Mr. Manolis Kefalogiannis
Minister of Mercantile Marine
Grigourio Lambraki 150
TK 185 18 Piraeus



European Nature Heritage Fund
Stiftung Europäisches Naturerbe
www.euronatur.org

Claus-Peter Hutter
President

E-Mail: claus-peter.hutter@euronatur.org

September 4th, 2006

Excellency, Hon. Mr. Kefalogiannis,

At the end of last year, we got notice on your plans to construct a commercial transit port at Tympaki on the island of Crete. By letters from February and May this year (see attachment) we had expressed our strong concern against the construction of a container terminal at this location as it bears a high risk to destroy the broader marine and terrestrial environment of South Crete including one of the last nesting sites of the marine turtle *Caretta caretta*.

Now, we have been informed that – despite the fact that this harbour would have great impacts (1) on the environment and (2) on the economy in the area of Messara – you have been signing a “Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Development, Administration and Handling of a Port in Tympaki” with the South Korean Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Kim Sung-Jin.

With this step, your plans become more concrete than in the months before. Therefore, we issue once again and with great emphasis a warning of the danger for nature and sustainable regional development arising from the project. Our worries meet those of local initiatives and NGOs as well as of the local population, who - ever since the discussion about the construction of the container terminal at Tympaki has started - have expressed their worries about the project and clearly stated that such kind of development does not fit in the profile of the area.

President's Office
Bahnhofstr. 35, D-71638 Ludwigsburg
Tel. +49-(0)7141/920321, Fax +49-(0)7141/901183
E-mail: ludwigsburg@euronatur.org

Office Radolfzell
Konstanzer Str. 22, D-78315 Radolfzell
Tel. +49-(0)7732-92720 Fax +49-(0)7732-927222
Office Bonn
Grabenstr. 23, D-53359 Rheinbach/Bonn
Tel. +49-(0)2226/2045 Fax +49-(0)2226/2045


Presiding Committee
Claus-Peter Hutter (President)
Christel Schroeder (Vice President)
Lorenz Graf, Dr. Uwe Kozina,
Prof. Dr. Hubert Weiger;
Executive Director: Gabriel Schwaderer

We once more appeal to you to lay open your plans concerning the construction of the container terminal, as the broad public and especially those who will directly be affected by the project have the right to be thoroughly informed in order to be able to precisely pronounce their demurs and to react on your decisions in an adequate way.

As an organization for nature protection active on an international level, we feel responsible to support the local initiative in their efforts for environmental preservation. At the same time, we feel obliged to consider any aspect in order to be able to evaluate the project objectively. Thus, we would appreciate if you could provide us with concrete information on your intentions.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Claus-Peter Hutter
President

CC:

Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Min. G. Souflias
Ministry of Tourism, Min. F. Palli-Petralia