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To European Commission
DG Environment
Claude Rouam
Head of the Unit
DG ENV E.3
Enlargement & Neighbouring Countries
BU-9 05/147
claude.rouam@ec.europa.eu

Subject: Reply to letter dated 5.2.2008 from EC

Dear Mr. Rouam,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 5.2.2008 concerning the Demir Kapija Smokvica highway project. I greatly appreciate the Commission's commitment to take necessary steps in ensuring that all relevant legislation will be followed and that there will be no damage to the potential NATURA 2000 site.

You have mentioned in the letter that a complementary EIA will be prepared to address the changes in the route connected to the Bela Voda cave. Could you inform me whether the preparation of the study has commenced, and whether it is expected to be released together with the initial EIA for the project? If yes, when is this scheduled?

I am also interested to know whether an NGO representative could take part in the training the Commission will carry out for the officials in Macedonia, on EIA and NATURA 2000 legislation.

Thank you in advance,

Sincerely,

Ana Colovic

Director
Center for environmental research and information
Eco-sense
Macedonia