TO (Choose Member of European Parliament)

RE: Violation of EU Directive 92/43Directive 2009/147 and Directive 2001/42/ЕC in the case of Pirin National Park

Dear……..

On 28.12.2017 the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria approved amendments to the Management Plan of Pirin National Park, published as Decision 821/29.12.2017. With this Decision the CoM of Bulgaria neglects Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC and SEA Directive 2001/42/ЕC and opens the gates for large-scale construction and felling of forests on the territory of 48 % of Pirin National Park. The Decision of the CoM was not subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA). It is also in contradiction with the second part of WH decision 40 COM 7B.93: future extension and development of the ski zone to be envisaged in the management plan and **assessed under procedures for strategic environmental assessment and appropriate assessment.**

The decision is adopted without any screening procedure for appropriate assessment, which is incompliance with art.6.3 of the Habitats Directive. The decision is also adopted without any screening under Directive 2001/42/ЕC, which is incompliance with art.2(a) and art.3(2) of the Directive.

Pirin National Park is also NATURA 2000 site under Directive 92/43(SCI) and Directive 2009/147 (SPA). The governmental decision will have severe impact on at least 6 forest habitat types under Annex I of Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, most of which are old-growth forests: 4070\*, 9110, 9410, 91BA, 91CA, 95A0. In addition, key species for conservation in the site from Annex II of the Habitats Directive will also be affected: *Canis lupus\*, Ursus arctos\*, Rupicapra rupicapra balcanica, Morimus funereus.* Birds of Annex I of theDirective 2009/147/EEC like *Aegolius funereus, Glaucidium passerinum, Dendrocopos leucotos, Dryocopus martius, Picoides tridactylus, Bonasa bonasia, Tetrao urogallus* will be severely affected. One of the universal values of the Park under the Convention for the Conservation of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage – its exceptional mountain scenery and glacial geomorphology (criteria vii and viii) will be severely affected.

I would like to draw your attention once again to the fact that Pirin National Park hosts unique biological diversity, emblematic not only for Bulgaria, but also for Europe and the whole world. Thirty-five plants are endemic species that can be seen only within the national park. The fauna of Pirin includes about 2900 invertebrate and 218 vertebrate species. From the invertebrates, 122 species are endemic, 162 - relicts and 298 - very rare taxa with specific ecology. The vertebrate fauna includes 6 fish species, 18 amphibians and reptiles, 152 birds and 43 mammals.

Having in mind that European Parliament determines the laws that affect the daily lives of European citizens, has the power to control or supervise the other institutions within EU and monitors how they work and how they spend taxpayers' money and especially acts as a conduit to the concerns of the public and can raise new issues for consideration in the European political agenda,

**I am addressing you as a Member of the European Parliament to ask what steps you will take in this particular case to defend my rights as a citizen of the EU.**

………

/Name, date/