

From: Tlačové oddelenie MŽP SR <hovorca@enviro.gov.sk>

Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 5:02 PM

To: Karl Mathiesen <kmathiesen@politico.eu>

Subject: Re: POLITICO media enquiry

Hello,

we are sending you below the requested document from June 10th 2024.

Best regards

Department of Communication

Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic

Dear Minister,

I would like to thank you for meeting my team last Thursday and for the constructive discussions you had on the issues of large carnivores in Slovakia and on the nature restoration law.

As agreed during the meeting on Thursday, our experts have now looked as thoroughly as possible into the new Slovak law amending the Civil Protection Act and the Nature Act, and I am happy to share with you that they conclude that the new law appears to be largely in compliance with the EU Habitats Directive. At the same time, they have identified some provisions, where conformity with EU law will very much depend on how these provisions will be applied. I suggest our teams continue to stay in close touch to further discuss these points, and I can only reassure you that we are ready to work constructively and to fully assist the Slovak authorities so that compliance with EU law is ensured also in the implementation phase.

So the political message I am sending you today is that the new law can be considered largely in compliance with the EU Habitats Directive. The application of the new law will be essential in confirming this alignment with EU law, and the Commission is fully committed to closely cooperate with the Slovak authorities to ensure this.

I trust that my reply provides you with the necessary reassurance, and I understand that the discussions you have had with Maros' and with my team last week have also clarified your last open questions related to the Nature Restoration Law and have reassured you in that regard as well. I count on your support and look forward to seeing you in Luxembourg for the ENVI Council.

Best regards,
Virginijus Sinkevicius