



Women in Europe for a Common Future | WECF

Embassy of Ukraine in the Kingdom of the Netherlands
H.E. Mr. Ambassador of Ukraine, Vasyl Korzachenko
Zeestraat 78
2518 AD
The Hague
The Netherlands

Utrecht

Subject: Request regarding the Sasyk dam

Your Excellency Mr. Ambassador Korzachenko,

Women in Europe for a Common Future is a network of women's and environmental organisations in 30 countries throughout Central Asia and Europe. We strive for a healthy environment for all: in the European Union, and its neighbouring countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

We are writing you with a request on behalf of one of our partner-organisations: Vozrazhdenije, a non-governmental environmental organization in your country. Vozrazhdenije is currently taking action against an environmental disaster caused by a dam closing the Sasyk estuary off from the sea in Odessa oblast, Ukraine. They are campaigning for the re-naturalisation of Sasyk since 12 years, but without any tangible results.

After the construction of the dam in the late 70-ties, the condition of the environment, as well as the health of the people living in the surrounding areas, has alarmingly been deteriorating throughout the years. The ecosystem of the area, as well as those of the surrounding areas, has suffered immensely. Furthermore, ever since the setting up of the dam, the morbidity in the area has accumulated, not to speak of mortality which has increased by 30 %. Furthermore, the dam is not providing in its original function of supplying fresh irrigation water, thus has no economic benefits.

In order to improve the situation in Odessa oblast, Vozrazhdenije wishes to convince decision makers in Ukraine that the only way to end this environmental catastrophe is to connect the estuary, now separated by the dam, back to the Black Sea. This can be done by opening the

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Sasyk Dam. Not only the local people and numerous scientists, but also politicians and local authorities favor the idea. This option has been sufficiently researched for its feasibility. Nevertheless, the situation has stayed unchanged for years and the dam still prevents the free flow of water from the estuary to the sea. For the sake of the environment and the people of the Odessa region, continuing to ignore the situation is not an option.

We really hope you can help our partner organisation by urging your government to take action. The damage caused by the Sasyk Dam can be made undone, and we are counting on you to help us re-naturalise the ecosystem of the Sasyk area. Please let us know what your steps will be.

We have included further information about the situation in the Odessa region in the attachments to this letter. Should you wish for further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Waiting for your answer,

Yours Sincerely,

Sascha Gabizon
International Director WECF

Anna Samwel
MFS Project Officer WECF

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Attachments (2):

- “Sasyk blockade ended in ecological disaster”, by Anna Samwel
- “The wetland area of Lake Sasyk (Odessa region) - Prospects for restoring the ecosystem”, by Irina Vykhrystiuk

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