



# PLATFORM OF SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT, CYPRUS

July 9, 2007

Dear Ms Monica FRASSONI  
**Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance**  
Co-president

As an MEP who have recently visited the northern part of Cyprus you are well aware of the ongoing environmental crimes and specially potential threats to the natural habitats on the island which have been witnessed extensively after the Annan Plan Referandum.

As the Platform of Sustainable Environment, our goal is to try to stop these environmental crimes and save our island's so far untouched beauties. For that reason we believe that the priority should be given to the protection of the islands scarce natural habitats. Of these ecologically important areas we have prioritized the following:

**Dipkarpaz National Park Area:** One of the most important biological diversity region of the Mediterranean, historical and archeological site and national park area, also recently designated in line with the EU regulations as Special Protected Area. Houses more than 100 species of rare plants, 128 endemic flora, 68 % of the endangered species, migrant birds, feral donkeys. The park area is an important nesting area of the endangered *Carretta carreta* and *Chelonies mydas*. 84% of total turtle nests found on All Karpaz Beaches, 19 species of butterfly were recorded at DNPA. St. Andreas Monastery one of the most important places for Christianity located at the tip end of the Peninsula.

**Dipkarpaz National Park Area is under great threat because of the power supply project supported by the authorities, mass tourism and haphazard development.**

**The Kyrenia Mountain Range:** is a long, narrow [chain of mountains](#) that runs approximately 160 km along the north coast of [Cyprus](#). Constituting an ecosystem is made up of tree populations and forests a rich diversified fauna composed of all the different animal life, including animal populations beginning with the mammals and going down the chain till the microscopic animal population, the flora, the soil and climatic conditions etc. The Kyrenia Mountain Range provides drinking water and the water used for many different purposes (through aquifers), protects the soil against soil erosion caused by strong winds and heavy rains and prevents degradation of soils to non productive levels, keeps the temperature and humidity levels at stable levels. The Northern Range is a shelter to three great castles, St. Hilarion, Kantara and Buffavento. The Range together with its peculiar Pentadactylos, is a source of great natural beauty. It is as well the major habitat for bird populations.

**Quarry sites, haphazard development, tourism, solid waste and waste water threatening The Kyrenia Mountain Range.**

**Ayia Irini Region:** There are a number of comparatively small forest plantations in various parts of the plains of Cyprus. These are all recent plantations and include such areas as Ayia Irini, between the western end of the Northern Range and Morphou Bay. The sand dunes found at the Ayia Irini area are home for a particular flora and also a nesting place for the Green Turtles and Loggerhead. According to the ecologists, coastal areas form ecomorphologically important areas which necessitate their protection. In The Northern part of Cyprus, two forests are of special interest where Juniper predominates, namely, around Ayia Irini (Liveras region) and the Karpas Peninsula. The coast of Orga area and especially where the rocks of Orga are found shelters a very unique flora.

**Ayia Irini Region is under threat of golf courses, tourism and second homes.**

Yours Truly,

**“PLATFORM OF SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT”, Cyprus**

- Association of Women to Support Living
- Baraka Cultural Center
- Biologists Association
- Chamber of City Planners
- Cyprus Educational Sciences Association
- Cyprus EU Association
- Cyprus Turkish Secondary Teachers Union
- Cyprus Turkish Teachers Union
- Cyprus Turkish Tourism and Travel Agent's Association
- Cyprus Turkish Tourist Guides Association
- Environmental Society of Lefka
- Federation of Hunters
- Friends of Karpas
- Friends of Nature, Cyprus
- Green Action Group
- HASDER Folk Arts Foundation
- Lefka & Catchment Villages Development and Solidarity Association
- Management Center
- Mediterranean Wind Association
- Northern Cyprus Hoteliers Association
- Olive Tree Protecting and Searching Association
- Yenibogazici Cultural and Arts Association