



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENVIRONMENT
Directorate D - Implementation, Governance & Semester
ENV.D.3 - Enforcement, Cohesion Policy & European Semester, Cluster 3
Head of Unit

Brussels, 17. 02. 2015
ENV.D.3/AH/ad/EU pilot 1126/10

Mr Klaus Armstrong-Braun
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Dear Mr Armstrong Braun,

Subject: EU PILOT 1126/10/ENVI

Thank you for your letter of 2 January 2015 regarding the above EU Pilot.

As I explained in my letter of 9 December, whilst I appreciate that you may have differing views about the format or the content of the ideal surveillance programme, the proposed work by the United Kingdom authorities represents a good initial step in the surveillance of this species.

Whilst I understand your concern about previous suggested surveillance programmes having been promised and not delivered, in the face of a realistic and funded surveillance proposal from the UK Government, it would be inappropriate to continue to keep the file open based on an assumption that they will not deliver that programme as promised, or on an assumption that the outcome of the general election will alter matters.

The closure of the EU Pilot does not signify an end to the matter. I have asked the UK Government to provide 6 monthly updates and as I assured you in my letter of 9 December, the EU Pilot file will remain in our archive and the issue could be re-opened in the event that surveillance is not, despite the assurances of the UK Government, delivered.

You also note that *"the initial complaint was of systemic and total failure across the board of great crested newt protection in the United Kingdom and prevention of continued rapid decline of this important species and its habitat"*. The initial report provided by you in 2010 covers a wide number of issues, some of which were responded to in the UK Government's response dated 26 August 2010.

It seems, from looking at the file, that it was decided that the surveillance issues were the most pressing to take forward in the EU Pilot. I understand that this was discussed with you at the time. I propose, given the time that has passed, that if there are breaches of EU law which were not taken forward as part of this pilot, but which you consider remain of

concern, you provide updated information in the form of a new, separate complaint and my colleagues will consider whether to open a separate file on those issues.

I hope that you will find this a constructive way forward.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Speight". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Paul SPEIGHT