**Would Greece ban dolphin shows and import of dolphins following interventions of German citizens and questions by MEPs?**

On 13rd of May 2018, a protestation was organized by two German Organizations for animal protection, Prowal and WDSF in cooperation with Panhellenic Animal Welfare and Environmental Federation. Stefan B. Eck was present with 80 people who protest at Attica Zoological Park.

The previous day of this protest, Andreas Morlok (CEO of Prowal) visited dolphinarium. In the past, he criticized the Park’s dolphinarium, after he carried out a research with photos and videos as documents. Stefan B. Eck, his assistant Sandra Gabriel and Jürgen Ortmüller (CEO of WDSF) attended the dolphin show.

Jean-Jacques Lesueur (Director of Attica Park) and Robert Gojceta (dolphin trainer) answered their questions on dolphin captivity. According to ProWal, the so-called “Educational program with dolphins” is in fact a show with dolphins.

However, ProWal stated that performances with animals are prohibited according to the Article 12 of animal law n. 4039/12. Mr. Lesueur insists that this law applies only on animal circuses.

Also, he even confided in CEO of WDSF that he would like to shut down the dolphinarium, if it would be possible to transport all dolphins, which are seven, to a marine protected area. In any case, he does not want to keep them at his park. He said that those seven dolphins originate from different countries where marine protected areas are non-existent, so their transport is impossible.

For more than 10 years, ProWal and WDSF have been putting pressure on dolphinaria to create marine protected areas for captive dolphins to be transported to. It should be taken into consideration that in recent years more than 60 dolphinaria went out of business, while the rest of them, approximately 30 dolphinaria, are overcrowded and breeding programs are in force.

On 7th of May 2018, Stefan B. Eck and Olga Kikou, who is representative of the European net “Dolphinaria Free Europe” had a meeting with Mr. Apostopou (Minister of Rural Development and Food),in the purview of an initiative of ProWal and WDSF. Eck and Kikou called on Greece to enforce the existing Greek animal law.

During the meeting, Mr. Apostolou commissioned George Dimaras (Member of Parliament), who was present at the meeting, to prepare a legislative proposal on amendment of legislation and discuss this issue with Member of the Greek Parliament. According to Stefan Eck, the draft law will be discussed in the Greek Parliament after summer.

On the same day, Eck and Kikou had a meeting with George Dimaras and Member of Greek Parliament where detailed discussions were held on matters.

WDSF and ProWal hope that their request to ban dolphin shows and import of dolphins into Greece will be taken into account during the progress of the bill. Moreover, Eck mentioned that there are plenty of disappointed tourists because of dolphin captivity in Greece, a fact related to loss of revenues for tourism, an economic sector of great importance for Greece.

Jürgen Ortmüller (CEO of WDSF) stated that: “Our activity in Greece was successful and combined with other activities of Stefan Eck in European Parliament, it could be an example for other European countries. Dolphins captivity should be banned. A ban on dolphins import to Greece will resulted in the medium-term of dolphin captivity in the country.”

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