

FRIENDLY SUPPORT FOUNDATION

Reg. to corporate proceedings 608/2002 of Rousse District Court, National Register Number 1181767908, BULSTAT 117594149, Tax No. 118 176 79 08

REGISTERED FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT

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IBAN (BGN): BG90 FINV 9150 12BG NOIR YP IBAN (EUR): BG60 FINV 9150 12EU ROIR YN; BIC: FINVBGSF

Outgoing No. 036/28.03.2014

TO

GRAVEL AND SAND PITS BULGARIA EAD

SOFIA CITY

ISKAR DISTRICT

6 PORUCHIK NEDELCHO BONCHEV STREET

DEAR MISTER CHAKMAKOV,

Referring to the letter with our incoming number 04/24.03.2014 about the investment proposal for Extraction of Sand and Gravel from Alluvial Deposits in the Bed of the Danube River, Mishka Section (from km 462.0 to km 459.4) in the area of Babovo Village, Slivo Pole Municipality, Rousse County we hereby present our

EXPERT OPINION

The Danube islands are of significant importance for the lower stream of the river. They act as natural filters by capturing a large part of the organic contamination of the Danuber River waters.

The investment proposal involves territories within the European Ecological Network NATURA 2000 and the national ecological network of Bulgaria.

We have information that for many years there has been a mixed colony of herons and cormorants on Mishka Island. The main nestling species are the great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) and the grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*) and a fewer number of little egrets (*Egretta garzetta*), black-crowned night herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and common spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*).

There is a risk of disturbance – noise from the excavation machines and therefore we recommend three options:

1. To carry out the sand and gravel excavation activities beyond the nesting period of the birds – March to June.
2. To determine larger distances between the gravel and sand excavation areas and the heron - cormorant colony.
3. A combination of the activities described in the above two options.

Chairperson of the Management Board:

/signed/

Margarita Sabeva

SEALED BY FRIENDLY SUPPORT FOUNDATION – ROUSSE.