

To: Prof. Dr. Rainer LUICK

University of Rottenburg Schadenweilerhof D 72108 Rottenburg e-mail: luick@hs-rottenburg.de

Mr. Matthias SCHICKHOFER Dr. Iovu Adrian BIRIŞ Prof. Dr. Lucian CURTU

Re: DBU funded project: "Virgin & Old Growth Forest in Romania - Safeguarding European Biodiversity Heritage"

Dear Professor Mr. Luick,

I would like to thank you and the group on whose behalf you signed the letter, for congratulating me for the appointment as Minister of Waters and Forests and for your wishes and I assure you that I will continue, as I did in my previous short mandate, the actions meant to contribute to the sustainable forest management and the preservation of forest ecosystems in Romania.

We appreciate the availability of the German Federal Environmental Foundation to grant financial support for the project and also your willingness to support our efforts for the conservation of valuable natural heritage in Romania.

We are convinced that the project "Virgin & Old Growth Forest in Romania - Safeguarding European Biodiversity Heritage", conducted by a team of specialists from Germany and Romania, through the studies to be developed, will enrich the National Catalogue of Virgin and Quasi-Virgin Forests in Romania, with those forests entitled to this status, according to legal provisions.

At the same time, we want to inform you that the Ministry of Waters and Forests wants to have a neutral and impartial approach to all the authors of the virgin and quasi-virgin forest identification studies, wishing to participate as many entities as possible in this process, without initiating any action officially, in writing, for endorsement/support of one of the studies, which may be interpreted as favoring one of the parties.

In this respect, all the steps to be taken, all the conditions to be fulfilled and the stages to be followed, up to the endorsement of the grounding studies by the Forest Engineering

MINISTERUL APELOR ȘI PĂDURILOR

Advisory Commission of the Ministry of Waters and Forests, including the official notification of Forest Guards, of forest managers and forest owners concerned, are described in detail in the Ministerial Order No 2525/2016.

Wishing you every success in your work,

Yours sincerely,

Adriana-Doina PANĂ Minister of Waters and Forests