



“LET THE DRAVA FLOW FREE”!*

Gravel and river regulation sentence Europe’s beautiful Drava River to death

Croatia is not complying with international conventions and EU Environmental Law

The Croatian Parliament is asked to save the Drava

Upstream of Varazdin, Croatian Water Authorities are turning the living river into a concrete canal, closing off its meanders and side branches, and extracting large quantities of gravel directly from the riverbed and banks. The consequences on the living environment are dramatic: biodiversity loss, the falling of groundwater tables, the drying out of forests and ruined landscapes. These construction works also add to the reduction of local socio-economic opportunities and are clearly in non compliance with international agreements signed by Croatia, plus Europe’s Water Framework Directive and the Birds and Habitats Directives and the EIA Directive.

In order to save the Drava we call upon the Members of the Croatian Parliament to:

- 1. Initiate a moratorium on gravel excavation and river regulation on the Drava River until an environmentally acceptable solution is found (already mentioned in point 2).**
- 2. Initiate a meeting with experts and stakeholders, in the framework of the Committees for Agriculture and Forestry and for Urban Planning and Environmental Protection, and a parliamentary session on the protection and sustainable use of the Drava River, including the identification of alternative solutions for gravel extraction and river regulation, in favour for nature and local communities.**
- 3. Initiate and adopt a legal amendment of the Environmental Protection Law and its implementing regulations, to require obligatory Environmental Impact Assessment for multiple small river regulation and gravel excavation projects with cumulative effects, as well as for river regulation plans and programmes**
- 4. Raise a parliamentary question to the government about the implications of ongoing gravel excavation and river regulation works for Croatia’s fulfilment of international conventions and for its achievement of compliance with the EU environmental law.**

**Save Europe’s beautiful Drava,
it’s future is in your hands!**

*out of the Croatian National Anthem: “..Let Drava flow freely..”