



**CEEWeb for Biodiversity**  
**H-1021 Budapest, Szécher út 40.**  
**Telefon: +36 1 398 0135**  
**Fax: +36 1 398 0136**  
**ceeweb@ceeweb.org**  
**www.ceeweb.org**

**To:** Mr. Petr Nečas, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

**Topic:** Šumava - stop the destruction of National Park

**Dear Mr Prime Minister,**

I am writing to you on behalf of CEEweb for Biodiversity, an umbrella organization of 69 nature conservation NGOs from the Central and Eastern European region. Our mission is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development.

I would like to request your personal intervention in stopping the destruction of the unique natural area of Šumava, which is not only a Czech National Park, but also part of the Natura 2000 network and as such represents part of our common European natural heritage. I request that the relevant Czech governmental institutions respect both national and international legislation and in line with common worldwide standards they base their decision-making on scientifically established arguments.

I also would like to draw your attention to the fact that the protection of European wilderness has been also recently stressed by the EU Biodiversity Strategy. With old growth forest still being lost in Europe, avoiding their further loss is the most urgent requirement on the agenda of wilderness protection currently. Famously called as the Wild Heart of Europe, as it hosts the largest wilderness area in Central Europe, the Šumava National Park has an especially important role in protecting the wild nature of Europe for the next generation. Besides, wild nature and the fascinating experience of forest wilderness attract thousands of tourists to Šumava.

Leaving substantial areas – usually more than 50% of the park – without human intervention is a common practice in national parks in both Central and Western Europe, which includes non-interference with natural disturbances, such as windbreaks and bark beetle. Evidence shows that mountain spruce forests regenerate after bark beetle gradations in European national parks, and this regeneration is faster than after artificial re-planting of clearcuts. Also, both ecological and recreational values of naturally regenerating forest wilderness areas are much higher than that of clearcuts after intervention against bark beetle.

Our requests are the following:

- stop immediately logging in previous non-intervention areas in Šumava National Park,
- stop violence and police actions against peaceful civic blockade of cutting trees.

Dear Mr Prime Minister, I am confident that you, as a leading representative of a democratic state, will not allow a further escalation of the ongoing conflicts surrounding the illegal logging in Šumava and will ensure that a fully inclusive dialogue on the future shape of this unique National Park is established without delay.

I would be grateful if you could inform me of the steps that you have taken to address this serious and urgent issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Klára Hajdu'.

Klára Hajdu  
General Secretary  
CEEweb for Biodiversity