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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate A - Communication, Legal Affairs and Civil Protection
ENV.A.1 - Communication & Governance

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The Big Bear (Ben)
bigbear@goodnewsfor polarbears.org

Dear 'Big Bear,'

Commissioner Dimas has asked me to reply to the email you sent him on 13 August 2009.

We were very interested to learn of your excellent initiative. It is the latest of several online services in Europe we have become aware of that encourage reuse, recycling and the use of wastes as resources.

Such services are supporting our goal of helping Europe to become a recycling society that prevents waste as far as possible and uses the waste that cannot be avoided as a resource. As you point out, this of course also contributes to the fight against climate change.

In case you are not already aware of them, I would invite you to read our current European strategies on the prevention and recycling of waste and on sustainable use of natural resources:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/strategy.htm>

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/natres/index.htm>.

I would also draw your attention to our Action Plan on sustainable consumption and production:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/escp_en.htm.

You may also be interested in information about our grants programme for NGOs which can be found here http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ngos/index_en.htm, though please note that NGOs need to fulfill a number of conditions in order to qualify.

I see that membership of your site has grown rapidly in its first two weeks of operation. This is very encouraging. I wish you every success for its future.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Hanley