BRUSSELS, Sept 12 (Reuters): The European Union executive asked the bloc's top court on Monday to order Poland to halt logging in a forest national park to preserve unique woods.

The move was a fresh escalation in a timber dispute in the primeval Bialowieza forest that has since last year stirred friction between the EU and its big-earner member Poland.

EU chief Jean-Claude Juncker told the EU Court of Justice (ECJ) in July to immediately stop logging in the forest, a UNESCO World Heritage site, that he described as the EU's first national park and a jewel.

The halt was meant to prevent irreversible damage to the delicate ecosystem before a final ruling on whether Poland has obeyed an ECJ decision.

The Commission has cited what it says is Warsaw's violation of the ECJ order to stop logging as part of the woods.

It is the first time in EU history that a country has disobeyed an ECJ decision.

The row over the three-fold increase in timber production in Bialowieza violates EU law, the Luxembourg-based European Court of Justice asked the court in Brussels to ensure Poland complies.

The Commission said the halt was needed to prevent irreversible damage to the woods.

Poland has opened an order by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Geneva which runs until Sept 29.

A UN report has slammed the UK for failing to tackle the “plague” of air pollution, while also warning that climate change means we are facing “a new era of environmental violence.”

A Novartis Pharmaceutical and Quidel Corporation joint venture, QDx, has launched the QDx Flu A+B test, which is the first and only line immunoassay test for influenza A and B available in the US.

Environment

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Climate

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