



European Diploma for Protected Areas: Exceptional monitoring visit to the Bayerischer Wald National Park, Germany

Strasbourg, 16 February 2015 – An exceptional on-the-spot monitoring appraisal will take place on 24 and 25 February 2015 to the Bayerischer Wald National Park (Germany), holder of the European Diploma for Protected Areas since 1986.

The visit has been decided after an alert received by the Secretariat on plans to construct a large windfarm complex in the immediate vicinity of the park, with possible negative impact on the Park's outstanding biodiversity. The objective of the visit is to assess the situation and make the necessary recommendations.

Besides the visit of the site, the programme includes meetings with the authorities, namely with representatives of the Government of Lower Bavaria, the Bavarian State Ministry of Environment, municipal authorities and the Park's authorities, as well as with the representatives of other stakeholders and, in particular, with the prospective investor, national experts, NGOs and the media.

More information: <http://www.coe.int/edpa/en>

The European Diploma for Protected Areas is a prestigious international award granted since 1965 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. It recognises natural and semi-natural areas and landscapes of exceptional European importance for the preservation of biological, geological and landscape diversity and which are managed in an exemplary way.

The Diploma is awarded to protected areas because of their outstanding scientific, cultural or aesthetic qualities, but they must also be the subject of a suitable conservation scheme.

Since its creation in 1965, 73 protected areas have been granted the European Diploma. They are located in 28 European countries, both member and non-member states of the Council of Europe.