



The Standing Committee to the Bern Convention will meet in Strasbourg to assess European progress towards the sustainable use of our common natural heritage

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats - also known as the [Bern Convention](#) - will held its 35th meeting on 1-4 December 2015, at Council of Europe's premises in Strasbourg

Strasbourg, 20 November 2015 - More than 100 participants have already registered to attend the forthcoming meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, including delegates of contracting parties, and representatives of observer states and organisations.

The Standing Committee is the governing body of the Bern Convention and meets once a year to monitor the implementation of the treaty by its 51 contracting parties.

This year's meeting will address – among others - issues related to the prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species, the designation and management of protected areas, the prevention and prosecution of illegal killing of birds, and the role of biodiversity to mitigate climate change.

To be certainly highlighted, two pioneer documents: the first ever attempt to identify some common “sentencing principles” to be used for the evaluation of wild-bird crimes across different ranges of jurisdictions and in line with the principle of judicial independence; and a list of measures to be implemented in order to prevent and control the spread of the *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans (BS)*, a fungal disease already responsible of massive population declines (96% decline) in populations of *Salamandra salamandra* in the Netherlands.

The Committee will also assess ten complaints submitted by citizens and NGOs for presumed breaches of the Convention by contracting parties. In this context, it will examine, for possible adoption, draft recommendations for Lithuania, Turkey, and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”. A legal report on the implementation of the Bern Convention will also be presented.

The meetings of the Standing Committee are held *in-camera*. However, the working documents are public and available online. The list of decisions and adopted text will be published on Friday 4 December, in the afternoon.

Click [here](#) for more information