

2000



COUNCIL OF EUROPE    CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 6 September 2000  
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**T-PVS (2000) 42**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

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Meeting of the Bureau

Strasbourg, 6 September 2000

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

*Secretariat Memorandum  
prepared by  
the Directorate of Sustainable Development*

## **1. Opening of the meeting and the adoption of the agenda**

The Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, Mr Gerard C. Boere (Netherlands) welcomed the other members of the Bureau, Mr Patrick van Klaveren (Monaco) and Ms Ilona Jepsen (Latvia), as well as the representatives of the Secretariat. The list of participants appears in Appendix 1 to this document.

The agenda was adopted as it appears in Appendix 2 of this document.

## **2. Progress of the 2000 work programme and decisions** (Doc T-PVS (2000) 15)

The Secretariat provided information on the progress of the 2000 work programme and decisions.

### **2.1. Development of the Convention**

In the course of discussions a few general actions, which could enhance the implementation of Convention, were proposed by the Bureau members:

- Following the proposal of the Select Group to delegate certain tasks linked to organisation and preparation of the Groups of Experts' meetings to the NGOs, it would be useful, for the sake of more transparency, to submit to the Standing Committee a short summary information on each of the NGOs proposed for these tasks;
- In order to ensure effectiveness of the Convention, more follow-up should be given to adopted recommendations to see, whether the governments complied with the recommendations or not. This mostly concerns possible case files, which eventually were not opened. It could be envisaged to produce a short summary (possibly in a table format) on the results of the follow-up.
- The Secretariat stressed that in order to ensure smooth functioning of the Convention, it would be essential to retain two Bureau meetings a year

The Bureau took note of these comments.

#### **- Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000 Azerbaijan became the 42<sup>nd</sup> Contracting Party to the Bern Convention.

#### **- Memorandum of Co-operation with the Secretariat of the CBD**

At its 705<sup>th</sup> meeting, which took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2000, the Committee of Ministers authorised the Secretary General to sign the Memorandum of Co-operation between the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- **Memorandum of Co-operation with the European Environment Agency**

The text of the Memorandum of Co-operation was revised by the legal services of the Council of Europe for their opinion. Subsequently a revised text was sent to the European Environment Agency for consideration. Once the Memorandum is given a green light by the board of EEA, it will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for approval.

**2.3 Progress of the 2000 work programme**

**a. Emerald Network**

- **Group of Experts for the setting up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest**

The meeting of the Group of Experts is to take place in Strasbourg on the 18-19 September 2000. Among others it will assess the progress achieved by the target countries in setting up the Emerald Network and propose actions to stimulate further development of the network.

- **Pilot projects – Emerald Network**

In the course of one and a half years since the implementation phase of the Emerald Network has started, pilot projects have been launched in eleven countries of Central and Eastern Europe. By the beginning of the year 2000 pilot projects have been completed in Bulgaria, Russia and Slovenia. In the year 2000 the Emerald Network pilot projects have started in the following countries: Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia and Poland, Romania and Moldova. The projects in Turkey and Slovakia started late last year and are ongoing. To date Emerald training workshops took place in most of the pilot countries. Three remaining workshops in Estonia, Latvia and Moldova have been scheduled for October - November 2000. The results of these projects will be available by the end of this year-beginning of next year.

- **Meeting of the Emerald Network pilot project leaders**

This meeting took place on 17-18 April 2000 in Bratislava. It was co-organised by the Council of Europe and the Phare Topic Link on Nature Conservation.

The participants included members of the Emerald teams from the eleven countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which have either started Emerald projects or are planning to do so in the near future. In the course of the workshop the participants have exchanged experiences on the Emerald Network process; identified major obstacles and problems that arise in the course of practical project implementation and sought to find solutions to these problems. The adopted recommendations will be submitted for the attention of the Group of Experts meeting in September. The report of the meeting (document T-PVS (2000) 29) will be submitted to the Standing Committee.

The Bureau noted with satisfaction the progress of the Emerald Network and pronounced itself in favour of this activity remaining central in the Bern Convention.

- **Inventory of the available national data on species and habitats**

In accordance with the Bern programme of activities, the Secretariat commissioned an inventory of the available national data on species and habitats in the Phare countries, which could contribute to developing an Emerald network database. This work is carried out by the Phare Topic Link on Nature Conservation. First results will be presented at the next meeting of the Emerald Group of Experts. The final inventory together with the explanatory report will be submitted to the Secretariat by the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2000.

**b. Workshop on ecological corridors for invertebrates: strategies of dispersal and recolonisation in today's agricultural and forestry landscapes**

The Workshop on ecological corridors for invertebrates took place on 10-12 May 2000 in Neuchâtel (Switzerland). It was followed by the meeting of the Group of Experts on Invertebrates.

The objective of this meeting was to analyse the different causes of disappearance of the main invertebrates' species in Europe and debate the possible strategies of dispersion of invertebrates through ecological networks.

The Group of experts has prepared draft recommendation on Action Plan for *Margaritifera margaritifera* and Action Plan for *Margaritifera auricularia*, which will be submitted to the Standing Committee for adoption. The report of the meeting (document T-PVS (2000) 26) will be presented to the Standing Committee for information. The proceedings of the workshop are in preparation.

**c. Group of Experts on large carnivores in Europe**

The meeting of the Group of Experts on large carnivores in Europe took place in Oslo on 22-24 June 2000.

This meeting was dedicated to reviewing the status and conservation problems of large carnivores on the territory of Contracting Parties and Observer states of the Convention; suggesting appropriate conservation action of large carnivores; follow-up the drafting and implementation of national and regional action plans on these species.

The Group of Experts has elaborated the terms of reference for the group of experts, which will be submitted to the Standing Committee for adoption. The Group of Experts also elaborated draft recommendation on the implementation of action plans for large carnivores in Europe, which will be submitted to the Standing Committee for adoption. The report of the meeting (document T-PVS (2000) 33) will be presented to the Standing Committee for information.

**d. Seminar on Biological Diversity and Law: achievements, shortcomings and new trends**

The seminar on Biological Diversity and Law in homage to Cyrille de Klemm took place in Paris on 30-31 March 2000. The seminar analysed the questions related to legislation on conservation and use of biological diversity both at national and international levels.

The proceedings of the seminar are in preparation in collaboration with the French Institute for Environmental Law.

**e. Studies**

The Bureau took note of the fact that all studies, foreseen in the programme of activities for the year 2000, have been contracted. The study on the impact of tourism development on marine turtles nesting (prepared by Mr Andreas Demetroupoulos) will be presented at the meeting of the Standing Committee for information.

**3. Implementation of the Convention: files**

Some general comments were made on the case file system by the Bureau members. Mr Patric van Klaveren (Monaco) suggested that in order to ensure the credibility and political weight of the Convention, it is important to promote the cases, when the Government complied with the recommendations of the Standing Committee by abandoning the development or construction project if they conflicted with environmental considerations (e.g. Road construction in the Grünewald Forest in Luxembourg, Rhine-Rhone Canal Project in France, some others), including financial consequences of such decisions. This should put more pressure on the countries, that fail to comply with the recommendations.

To ensure more transparency in the case file mechanism of the Bern Convention, the Secretariat produced on the request of the Bureau the list of complaints submitted to the Secretariat (document T-PVS (2000) 28. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to update this list of complaints up to the end of October 2000;

**3.1 Specific sites**

- ***Caretta caretta* in Patara (Turkey)**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau members of the latest developments in this case. According to Medasset, Turkish government was not taking appropriate measures for the site conservation and complying with the Standing Committee recommendations. On 27<sup>th</sup> April 2000 Medasset wrote a letter to UNEP with a proposal to pronounce Patara beach a World Heritage Site, which may provide adequate site protection.

The Turkish government will submit the report to the Standing Committee meeting.

- **Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus)**

The Secretariat provided the Bureau with the following information on this case. The Secretariat was informed by the Cyprus Conservation Foundation, that the Cyprus government has taken a decision that does not comply with Recommendation No. 63 (1997) of the Standing Committee.

The Secretariat contacted Cyprus government asking for further information on this file and for the full report to be submitted to the Standing Committee. To date no answer has been received from Cyprus government. The Secretariat will further contact the Cyprus government to get the report for the Standing Committee meeting.

- ***Cricetus cricetus* in the Netherlands**

The Chairman, Mr Boere, speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries of the Netherlands, confirmed that the case has received a lot of attention from the Dutch government. A government report on this case file is currently in preparation and will be sent to the Secretariat as soon as it is ready, to be submitted to the Standing Committee. Two additional reports were sent by the Working Group on the Hamster in Limburg and by 'From Badger to Bear Foundation': a report of Prof. M. Stubbe for the European Commission and a report of Mr Gubbems and Mr Baars in Dutch Dossier Hamster. Unfortunately, the reports were submitted in non-official languages of the Council of Europe (Dutch and German). The Secretariat informed the Bureau members that it has asked the two organisations to send reports or their summaries in English or French.

**3.2 Possible new files and other information files –on-the-spot appraisal**

- ***Vipera lebetina schweizeri* (*Macrovipera schweizeri*) in Milos (Greece)**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau members that the on-the-spot appraisal at the island of Milos will take place on 8-11 September 2000. The visit will be carried out by the expert Mr Claes Andren (Sweden) accompanied by the member of the Secretariat (Mr Eladio Fernández-Galiano). The report will be submitted to the Standing Committee.

- **Lake Vistonis and Lafra Lafrouda Lagoon (Greece)**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau members that there will be further discussion with the Greek authorities on this matter during the on-the-spot appraisal in Milos, after which the definite decision on the dates of the visit will be taken.

The Bureau members asked to be informed on the results of discussions with the Greek authorities.

- **Possible new files:**

\* **Brown bear in the Pyrenees**

The conservation of the Brown bear in the Pyrenees was threatened by a proposal to remove the introduced animals, which would curb any possibility and success of the present very exiguous population. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that this proposal was not confirmed by the French Parliament.

The Bureau took the decision not to present this case file to the Standing Committee as a possible case.

\* **Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)**

The threat to the remaining nesting beaches in Cyprus and in Turkey has placed the survival of the small population of the species at great risk.

Mr Patrick Van Klaveren stressed that all marine turtles cases should be dealt with together in the framework of the Pan-Mediterranean Sea Turtle Conference, co-organised by the Barcelona, Bonn and Bern Conventions and the CMS will take place in 2001. It is foreseen that this Conference will adopt a Recommendation The study on the impact of tourism development on marine turtles nesting, commissioned by the Standing Committee, will be an important contribution to the solution of this matter.

The Bureau decided to keep this dossier as a possible case file for the Standing Committee.

**\*      **Exploitation and trade of *Lithophaga lithophaga* in Spain****

*Lithophaga lithophaga* is a marine bivalve mollusc species which belongs to the Mytilidae family and is included in the Appendix II of the Bern Convention.

The Secretariat was informed by Mr Ramón Alvarez Halcón, a Spanish malacologist that the species *Lithophaga lithophaga* is subject to commercial exploitation in part of the Balearic Islands. There is also a widespread illegal collection of the species in other parts of the Mediterranean coast of Spain. Spanish Society of Malacology is preparing an official complaint on this issue.

The Secretariat asked the Spanish government to provide the information on this issue to the Standing Committee.

The Bureau decided that this case should be presented at the Standing Committee as a possible case file.

**4.      **Draft agenda for the 20th meeting****

The Secretariat presented the draft agenda for the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Bureau approved, subject to certain amendments, the draft agenda as presented by the Secretariat. A final agenda for the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee is in Appendix 3 to this document.

With reference to the documents for the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Bureau asked the Secretariat to include in the list of tabled documents the 'Conclusions of the Conference on Conservation and Monitoring of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Ukraine' (Kyiv, 19-20 June 2000).

**5.      **Proposals for the programme of activities for the year 2001****

The Secretariat presented the changed structure of the draft programme of activities, which started with the summary, outlining short-, medium-, and long-term aims of each activity together with their political interest. The new format of the draft programme will better correspond to the changes in the Bern Convention, which is to gain a more political profile.

The Bureau decided to include the following activities in the draft programme of activities for the year 2001:

- Preparation for the Kyiv Ministerial Conference on Environment in the year 2002 – subject to voluntary contributions;
- Preparation for the 6<sup>th</sup> CBD Conference of Parties in the year 2002 – p.m.

The Bureau approved, subject to certain amendments, the Standing Committee's draft activities programme for the year 2001 (T-PVS (2000) 11 rev).

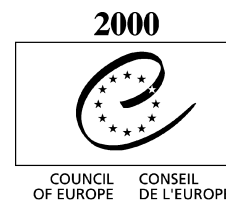
**6. Other business**

No other business was raised.

**7. Date and place of the next meeting**

The date of the next Bureau meeting will be fixed at a later stage.





## APPENDIX 1

Strasbourg, le 8 septembre 2000  
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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS  
CONVENTION RELATIVE A LA CONSERVATION DE LA VIE SAUVAGE

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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## APPENDIX 2

### CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS

Strasbourg, 27 June 2000

### Standing Committee Meeting of the Bureau

Strasbourg, 6 September 2000  
Palais de l'Europe, Room 16  
(opening: 9.30)

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### AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Progress of the 2000 work programme and decisions
  - 2.1. Progress of activities
3. Implementation of the Convention: Files
  - 3.1. Specific sites
    - *Caretta caretta* in Patara (Turkey)
    - Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus)
    - *Cricetus cricetus* in the Netherlands
  - 3.2. Possible new files and other information files
    - ? on-the-spot appraisal on:
      - *Lake Vistonis qnd Lafra-Lafrouda Lagoon* (Greece)
      - *Vipera lebetina schweizeri (Macrovipera schweizeri)* in Milos (Greece)
    - ? possible new files:
      - Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
      - Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*) in the Pyrenees (France)
      - Exploitation and trade of *Lithophaga lithophaga* in Spain
4. – Draft agenda for the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting  
– Proposals for the programme of activities for the year 2001
5. Other business

2000



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## APPENDIX 3

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### CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

Strasbourg, 27 November - 1 December 2000

20<sup>th</sup> meeting

Palais de l'Europe, Room 5

Opening of the meeting: 9.30 am Monday 27 November 2000

(n°11-48-042)

### AGENDA

#### PART I - DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

1. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
2. **Chairman's report and communications from the delegations and from the Secretariat. Reports from new Contracting Parties: Azerbaijan, Croatia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Slovenia**
3. **Development of the Convention**
  - 3.1 Strategic development of the Convention and setting-up of priorities, including
    - Select group on strategic development
    - Assessment of the groups of experts
    - Memorandum of co-operation with the European Environment Agency
    - Development of the Convention "at sea"
  - 3.2 Draft programme of activities and budget for the year 2001
  - 3.3 States to be invited as observers to the 21<sup>th</sup> meeting

#### PART II - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION

4. **Monitoring of the implementation of the legal aspects of the Convention**
  - 4.1 Amendments from Moldova to Appendix II (two *Carabus* beetles)
  - 4.2 Biennial reports (1997-1998) concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8.

\* Items for information:

- Seminar on Biological Diversity and Law
- Reports on the implementation of the Convention on some states: Nordic States.

## **PART III – MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS**

### **5. Threatened species and habitats**

#### Fauna and Flora

- 5.1 Invertebrates: Workshop on ecological corridors for invertebrates, group of experts and draft recommendations
- 5.2 Large carnivores: Group of experts and draft recommendations

#### Habitats: setting up of ecological networks of areas of special conservation interest

- 5.3 Development of the Emerald Network: group of experts and pilot projects

\* Items for information:

- T-PVS (2000) 41 Report on the impact of tourism on marine turtles
- T-PVS (99) 10 rev National and international Initiatives for Plant Conservation in Europe

## **PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS**

### **6. Specific sites and populations**

#### 6.1. Files

- *Caretta caretta* in Patara (Turkey)
- Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus)
- *Cricetus cricetus* in the Netherlands

#### 6.2. Possible new files:

- Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
- Exploitation and trade of *Lithophaga lithophaga* in Spain

#### 6.3. On-the-spot appraisals:

- Lake Vistonis and Lafka-Lafrouda Lagoon (Greece)
- *Vipera lebetina schweizeri* in Milos (Greece)

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\* These items are presented only for information. They will not be subject to oral presentations or discussion unless on the request of a Party at the adoption of the agenda.

\* Items for information:

*Caretta caretta* in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos (Greece)

Missolonghi wetlands (Greece)

*Caretta caretta* in Kaminia (Greece)

Conservation of *Oxyura leucocephala* and eradication of *O. jamaicensis* (UK)

*Meles meles* in the United Kingdom

*Cricetus cricetus* in Alsace (France)

*Meles meles* in Ireland

Dorset Heaths (United Kingdom)

**PART V - OTHER ITEMS**

- 7. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**
- 8. Date and place of the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, adoption of the report**
- 9. Other business (items for information only)**

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\* These items are presented only for information. They will not be subject to oral presentations or discussion unless on the request of a Party at the adoption of the agenda.