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**T-PVS (2014) 15**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

34<sup>th</sup> meeting

Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2014  
Palais de l'Europe, Room 5

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**ABRIDGED REPORT  
LIST OF DECISIONS  
AND ADOPTED TEXTS**

*Memorandum of the Secretariat  
established by  
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

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## **PART I – OPENING**

### **1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Chair, Mr Jan Plesnik, opened the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 at 9.30 am. The draft agenda was adopted without amendments.

### **2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DELEGATIONS AND FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

The Committee took note of the information presented by the Chair and the Secretariat on the implementation of the Programme of Activities for 2014, and particularly praised the functioning and achievements of the Convention, and the efforts made to raise its visibility outside the European Continent.

The Committee further thanked Ms Claudia Luciani, Director of the Directorate of Democratic Governance, for her constant and continuous support to the Convention, and for highlighting the added value of the Convention in promoting a more democratic management and governance of Europe's natural resources.

## **PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS**

### **3. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION**

#### **3.1 Biennial reports 2009 – 2010, 2011 – 2012, concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 and quadrennial reports 2009 – 2012**

In conformity with Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, Parties having made exceptions to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 shall present these exceptions in writing. According to a practice adopted by the Standing Committee, Parties may also present general reports on the implementation of the Convention.

The Committee took note of the biennial reports submitted this year, including the latest submissions from four Parties, and requested Parties not having reported to do so as soon as possible. It further took note of the legal opinion prepared by the Council of Europe on the reporting obligations under Article 9 of the Convention, clarifying the current state of regulations. The Committee observed that the regulations does not prevent the EU from submitting the reports on behalf of its member States, or the EU member States from reporting on the Bern Convention using the Habides reporting system or any other reporting tool. However, the reports should comply with the conditions set under Article 9 of the Convention and thus: address all of the substantive issues included under Article 9; be submitted every two years; be supplied in one of the Council of Europe official languages; be sent in a format allowing the Secretariat to make them public.

The Committee also noted that, in order to ensure the compliance of the current regulations with the provisions of Article 9 of the Convention, the legal opinion suggests that an analysis comparing the information requested by the Bern Convention and the reporting requirements under relevant EU instruments is prepared by the EU and submitted to the Secretariat.

Moreover, the Committee took further note of the communication done by the European Union concerning the future launch of a new EU reporting tool designed to allow EU Member States to provide one single and full report that includes all derogations relevant for their reporting obligations to the

European Commission and to the Bern Convention. The reporting tool is now in a testing phase, and a comprehensive assessment of the proper fulfilment of the obligations arising under Article 9 of the Bern Convention will be done and transmitted to the Secretariat once the final version of the tool is available.

In the light of the above, the Committee decided to bracket the paragraph of Revised Resolution No. 2 (1993) on the scope of Articles 8 and 9 of the Bern Convention which states that “*for Contracting Parties that are Member States of the European Union, and the EU itself, the reports submitted under the Habitats and Birds Directives Derogation System (Habides) format is considered to meet the reporting obligations under this resolution, on the condition that these reports are made accessible through the Secretariat*”. The brackets will be removed once the EU will have provided the comparative analysis ensuring that the reports submitted through the Habides+ system do address all substantive issues raised under Article 9 of the Bern Convention.

### **PART III - INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

#### **4. LAUNCH OF THE BERN CONVENTION ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM**

##### **4.1 Presentation of the ORS and reminder of its main features**

The Committee welcomed the setting-up of the Bern Convention Online Reporting System (ORS) as a major concrete step towards streamlining national reporting to biodiversity-related Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and the promotion of synergies at the international level, following the adoption of the system also by the CMS, the AEWa, the CITES, and the Ramsar Convention. The Committee noted that the Bern Convention ORS will be progressively used for all suitable reporting requests under the Convention, i.e. those for which the collection of data on species and habitats is required.

The Committee further welcomed the collaboration between the Secretariat and the UNEP-WCMC, which permitted the setting-up of the new reporting system.

Finally, the Committee took note of the Secretariat’s call for at least ten Contracting Parties to volunteer for testing the ORS for biennial reports in 2015 and invited Parties to positively reply to the request that the Secretariat will send in January.

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

#### **5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS**

The Secretariat reminded that Contracting Parties have the possibility to report to the plenary on specific conservation actions which have not been dealt with by the Groups of Experts.

Switzerland raised a challenging conservation issue related to the spreading of an invasive alien fungal disease causing severe decline in salamander population in the Netherlands. Switzerland considered that the Bern Convention could be the appropriate forum for assessing the results of the extensive research already done on this disease, in view of elaborating a set of recommended actions which would enable the Parties avoiding its further spread.

Based on the proposal of Switzerland, the Standing Committee decided to ask the Group of experts on the conservation of amphibians and reptiles to integrate this issue in the agenda of its next meeting, foreseen in the Convention’s Programme of Activities for 2015.

## **5.1 Invasive Alien Species**

- a. Meeting of the Select Group of Experts on IAS**
- b. Improving communication on Invasive Alien Plants: update on the co-operation with the EPPO**
- c. Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS: monitoring study prepared by the FACE and IAF**
- d. Monitoring of the European Strategy for the eradication of the ruddy duck (Side event)**

The Committee took note of the report of the meeting of Select Group of Experts, and thanked the IUCN and Italian conservation authorities for the hosting of the meeting.

Moreover, the Committee welcomed the intensified cooperation with the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) and took note of the proposals for future co-operation, appreciating the emphasis put on work aimed at improving communication on IAS challenges.

Regarding the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS, the Committee took note with interest of the monitoring study prepared by the FACE and the IAF, and thanked both organisations for their efforts towards the enforcement of the Code of Conduct.

In addition, the Committee welcomed the translation of all the Codes of Conduct so far adopted into Croatian language and warmly thanked the Croatian authorities for this initiative which will contribute to a wider use of these voluntary instruments. It then encouraged other Contracting Parties to follow this example. The Committee also thanked Italian authorities for contributing in-kind to the printing and dissemination of the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS prepared under the Convention, noting their successful presentation at the last IUCN World Park Congress (Sydney, Australia, November 2014).

Furthermore, the Committee welcomed with satisfaction the results produced by the commitment of the Parties involved in the implementation of the European Strategy for the eradication of the ruddy duck in the Western Palearctic and, in particular, it congratulated the United Kingdom for having almost achieved the eradication goal and it encouraged Belgium, France, the Netherlands and other states to continue efforts to meet the targets set by the Strategy. The Committee further thanked the WWT for having compiled and analysed the data sent by relevant Parties and thanked the conservation authorities of the Netherlands for having hosted in Wageningen a meeting to discuss implementation of the European eradication plan. Furthermore, the Committee thanked the Parties and the Secretariat for the organisation of the side event on this topic.

Finally, the Committee welcomed, slightly amended and endorsed the Code of conduct on recreational fishing and IAS, and examined and adopted the following Recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 170 (2014) on the European Code of Conduct on recreational fishing and IAS.

## **5.2 Conservation of Birds – Draft Recommendation**

### **5.2.1 Eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds**

- a. Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Special Focal Points for illegal killing of birds**
- b. Follow-up to the Tunis Action Plan 2013 - 2020 - Draft Recommendation**

The Committee took note of the report and conclusions of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Special Focal Points for illegal killing of birds, and expressed its strong support to the work done by the Bern Convention against illegal killing of birds.

The Committee particularly welcomed the setting-up of the Network of Special Focal Points as a major step towards improving international coordination, information sharing, and specific action in this field. The Committee noted that 24 Contracting Parties have already appointed their special focal point and exhorted those who have not yet done so, to appoint their representative as soon as possible. In this respect, the Committee also acknowledged the efforts done by some Contracting Parties to enhance inter-sector cooperation at national level. The latter is a crucial factor of success taking into account the complexity and interdisciplinary dimension of the policies aimed at eradicating illegal killing of birds, involving both social and cultural components, biological aspects, law enforcement and other legal issues. With the above in mind, the Committee encouraged parties to engage in this work all relevant Ministries, particularly the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Interior or Home Affairs, Justice and Education.

Moreover, the Committee encouraged other relevant stakeholders committed in activities towards eradicating illegal killing of birds to refer to the list of Special Focal Points for cooperation and information sharing needs.

The Committee further expressed its gratitude to the INTERPOL, the AEWA and BirdLife International for contributing to the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020, as well as to the Contracting Parties to the CMS for the recent adoption of Resolution 11.15 on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds and its Guidelines, and of Resolution 11.16 on the prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds. The Committee emphasised on the latter as being particularly relevant since it sets-up an intergovernmental Task Force to address illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean, as a clear contribution to the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020. However, the Committee called for close cooperation and coordination between the Bern Convention and the CMS, so to avoid duplication of efforts and implement the Tunis Action Plan in the most efficient manner.

Finally, the Committee welcomed the Methodology document for the setting up of national policing and investigation priorities, as a useful practical tool for guiding Parties' work in the process of prioritisation of actions. Therefore the Committee examined and adopted without amendments the following recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 171 (2014) on the setting-up of national policing/investigation priorities to tackle illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, and its Annex,

and exhorted Parties to step-up progress towards the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020, including by considering the possibility of identifying national targets to be used to measure success in their work.

## **5.2.2 Conservation of threatened birds: Draft Action Plan**

### **a. Draft Action Plan for the recovery and reintroduction of the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)**

The Committee took note with interest of the preliminary draft European Action Plan for the recovery and reintroduction of the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), whose preparation was agreed last year with the view of providing Parties with a dedicated tool for improving the conservation status of this important flagship species.

The Committee gave guidance to the consultant on the continuation of his work, and requested that the final draft identifies specific actions to be implemented at both regional (transfrontier) and national level.

The Committee instructed the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds to provide inputs to the current draft document and examine the second draft action plan at its next meeting, in view of forwarding the final version, for examination and possible endorsement, to the 35<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting.

### **5.3 Conservation of other threatened Species – Draft Recommendation**

- a. Caucasian Cat Summit**
- b. Workshop on the conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus**
- c. Marine Turtle conservation training**

The Committee took note of the information presented.

- d. Dealing with wolf-dog hybrids: draft Recommendation**

The Committee took note of the analysis prepared to provide advice to Contracting Parties in respect of hybridisation, in particular between wild wolves (*Canis lupus*) and domestic dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) and thanked the Large Carnivores Initiative for Europe (LCIE) for bringing this matter to its attention.

The Committee set up a contact group to take in due account the proposals of a number of Parties and reach a consensus on the text.

Finally, the Committee examined, amended and adopted the following recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 173 (2014) on hybridisation between wild grey wolves (*Canis lupus*) and domestic dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*).

### **5.4 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Group of Experts on Climate Change and biodiversity**

The Committee welcomed the report of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change and noted with satisfaction that, in its eight years of existence, the Group has addressed all the issues foreseen in its programme of work. However, the Committee also noted the constant decrease in attendance of Parties in the past years and thus praised the initiative of both the Secretariat and the members of the Group of holding a frank discussion on the Group's future and added value. The participants at last meeting of the Group emphasised on the comprehensive set of guidance elaborated in the field of climate change under the Convention, as well as on the still relevant need of addressing climate change with a biodiversity conservation perspective, something which – at the moment – is still a specific characteristic of the Bern Convention's Group of Experts.

With the above in mind, the Committee held a discussion on the Parties' expectations from the Group of Experts, with a focus on Parties' needs in terms of support, assistance, and guidance on biodiversity and climate change related issues. The monitoring of implementation seemed to be very relevant, so as the work aimed at identifying successful and replicable experiences, as well as the main persistent challenges. Future work should also concentrate on exchange and promotion of best practice, and on improving communication on the challenges posed by climate change.

In conclusion, the Committee confirmed its commitment and support to the future work of the Group of Experts and agreed to organise a one day meeting in 2015 of a restricted working group made-up of volunteering Parties, entrusted with the task of preparing a new work-plan for the future work of the Group of Experts. The renewed Group of Experts would then hold a meeting in 2016, after the UNFCCC CoP 21.

The Committee took further note of the readiness of Iceland, Italy, Norway, the Slovak Republic and Switzerland to volunteer for participating in the working group which will prepare a new draft work-plan to be submitted to the Standing Committee at its 35<sup>th</sup> meeting, and encouraged other contracting parties to join the working group.

## 5.4 Habitats

### 5.5.1 Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

- a. **Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks and future work plan**
- b. **Draft revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996) listing endangered natural habitats and draft Recommendation interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) listing the species requiring habitat conservation measures**

The Committee took note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks and expressed satisfaction for the steady progress in this field, particularly regarding the setting-up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.

The Committee took further note of the 203 areas proposed as Candidate Emerald sites by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the Russian Federation (the latter being sponsored by Belarus) and agreed to their official nomination.

Moreover, the Committee examined the proposal for a revision of Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996) listing endangered natural habitats requiring specific conservation measures, following both the process of harmonisation of the tools and methodologies used under the Emerald and Natura 2000 frameworks and the proposal of two additional habitats submitted by Switzerland.

Therefore the Committee adopted the Revised Annex I to Resolution No. 4 (1996) listing endangered natural habitats requiring specific conservation measures.

Furthermore, the Committee welcomed the proposal of the Group of Experts providing a clarified interpretation of certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998), and amended and adopted the following recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 172 (2014) interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) listing species requiring specific habitat conservation measures.

Finally, the Committee acknowledged the crucial technical and scientific support offered by the European Environment Agency and its European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity, in particular in relation to the release of the new Emerald Network Software, and expressed its deepest gratitude for this work.

### 5.5.2. European Diploma for Protected Areas

- a. **Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas and adopted Resolutions**
- b. **Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: progress report**

The Committee took note of the report of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas, and congratulated the managers of the areas for their efforts in addressing the conditions and recommendations attached to this important recognition and monitoring tool.

The Committee further welcomed the progress in the preparation of the forthcoming celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Diploma, as an important opportunity for the re-launch of the award, and for reaffirming its intrinsic dynamic value as testified by its adaptation to the current framework for the conservation of the biological, geological, landscape and cultural diversity at the international, national and local levels.

In this respect, the Committee encouraged Parties to contribute to this event, and expressed its gratitude to Belgium and Italy for offering the hosting of the two major celebratory event.



Moreover, the Committee took note of the resolution adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers awarding the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Desertas Nature Reserve, and congratulated Portuguese authorities for this achievement.

The Committee welcomed the positive analysis made by the Group of Specialist on the European Diploma for Protected Areas and the Bureau of the Standing Committee confirming the exceptional European interest of the Karadag Nature Reserve (Ukraine) in respect of its candidature for the award of the Diploma.

Finally, the Committee took note of the revised regulations of the European Diploma for Protected Areas and, namely, of the new Model plan for annual reports to be submitted by the responsible authorities of the areas having received the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

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

### **6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS**

#### **6.1 Preliminary considerations: pending complaints denouncing exclusively the possible impact of European badger's culling policies**

The Committee took note with regrets of the continuous workload generated by the constant increase of complaints submitted on badgers by citizens and NGOs. The Committee stressed once more that the badger is a common species whose conservation status is globally not worrying. The badger is listed in Appendix III and thus it can be legitimately subject to exploitation in a particular state, on the condition that the species is not threatened on its territory. Moreover, most of the complaints submitted under the case-file system evoke animal welfare concerns which, generally, fall out of the scope of the Bern Convention. Therefore the Committee appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat to clarify, without prejudice to the binding text of the Convention, the conditions under which complaints related to Appendix III species can be declared admissible, and invited possible complainants to carefully read the Guidance on the Admissibility of Complaints before submitting their case. Finally, the Committee called on relevant Contracting Parties for cooperation, particularly regarding the timely submission of information regarding the population levels as the latter can help speeding-up the pre-screening phase of the complaint.

#### **6.2 Files opened**

##### **➤ 2004/1 - Ukraine: Building of a navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary (Danube delta)**

This case concerns the excavation of a shipping canal in Bystroe estuary of the Danube delta in Ukraine, which is likely to affect adversely both the Ukrainian Danube Biosphere Reserve – the most important of Ukraine's wetlands – and the whole Danube delta dynamics.

The Committee took note of the oral reports of Ukraine and Romania, as well as of their proposals on how to handle the case file.

The Committee also considered the opinion of the Bureau, which advised to keep the case-file open for one more year, in order to be able to gather objective and specific information on the situation, also in view of the preparation of a possible new draft Recommendation.

The Committee agreed that the dynamic of cooperation recently initiated under the Trilateral Commission is a positive step forward and has to be encouraged. However, the Committee has to decide on compliance of Parties with the Convention and, for this purpose, it needs focussed feedback. For this

case-file to be solved, the Committee must be able to receive and assess tangible results of the cooperation between the Parties, including proposals of possible solutions.

Therefore the Committee decided to keep the case-file open for one more year, and to request to the Trilateral Commission to organise a meeting in the first half of 2015. The Trilateral Commission should address the issues at stake in the Bystroe estuary case file, and forward a report to the Bureau for assessment at its meeting in September 2015. The Bureau will then take a position on the case-file and prepare a proposal.

➤ **1995/6 - Cyprus: Akamas Peninsula**

This case concerns plans for the tourist development in the Peninsula of Akamas (Cyprus) with detrimental effect on an ecologically valuable area with many rare plant and animal species protected under the Bern Convention. It was first discussed at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee in 1996. Two on-the-spot appraisals were carried out in 1997 and 2002 and a recommendation adopted in 1997.

The Committee took note of the information provided in writing by the authorities of Cyprus, as well as of the report presented by Terra Cypria on the persistent threats affecting sea turtle nesting beaches in the whole Akamas Peninsula and Limni beach.

The Committee stressed again that Akamas is a hotspot for biodiversity conservation, and an area very vulnerable to the threats posed by excessive or uncontrolled tourist developments. It therefore decided to keep the case-file open, also in light of the assessment of the infringement procedure on-going at the EU level, and asked the authorities of Cyprus to report back to the Bureau and the Standing Committee on any relevant development, as well as on the implementation of the Standing Committee Recommendation.

➤ **2004/2 - Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra – Via Pontica**

This case was first lodged to question the building of wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra, on the Black Sea coast, but it has since been extended to include issues related to the exponential rise in wind farms' developments in Bulgaria.

The Committee took note of the information provided by the authorities of Bulgaria and asked them to be much more reactive to the reporting requests of the Secretariat since the timely analysis of the national reports can help the Committee taking decisions and putting forward the necessary recommendations in a more efficient way.

The Committee decided to keep the case-file open and to ask to Bulgarian authorities to provide the Bureau with a comprehensive report, including a detailed description of the actions taken in order to comply with the Recommendation of the Standing Committee, also in light of the most recent administrative and legal provisions in force at both national and international level. Moreover, the Committee encouraged Bulgaria to prepare and communicate to the Standing Committee an Action Plan detailing the measures envisaged for ensuring the expedite and effective implementation of Recommendation No. 130 (2007), including a timetable to be delivered for the Bureau meeting in April 2015.

Finally, the Committee strongly invited Bulgaria to reconsider its position regarding the IRP mission proposed under the AEWA as it can contribute to a better assessment of the current challenges and needs.

➤ **2007/1 - Italy: Eradication and trade of the American grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)**

This case concerns the presence of the American grey squirrel in Italy, as a serious threat for the survival of the protected native red squirrel, and the related potential to turn the invasion of this species into a continental problem.

The Committee recognised the important efforts of Italian authorities towards the eradication of the species, and regretted the obstacles presented by animal welfare organisations. The Committee encouraged Italy to continue working on raising awareness on the threats posed by Invasive Alien Species to Europe's native natural heritage and, noting that the LIFE project EC-SQUARE is still ongoing, the Committee decided to keep this case file open, and to invite Italian authorities to report back to the Standing Committee at its next meeting.

➤ **2012/9 - Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey)**

This complaint concerns the severe threats posed to marine turtles by the lack of adequate management of Fethiye and Patara nesting beaches.

The Standing Committee took note of the information presented orally by the representative of Turkey and emphasised again on the need for a positive response to the reporting requests of the Bureau and the Secretariat. The Committee took further note of the report presented by the complainant, showing that the management of the beaches is still inadequate, and informing about new construction and about further construction projects already planned.

At the proposal of the Chair, and following the agreement of the concerned Party, the Standing Committee decided to keep this case-file open and to conduct an on-the-spot appraisal to the relevant sites in view of identifying a set of recommended actions to be submitted for consideration of the Committee at its next meeting.

### **6.3 Possible files**

➤ **2011/4 - Turkey: threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*)**

This complaint, lodged in 2012, was brought by the Bureau to the attention of the Committee as a possible file because of the importance of the Mediterranean monk seal and the serious threats that the species is facing in the area object of the complaint, as a result of construction works affecting the Balikli cave, providing the only suitable habitat for whelping in the area.

The Committee took note of the encouraging information provided by the delegate of Turkey regarding the finalisation of an Action Plan targeting the monk seal in Mersin area, to be implemented in the next five years. Still, the Committee strongly regretted that, as shown by the complainant, marine infrastructures have been built in the vicinity of a fundamental reproduction and breeding zone, despite these having an obvious impact on the species.

The Committee emphasised on the grave situation of the Mediterranean monk seal, in Turkey as well as in the whole East Mediterranean, and decided to keep this complaint as a possible file, requesting a timely and complete report from the national authorities to the Bureau's attention. In particular, the Bureau should receive information on the content of the recently adopted Action Plan, on its implementation, on any other measures undertaken for the conservation of the Mediterranean Monk Seal, as well as the conclusions of the pending Court case which should be delivered soon.

Finally, the Committee mandated the Bureau, in close cooperation with the Barcelona Convention, to analyse the situation of the monk seal in the East Mediterranean in light of the information received, and to prepare proposals and recommendations for the next Standing Committee.

➤ **2012/3 - Possible spread of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in Poland**

This complaint was submitted in May 2012 to denounce the non-inclusion of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in the national list of non-native plants and animals that might endanger native species and habitats.

The Committee took note of the position of Poland, informing that the American mink has not been included in the national list of non-native species following the recent measures undertaken to secure

native species and to improve provisions on American mink farms in respect to EIA procedures. Moreover, Poland is awaiting the possible inclusion of the American mink in the list of Invasive Alien Species of EU concern. The Committee took also note of the information provided by the representative of the European Union, announcing the finalisation of the first list of IAS of EU concern by the end of next year.

In the light of the above the Committee decided to keep this complaint as a Possible File and to encourage further reporting by Poland in case of other developments. Finally, the Committee requested to be informed about the delivery of the list of IAS of EU concern at its next meeting.

➤ **2013/1: Hydropower development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)**

This complaint was submitted in March 2013 to denounce a possible breach of the Convention by “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” with regards to the development of two hydro-power projects within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park, a candidate Emerald site since 2011.

The Committee took note of the latest updates presented by the delegate of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and the complainant. The Committee noted the importance of the area as key biodiversity hotspot, its status of National Park, and the concerns expressed by a number of international organisations and delegates over the negative impact of hydropower developments on the biodiversity of the area. The Committee further noted the pending adoption of a Management Plan for the Park, the pending lawsuit on the Environmental Impact Assessment for one of the hydro power plant's projects as well as the expected finalisation of the assessment for the second one.

The Committee decided to open a case file and instructed the Secretariat to seek the agreement of the Party for the organisation of an on-the-spot appraisal to the area in 2015, with the objective of collecting more information and data for the preparation of a draft recommendation to be submitted to the Standing Committee next year.

➤ **2013/5: Presumed impact of the construction of an Overhead Power Line in an environmentally sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish border**

This complaint concerns a possible breach of the Convention by Lithuania with regards to permissions issued for the construction of a 400 kV, 1000 MW Overhead Power Line (OHL) in an environmentally sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish borderland which offers habitats for many species protected under the Convention. More recently, the complainant requested that Poland is associated to the complaint, having regard to the fast developments for a similar infrastructure in the country.

The Committee took note of the report presented by the authorities of Lithuania, as well as of the information provided by the complainant. Moreover, the Committee thanked Poland for having prepared a comprehensive report even though the latter had not been requested.

The Committee carefully analysed the issues at stake in Lithuania and took due note of the comments and questions of a number of Parties. The Committee acknowledged the strategic importance of the project for the security of the country, and took note of the fact that the construction of the project has already started. In this respect, the Committee recalled the importance of robust, comprehensive, and scientifically sound EIAs prior to any development of infrastructures, to ensure that these are built in sustainable conservation perspective.

The Committee also invited Parties to always look at alternative solutions which, even when more expensive, may be better able to preserve Europe's natural heritage.

In this specific case, the Committee decided not to associate Poland to the complaint, and acknowledged the satisfaction of the representative of EUROBATS for the consideration given by the authorities to the specific needs of bats when planning the development project.

Concerning Lithuania and considering the current state of development of the project, the Committee decided to keep the complaint as a possible file and, with the agreement of the authorities, to initiate a mediation procedure, in accordance with the Rules applicable to mediation adopted by the Standing Committee at its 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The Committee recalled that the purpose of mediation is to facilitate dialogue between the authorities and a complainant or interest groups concerning matters under the scope of the Convention, in view of fostering dialogue, facilitating discussions, identifying and clarifying conservation issues, and propose possible solutions that would satisfy the different parties. The mediator will be identified by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Bureau, and will be called to submit a report to the Standing Committee at its next meeting.

➤ **2013/8: Abusive eradication of European badgers (*Meles meles*) in France, in presumed violation of Appendix IV**

This complaint was submitted in October 2013 to denounce a possible breach of the Convention by France with regards to the use by France of some of the prohibited means of capture and killing specified in Appendix IV in the implementation of the control policies for the European badger populations.

The Standing Committee took note of the reports presented by the representative of France and by the complainant. It noted that, under certain conditions, France authorises the use of snares and of artificial light sources in the implementation of its badgers' control policies. The Committee recalled that the Convention allows Parties to make exceptions to its provisions, under the reasons, conditions and modalities enumerated in Article 9, provided that the Party reports every two years on the use made of these exceptions.

The Committee also noted that France has not reported on exceptions made to the provisions of the Convention since 2007. Therefore the Committee decided to forward the complaint to the Bureau as a complaint on stand-by, and requested France to submit its biennial reports to the Bureau on time for its second meeting in September 2015.

## **6.4 On the spot appraisal**

➤ **2010/5 - Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kyparissias**

This complaint was lodged in August 2010 to denounce uncontrolled development on a NATURA 2000 site (THINES KYPARISSIAS - GR2550005) affecting the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*).

The Committee took note of the report of the on-the-spot appraisal, and thanked Dr Paolo Casale for his work.

The Committee further considered the comments provided by the delegate of Greece, as well as the presentation and information update of the complainant. In the light of the above, the Committee examined, amended and adopted the following recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 174 (2014) on the conservation of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and of sand dunes and other coastal habitats in Southern Kyparissia Bay (Peloponnesos, Greece).

## **6.5 Follow-up of previous Recommendations**

*NB Unless otherwise specified this agenda item is for information only.*

➤ **Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach (Turkey)**

This recommendation was adopted in 2002 and originated from a complaint lodged in 2000 and an on-the-spot appraisal carried out in 2002. The recommendation addresses a series of actions which Turkey is invited to implement in order to grant the long-term conservation of the beach's quality for green turtles' nesting.

The Committee took note of the report presented by the delegate of Turkey and of the presentation and information presented representative of the NGO. It welcomed the positive although still slow developments communicated by Turkey for addressing some of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee. Yet, the Committee stressed once more that the lack of timely and written reports by national authorities make it difficult for the Standing Committee to fulfil its advisory role.

The Committee invited Turkey to continue its efforts, in particular for urgently addressing the issues of pollution and erosion, and encouraged the competent authorities to request the additional support of other conventions with a specific competence, as for instance the Barcelona Convention, on possible solutions for addressing the issues at stake.

The Committee asked Turkey to report back to the Bureau and gave mandate to the latter for assessing the situation in view of the next Standing Committee meeting. The possibility of a future on-the-spot appraisal could also be discussed.

➤ **Recommendation No. 144 (2009) on the wind park in Smøla (Norway) and other wind farm developments in Norway**

This Recommendation originated from a complaint lodged in 2001 concerning the establishment of two wind farms complexes in the Archipelago of Smøla, Norway in an area of importance for the nesting of White-tailed Sea Eagles and other species. At its 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Standing Committee decided not to open a file and adopted Recommendation No. 144 (2009) on the wind park in Smøla (Norway) instead, with the aim of monitoring its implementation every two years.

The Committee took note of the report of the Norwegian authorities and regretted to note that the NGO hasn't had enough resources to prepare its own assessment of the situation. The Committee noted the efforts made by the authorities through the extensive research activity going on. However, the Committee decided to continue to monitor the implementation of this Recommendation so to give time to the NGO for preparing a position on the matter and, at the same time, encourage continuation of the scientific research in view of identifying measures to prevent further bird collision.

Norway is thus invited to submit a report to the 36<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting.

➤ **Recommendation No. 96 (2002) on conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, especially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland**

This Recommendation was adopted by the Standing Committee in 2002, as a follow-up to a complaint lodged by BirdLife. The monitoring of the implementation by Iceland of this recommendation was decided, with the agreement of the country, by the Standing Committee at its last meeting.

The Committee took note of the report of the authorities of Iceland, as well as of the statements made by BirdLife International and the representative of the AEWA. The Committee congratulated Iceland for accepting to undergo an AEWA Implementation Review Process (IRP), and confirmed the readiness of the Bern Convention for joining and contributing to the IRP visit. Finally, the Committee instructed the Secretariat to report on the findings of the visit to Iceland at the next Standing Committee meeting and, if the visit will not be carried out next year, it invited Iceland to report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of the above recommendation at its 36<sup>th</sup> meeting.

➤ **Recommendation No. 110 (2004) on minimising adverse effects of above-ground electricity transmission facilities (power lines) on birds**

At its 31<sup>st</sup> meeting the Standing Committee carried out the monitoring of the above mentioned Recommendation in connection with the "Budapest Declaration on bird protection and power lines" which encourages countries, the NGOs and business, to work towards eliminating the risk for birds from power lines. On that occasion, the Committee adopted a temporary system of biennial reporting, with a first reporting due in 2014.

The Committee reaffirmed its support to the temporary system of biennial reporting and acknowledged the progress made by some Parties towards enforcing the recommended actions, in particular to improve technical standards and adopt mitigation measures.

However, the Committee noted that medium current power lines still cause very serious problem for many bird species, especially when they affects already threatened species for which an additional risk factor may prove fatal.

Therefore the Committee decided to re-conduct the system of biennial reporting, and to ask Parties to report to the Group of Experts on the conservation of birds, which will inform the Standing Committee of the outcomes of this analysis at its 36th meeting in 2016.

Moreover, the Committee took note of the statement of the representative of the AEWAs, recalling the comprehensive set of guidelines adopted by the CMS CoP 10, the AEWAs MOP 5 and the CMS Raptors MoU MoS 1 in 2011 and 2012, as well as the outcomes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the CMS (4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014, Quito, Ecuador), in particular the resolution on Renewable energy and migratory species and the Terms of Reference for the setting-up of a Multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (Energy Task Force). The Committee encouraged Parties to make the best use of the available knowledge, including the EU guidance which is in preparation, and invited the Secretariat to ensure the necessary coordination with the Energy Task Force.

➤ **Recommendation No. 25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper**

The monitoring of the implementation of this Recommendation was agreed by the Bureau following the request of the group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks.

The Committee acknowledged the importance of monitoring measures implemented by Parties on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas and - taking into account that many of them continue to send reports, - mandated the Secretariat to send a new reporting request in 2015 in view of preparing an analysis of Parties' replies, to be examined by the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks in 2015.

## **PART VI – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION**

### **7. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION**

#### **7.1 International coordination with other MEAs and organisations**

The Committee took note of the report on the many coordination activities carried out by the Secretariat to improve synergies with other MEAs and organisations, and welcomed the supporting statements of the UNEP/AEWA and the UNEP/EUROBATS. The Committee expressed satisfaction for the evident progress made on international coordination, and the positive effects on the relevance and visibility of the Convention. The Committee encouraged the Secretariat to pursue this way and thanked all MEAs and organisations which contributed to improving international coordination on biodiversity related issues.

## **7.2 Implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan for biodiversity: the contribution of the Bern Convention**

The Committee warmly thanked Prof. Paul Leadley for the presentation of the outcomes of the mid-term assessment of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, released in the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

The Committee noted that, while it is still possible to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets by the end of the decade, target 17 is the only one on track to be met while slow and insufficient progress has been made on all the other targets.

The Committee called for substantially greater efforts by Parties so to accelerate the targets' implementation. In this respect, the Committee stressed that the Bern Convention shares common objectives with the CBD, and it is coherent with many of the aims and objectives of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Targets.

Therefore the Committee welcomed the close cooperation and coordination between the two Conventions, and encouraged Parties to refer to document T-PVS/Inf (2014) 25 which provides an overview of the contribution already given by the Bern Convention to the global CBD targets and to share it with relevant interlocutors at national level.

## **7.3 Programme of Activities for 2015**

The Committee examined its programme of activities for 2015 and thanked the Belgian Presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland, and SEO BirdLife (Spain) for offering to host Bern Convention's meetings and events next year.

The Committee examined and adopted the activities and budget for 2015 (see appendix 1 to the present document).

## **7.4 States to be invited as observers to the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The Committee decided unanimously to invite the following States to attend its 35<sup>th</sup> meeting: the Russian Federation, San Marino, Algeria, Holy See, Jordan.

# **PART VII- OTHER ITEMS**

## **8. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

In accordance with Article 18(e) of the Rules of Procedure "*The Chair, Vice-Chair and two additional Bureau members shall be elected at the end of each meeting. They shall execute their respective terms of office from their election onwards until the end of the meeting following the meeting where they were elected. Their terms of office may be renewed, but the total length of term of office shall not exceed four years or, as appropriate, the end of the first meeting following the expiry of this period of four years*".

The Committee elected Mr Øystein Størkersen (Norway) as Chair.

The Committee elected Ms Jana Durkošová (Slovak Republic) as Vice-Chair.

The Committee further elected Ms Hasmik Ghalachyan (Armenia) and Mr Felix Zaharia (Romania) as Bureau members.

According to Rule 19 of the Standing Committee's Rules of procedure, the Committee acknowledged the automatic election of the previous Chair, Mr Jan Plesník (Czech Republic), as a Bureau member.



## **9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 35<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

The Committee agreed to hold its next meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015, in Strasbourg.

## **10. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**

The Committee adopted document T-PVS (2014) Misc.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The delegate of Norway emphasised the importance of ensuring the necessary outreach to the work of the Standing Committee, and suggested to communicate the main decisions of the meeting to the media, with particular focus on the decision taken in the Thynes Kyparissias case, as the latter illustrates very well the practical solutions that may be devised thanks the Bern Convention.

The representative of MEDASSET recalled that, in 2013, the Bureau agreed to request the cooperation of the United Kingdom for the organisation of a mediation meeting in relation to the sea turtle mortality issue in the UK Sovereign Bases in Cyprus, in Episkopi Bay. MEDASSET noted the lack of reply and asked the Committee to consider instructing the Secretariat to re-contact the United Kingdom.

With the support of the Chair, the Committee instructed the Secretariat to reiterate its request and invited the authorities of the United Kingdom to provide a reply as soon as possible.

## AGENDA

### PART I – OPENING

#### 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2014) 1 - Draft agenda  
T-PVS (2014) 13 - Annotated draft agenda

#### 2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DELEGATIONS AND FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2014) 2 and 12 - Reports of the Bureau meetings in April and September 2014  
T-PVS (2013) 15 – Report of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee meeting

### PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS

#### 3. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION

##### 3.1 Biennial reports 2009 – 2010, 2011 – 2012 concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 [and quadrennial reports 2009 – 2012]

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2014) 20 – Biennial Reports 2009-2010  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 21 – Biennial Reports 2011-2012  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 6 – Summary tables of reporting under the Bern Convention  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 5 – Note on derogation reporting arrangements between the EU and its Member States  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 23 – Legal opinion on the obligations arising from Article 9

### PART III - INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

#### 5. LAUNCH OF THE BERN CONVENTION ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

##### 4.1 Presentation of the ORS and reminder of its main features

Relevant document: Quick guide for the Online Reporting System

### PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

#### 5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

Documents for information only:

- T-PVS/Inf (2014) 6 - Summary tables of Reporting under the Bern Convention
- T-PVS (2014) 10 – List of National Focal Points for Illegal killing of birds
- TPVS/Inf (2014) 9 - Replies of Parties to the Questionnaire for the identification of criteria for establishing national policing/investigation priorities, and gravity factors

- T-PVS (2013) 4 - Recommendation No. 164 (2013) on the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds
- T-PVS/Inf (2014) 13 – Compilation of National Reports on Biodiversity and Climate Change
- T-PVS/PA (2014) 5 - First interim report on the implementation of the Joint EU/CoE Programme Emerald Network of Nature Protection Sites, Phase II

## 5.1 Invasive Alien Species

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2014) 3 – Report of the meeting of the Select Group on IAS  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 17 – Report on implementation of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS by FACE and IAF  
TPVS/Inf (2014) 18 – European Code of Conduct on recreational fishing and IAS  
TPVS (2014) 11 - Draft Recommendation on the European Code of conduct on recreational fishing and IAS  
TPVS/Inf (2014) 26 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on the eradication of the ruddy duck

- a. **Meeting of the Select Group of Experts on IAS**
- b. **Improving communication on Invasive Alien Plants: update on the co-operation with the EPPO**
- c. **Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS: monitoring study prepared by the FACE and IAF**
- d. **Monitoring of the European Strategy for the eradication of the ruddy duck (Side event)**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2014) 26 – Report of the meeting on Ruddy Duck

## 5.2 Conservation of Birds – Draft Recommendation

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2014) 3 – Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Special Focal Points for illegal killing of birds (Strasbourg, 19 May 2014)  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 19 – Methodology document to identify black spots of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds  
T-PVS/Inf (23014) 8 – Methodology document to identify national policing/investigation priorities  
T-PVS (2014) 14 – Draft Recommendation on the Criteria for establishing national policing/investigation priorities  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 24 – Draft European Action Plan for the recovery and reintroduction of the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

### 5.2.1. Eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds

- a. **Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Special Focal Points for illegal killing of birds.**
- b. **Follow-up to the Tunis Action Plan 2013 - 2020 - Draft Recommendation**

### 5.2.2 Conservation of threatened birds: Draft Action Plan

- a. **Draft Action Plan for the recovery and reintroduction of the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)**

## 5.3 Conservation of other threatened Species – Draft Recommendation

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2014) 15 – Analysis and proposal for dealing with wolf-dog hybrids  
T-PVS (2014) 9 – Draft Recommendation on dealing with hybridisation between wild wolves and domestic dog  
T-PVS/Inf (2015) 13 – Report of the meeting on Leopard in the Caucasus

- a. **Caucasian Cat Summit**
- b. **Workshop on the conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus**
- c. **Marine Turtle conservation training**
- d. **Dealing with wolf-dog hybrids: draft Recommendation**

## **5.4 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Group of Experts on Climate Change and biodiversity**

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2014) 4 – Meeting report  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 12 – Summary overview of the work carried out by the Group of Experts

## **5.5 Habitats**

### **5.5.1 Protected Areas and Ecological Networks**

Relevant Documents: T-PVS/PA (2014) 14 – Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks  
T-PVS/PA (2014) 10 – Draft list of proposed Emerald sites to be nominated as Candidate Emerald Sites  
T-PVS/PA (2014) 12 – Draft revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996) of the Standing Committee  
T-PVS (2014) 07 – Draft Recommendation interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998)

- c. Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks and future work plan**
- d. Draft revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996) listing endangered natural habitats and draft Recommendation interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) listing the species requiring habitat conservation measures**

### **5.5.2. European Diploma for Protected Areas**

- a. Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas and adopted Resolutions**
- b. Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: progress report**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/DE (2014) 11 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on European Diploma for Protected Areas  
T-PVS/DE (2014) 12 – Adopted Resolutions concerning the European Diploma for Protected Areas in 2014

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

## **6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS**

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2014) 8 – Summary of case files and complaints  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 2 – Register of Bern Convention's case-files

### **6.1 Preliminary considerations: pending complaints denouncing exclusively the possible impact of European badger's culling policies**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2014) 38 – Admissibility of complaints related to species listed in Appendix III, the badger as a model

### **6.2 Files opened**

- **2004/1 - Ukraine: Proposed navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary (Danube delta)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 1 – Government report, Ukraine  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 2 – Government report, Romania  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 53 – Government report, Moldova

➤ **1995/6 - Cyprus: Akamas peninsula**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 23 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 27 – NGO report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 31 – EU report

➤ **2004/2 - Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 54 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 40 – NGO report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 31 – EU report

➤ **2007/1 - Italy: Eradication and trade of the American grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2014) 44 – Government report

➤ **2012/9 - Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 25 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 16 – NGO report

### 6.3 Possible files

➤ **2011/4 - Turkey: threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 28 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 24 – NGO report

➤ **2012/3 - Possible spread of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in Poland**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2014) 39 – Government Report

➤ **2013/1: Hydropower development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 22 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 18 – Complainant report

➤ **2013/5: Presumed impact of the construction of an Overhead Power Line in an environmentally sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish border**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 10 – Government report by Lithuania+ Annex 1, Annex 2, Annex 3, Annex 4  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 59 – Government report by Poland  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 7 + Annex (OHL in Poland) – Complainant report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 31 – EU report

➤ **2013/8: Abusive eradication of European badgers (*Meles meles*) in France, in presumed violation of Appendix IV**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 45 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 19 – Complainant report

### 6.4 On the spot appraisal

➤ **2010/5 - Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kyparissias**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 49 – Report of the on-the-spot appraisal  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 49 addendum – Comments by the Greek authorities to the expert’s report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 48 – Complainant report (MEDASSET)  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 48 addendum – Comments by the NGOs to the draft Presidential Decree on the designation of marine and terrestrial areas of some natura 2000 sites  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 51 – NGO report (ARCHELON)  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 31 – EU report  
T-PVS (2014) 6 – Draft recommendation

## **6.5 Follow-up of previous Recommendations**

### **➤ Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach (Turkey)**

Relevant documents T-PVS/Files (2014) 57 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 58 – NGO report

### **➤ Recommendation No. 144 (2009) on the wind park in Smøla (Norway) and other wind farm developments in Norway**

Relevant documents T-PVS/Files (2014) 52 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 55 – NGO report

### **➤ Recommendation No. 96 (2002) on conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, especially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland**

Relevant documents T-PVS/Files (2014) 50 - Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 56 – NGO report

### **➤ Recommendation No. 110 (2004) on minimising adverse effects of above-ground electricity transmission facilities (power lines) on birds**

Relevant document T-PVS/Files (2014) 43 – Compilation of Governments' reports

### **➤ Recommendation No. 25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2014) 34 – Compilation of Governments' reports

## **PART VI – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION**

### **7. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION**

#### **7.1 International coordination with other MEAs and organisations**

#### **7.2 Implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan for biodiversity: the contribution of the Bern Convention**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2014) 25 – The contribution of the Bern Convention to the CBD Strategic Plan for biodiversity

#### **7.3 Draft Programme of Activities for 2015**

Relevant document: T-PVS (2014) 5 – Draft Programme of Activities for 2015

#### **7.4 States to be invited as observers to the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting**

## **PART VII - OTHER ITEMS**

### **8. ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND BUREAU MEMBERS**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 6 – Rules of Procedure: Standing Committee, on-the-spot enquiries, mediation

### **9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 35<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

### **10. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**

### **11. OTHER BUSINESS (ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

**Recommendation No. 170 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014,  
on the European Code of Conduct on Recreational Fishing and Invasive Alien Species**

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aim of the Convention which is notably to ensure the conservation of wild flora and fauna, by giving particular attention to species, including migratory species, which are threatened with extinction and vulnerable;

Recalling that under Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 41 (1993) on the conservation of freshwater fish;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 99 (2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 150 (2010) on the European Charter on recreational fishing and Biodiversity;

Recalling Decision VI/23 of the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, and the definitions used in that text;

Recalling that the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 headline Aichi targets for 2020, in particular Target 9 devoted to invasive alien species (IAS): “By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment”;

Welcoming the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, endorsed by the Council of the European Union in June 2011, and in particular its Target 5, calling on Member States to combat IAS so that by 2020 IAS and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new IAS;

Welcoming the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species;

Noting the need to co-operate with all the actors involved in recreational fishing activities in the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of IAS into the territory of the Convention;

Referring to the European Code of conduct on recreational fishing and invasive alien species [document T-PVS/Inf (2014) 18],

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. Take the European Code of Conduct mentioned above into account while drawing up other relevant codes - or where appropriate - draw up national codes of conduct on recreational fishing and IAS,
2. Collaborate as appropriate with the actors involved in recreational fishing activities in implementing and helping disseminate good practices and codes of conduct aimed at preventing and managing of introduction, release and spread of invasive alien species,
3. Keep the Standing Committee informed of measures taken to implement this recommendation;

Invites Observer States to take note of this recommendation and implement it as appropriate.

**Appendix I to Recommendation No. 170 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014, on the European Code of Conduct on Recreational Fishing and Invasive Alien Species**

## **EUROPEAN CODE OF CONDUCT ON RECREATIONAL FISHING AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**

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## PRESENTATION

The Council of Europe has been particularly active in the last 20 years in the field of invasive alien species, one of the main world threats to native biological diversity. The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) created in 1993 a Group of Experts devoted to the analysis of the impacts of invasive alien species on European biodiversity. The Group was asked to propose measures that governments may take to avoid new introductions and control the spread of invasive alien species. These are complex tasks that cannot be just trusted to a few experts, but that need the collaboration of the many different actors dealing on a daily base with organisms or living material, be it in the horticultural industry, in the pet trade, recreational fishing or in institutions, such as botanical gardens, zoos or aquaria which hold collections of non-native animals or plants.

The Council of Europe is preparing, for their attention, a number of “codes of conduct” aimed at making those industries and institutions more aware of the risks for native biodiversity of the non-native species they handle or encounter. Recreational fishermen are becoming increasingly concerned as to the impact of invasive alien species on habitats, water quality and native fish species and a mixed response from Member States governments in taking actions to prevent, contain and eradicate these species where found.

These code aims to offer some guidance to all angling bodies, recreational fishers, businesses that rely on recreational fishers as well as the fishing tackle industry in general in the hope that, knowing their commitment to biodiversity and conservation, they will use it in their everyday fishing activities and thus contribute to the noble task of preserving our ecosystems free as far as possible from the impacts of invasive alien species as committed to in the European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity (2010).

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful for the work done by the authors and collaborators of the [EIFAC code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries](#) (2008), the European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity and the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat as this code is based on their work. Compilation of journals showing impacts in the Mediterranean was completed by Massimo Lorenzoni.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment* (WRI 2005) regards invasive alien species (IAS) as, globally, one of the most important direct drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem service changes alongside overexploitation, pollution, habitat destruction and climate change. Even apart from the biodiversity loss they can cause serious economic loss and impact on human health, as Europe moves to value ecosystem services and indeed look to bring in ecosystem services accounting as part of decision making in, for example the European Water Framework Directive 2000, the effects of the impacts of IAS will become more prominent and to a wider audience than is the case today.

Evaluations of the financial cost of the impacts of IAS have been attempted in the past but these tend to be direct cost in relation to control management and economic loss rather than evaluating loss to ecosystem service. At a global level Pimentel *et al* (2005) estimated the cost at 5% of global GDP whilst at a European level Kettunen *et al* (2009) calculates a cost of 12 billion Euros a year.

The difference between invasive alien species and alien species is also important as there are benefits to some introductions to certain groups whereas the cost if the risks are not correctly assessed are born by society as a whole (Pimentel *et al* 2000). In past times little thought was given to introductions of species now defined as IAS and recreational fishing, through its contact with and use of aquatic and riparian species, has been identified as a potential, actual primary and secondary pathway for the spread of invasive alien species. Savini *et al* (2010) in reviewing the top 27 animal alien species introduced in Europe for aquaculture and related activities considered information extracted from IMPASSE, Daisie, Fish-Base and FAO-DIAS inventories to list 27 of the most common animal species used in aquaculture, stocking, sport fishing and for ornamental purposes considered their environmental impact together with their ability to act as vectors for other alien species and pathogens; in conclusion they found that of sport fish those of a predatory nature (e.g. catfish and salmonids) “cause major environmental impacts in Europe by outcompeting native species and altering habitat structure”. Tricarico (2012) concluded that in a review on pathways and drivers of use regarding non-native freshwater fish introductions in the Mediterranean region that as well as improved legal controls being required to protect native fish species from introductions of non-native Perciformes and Cypriniformes through aquaculture and angling purposes there needs to be a greater drive to improve public awareness of the risks involved in such introductions.

By formatting this Code of Conduct it is anticipated that through education and awareness recreational fishing will form part of the solution in tackling invasive alien species by acting as the “eyes and ears” of the rivers, lakes and seas of Europe in spotting and reporting the spread of these species as well as being active in control and eradication. The recreational fisheries sector identified the threat of invasive alien species in the early 2000’s as part of a review of all practices, upon the request of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) a code of practice was prepared by R. Arlinghaus (Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries and Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany) with the assistance of I. Cowx (International Fisheries Institute, University of Hull, United Kingdom) and R. van Anrooy (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations). This EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries (EIFAC Occasional Paper No. 42) forms the basis of this Code of Conduct highlighting the articles and codes that relate to Invasive Alien Species and the report forms an integral appendix to this Code. These issues were also raised and addressed in the European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity (2010) prepared by Mr. Scott Brainerd and in particular Principle 4 states the necessity of maintaining populations of native species with adaptive gene pools and this document also forms an integral appendix to this code.

In addition this Code of Conduct incorporates detailed biosecurity guidance for recreational fishing as it is fully recognised that preventing the arrival of IAS by recreational fishers as a vector is more effective than control and eradication once they have arrived.

This Code of Conduct is one of a number of voluntary instruments that are being drawn up or completed and adopted by the Bern Convention in sectors identified as possible pathways and they include

“Hunting and IAS”, “Pets and IAS”, “Botanic Gardens and IAS” against a back drop of a European Union Regulation on IAS that has been adopted in October 2014. This process also fulfils commitments made by the European Commission in Communication “Our life insurance, our natural capital: a EU biodiversity strategy to 2020” (COM 2011 244) together with commitments made in Aichi Target 9 of the “Strategic Plan for biodiversity” (CBD OP10 Nagoya, Japan 2010).

### **1.1 Socio-Economic value of recreational fishing**

As stated in the European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity [ECRFB] (Council of Europe 2010): “Fishing is an age-old activity throughout Europe and the world. Originally a form of subsistence and sustenance for early Europeans, it has evolved over time into an important consumptive activity with both commercial and recreational aspects.” In this Code of Conduct we are only concerned with recreational fishing but it should be recognised that there are many businesses in Europe that rely and work with recreational fisheries from charter boats that take fishers fishing in the marine environment, farmers and land owners that rent waters to fishers to commercial units that build specialist facilities to fish farms that supply fish to be stocked and this list is not exhaustive. Across Europe a number of techniques and equipment are used in recreational fishing. The most common is the use of rod, hook and line but also hand lines, long lines, nets, pots, traps and projectile or spear fishing. However in using the term “recreational fishing” this implies and is accepted as either taking fish for home consumption or releasing the fish once caught in a manner that does not cause harm. Angling is a term used to describe the use of hook and line.

A number of organisations across Europe have attempted to quantify the socio-economic benefits of angling and the numbers of people that take part in this activity. The European Anglers Alliance (the umbrella organisation for anglers in Europe) estimated that in 2003 there were at least 25 million recreational anglers (EAA 2003) taking part in both freshwater and saltwater, an updated study by the European Anglers Alliance is currently being finalised (EAA 2013). ECRFB reports Kenward R. & Sharp, S. (2008) as estimating that in 2006 19 billion Euros was spent by anglers on fishing equipment, fees to fish, lodging and travel. The European Fishing Tackle Trade Association (EFTA) estimates that 99,000 jobs depend on local tackle shops, manufacture and the trade of fishing tackle (EFTA 2009). These figures are likely to be an underestimate as a more recent survey in England and Wales conducted by the UK Government in 2010 concluded that sea, coarse and game angling contributed £3.5 Billion per annum to the economy, supported 37,000 jobs and 4 million people had gone fishing in the last 2 years (Public attitudes to angling, Environment Agency 2010 & Economic Evaluation of Inland Fisheries, Environment Agency 2010).

The ECRFB goes on to state that “most European countries have instituted freshwater license programs and about half of coastal countries have also introduced saltwater fishing licenses.” In England and Wales licensing from freshwater raised £24.7 million in the financial year 2012-2013 (Environment Agency 2013), revenues from licensing are used with varying amounts of transparency and accountability to mainly support the funding of activities relating to recreational fishing (pers. comm.).

In Article 5.6 of the ECRFB it states that “Each stakeholder within the recreational fishing sector should: accept that environmental stewardship is the overriding ethical principle to which recreational fishing practice and its management will be judged by others.” This principle underscores the potential of recreational fishing playing a key role in prevention, control and eradication of IAS. In 2012 the Angling Trust (the representative body for angling in England), the Environment Agency and the Substance social research cooperative conducted a survey of anglers in England to which there were nearly 30,000 responses. 26% of respondents stated that they would like to get involved in environmental improvement volunteering (NAS 2012) and respondents categorised IAS in the top 6 most severe threats to angling (NAS 2012). There is therefore a largely untapped volunteering resource available in recreational fishing which could be utilised for work on IAS.



## **1.2 European and Member States legislation and initiatives**

The European Commission in Communication “Our life insurance, our natural capital: a EU biodiversity strategy to 2020” (COM 2011 244) has been referred to before in this report, it contains a commitment that “By 2020, Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new IAS”. The Communication also recognised the need for the introduction of legislation at a European level in order that targets were met. Whilst there was a commitment for this to be completed by 2012, at the time of this report in 2013 details have still not emerged of how this will be taken forward or whether this will take the form of a new Directive or Regulation.

At Member State level legislation tends to be mixed and spread between different legislation and enforcement authorities. In England and Wales for example there is the Live Fish (England & Wales) Act 1980 which is enforced by the Environment Agency and relates to the movement of fish into and around England & Wales including IAS and there is also the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981(WACA) which also contains provisions relating to IAS enforcement of this being split between various authorities including the Police Service but it contains no powers to enter property or enforce destruction of IAS on private property if the owner refuses consent. This mixed approach appears to be prevalent across Europe and this author’s contact with angling representative bodies across Europe also indicates a mixed response by authorities in taking action on IAS when reported.

## **1.3 European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries**

In recognising the need for a voluntary code of practice for all matters pertaining to recreational fisheries the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations commissioned this guide in partnership with the angling community and endorsed by the European Anglers Alliance and member bodies. Its aim is to “establish best practice principles amongst nations for responsible management and fishing practices, taking into account all relevant biological, technological, economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects. This EIFAC agreed voluntary policy document has to fit alongside national legislation and regional best practice guidelines and is designed to be the minimum standards for environmentally friendly, ethically appropriate and socially acceptable recreational fishing”. It contains a number of Articles which are relevant to IAS:

Article 2.7: “to improve communication and mutual understanding among recreational fisheries stakeholders and with other parties”.

Article 2.8: “to promote research into recreational fisheries as well as on aquatic ecosystems and the relevant environmental factors which influence recreational fisheries”.

Article 3.3: “In its region, EIFAC, in collaboration with government agencies and recreational fisheries associations, will monitor the application and implementation of the CoP and its effects on recreational fisheries amongst its member countries.”

Article 3.4: “In its region, EIFAC, as appropriate, will revise the CoP periodically, taking into account new developments in recreational fisheries, with full consultation of relevant stakeholders.”

Article 8.10: “immediately report pollution incidents, distressed or dead fish, the presence of unusual species, non-native species and other environmental impacts/observations to the relevant authorities.”

Article 8.11: “not stock, introduce or transfer live fish or other aquatic organisms within or between catchments without permission from the authorities. This particularly applies to non-native organisms.”

Article 8.19: “use bait, particularly live bait, only in agreement with local or national regulation, and use aquatic organisms only in the water body from which these are collected; never transfer aquatic live

bait from one water body to another.” N.B Live bait is defined as the “use of live invertebrates, (e.g. crayfish), vertebrates, (typically teleost fish) and worms and maggots in recreational fishing”.

Article 11.27: “Introduction of non-native species to create fisheries should be avoided. Where proposed, they must comply with the EIFAC Code of Practice on Species Introductions and be reviewed by qualified, independent experts”.

#### **1.4 European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity, prepared by Mr. Scott Brainerd in 2010, on behalf of the Bern Convention**

This Charter also considers the role of recreational fisheries in the conservation of biodiversity by the use of sustainably managed fisheries. It highlights the considerable number of recreational fishers across Europe and their contributions to habitat, fish conservation and national policy decision making. The Charter contains 10 Principles and a sub set of guidelines, Principle 4 is titled “Maintain populations of native species with adaptive gene pools” and considers that conservation will be enhanced if regulators and managers of recreational fisheries:

- “Prevent the release, spreading and translocation of invasive alien species that can have significant impacts on native fish populations or the environment”;
- “Engage recreational fishers in programmes to remove invasive alien species”;
- Facilitate the reestablishment of originally indigenous fish species in accordance with IUCN guidelines and have clear management plans that define their recovery”.

## **2. BIOSECURITY FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERIES**

The Ponto-Caspian species; *Dikerogammarus villosis* was first found in England & Wales in September 2011 at a public water supply reservoir at Grafham Water in England which is used by both anglers and boaters (GBNNS 2011) The emergency biosecurity response was to require water users to use disinfectants to kill the shrimp to prevent spreading to other water bodies, however in laboratory conditions the Environment Agency found that this was not an adequate control that they could survive in damp conditions for up to 15 days or 2 days in dry conditions (GBNNS 2011).

United Kingdom (UK) Government Departments and its Agencies together with environmental Non-Government Organisations and representative bodies from all water users in the UK adopted similar practices to that found in New Zealand by launching a public initiative for all water users to adopt the principles of “Check, Clean, Dry” in January 2012 (*pers. comm.*). This relies on Public participation, education, awareness raising and training to ensure that these procedures are followed, namely:

**Check** – All clothing and equipment should be thoroughly inspected and any visible debris (mud, plant or animal matter) should be removed and left at the water body where it was found. Particular attention must be paid to the seams of boots and waders. Any pockets of pooled water should be emptied. (GBNNS 2013).

**Clean** – Equipment should be hosed down or pressure-washed on site. If facilities are not available equipment should be carefully contained e.g. in plastic bags, until they can be found. Washings should be left at the water body where the equipment was used or contained and not allowed to enter any other water course or drainage system (i.e. do not put them down the drain or sink). Where possible, clean equipment should be dipped in disinfectant solution (e.g. Virkon) to kill diseases, but note this is unlikely to kill non-native species. (GBNNS 2013).

**Dry** – Thoroughly drying is the best method for disinfecting clothing and equipment. Boots and nets should be hung up to dry. Equipment should be thoroughly dry for 48 hours before it is used elsewhere. Some non-native species can survive for as many as 15 days in damp conditions and up to 2 days in dry conditions, so the drying process must be thorough. (GBNNS 2013).

Whilst 2 other, localised sites, were found to contain *Dikerogammarus villosis* in Wales, to date this species have been contained at these 3 sites since the launch of the campaign. This report therefore recommends that this good practice should become the norm for biosecurity control for Recreational Fisheries and other water uses in Europe.

### **3. THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **Audience and aims**

This code of conduct is aimed at all those that engage in recreational fishing and fisheries whether anglers, voluntary bodies like clubs or affiliated angling groups, angling governing bodies or those that are commercially engaged with recreational fishing and fisheries for example charter boats or those that run fisheries as a business. It is also intended for those Member States and their agencies that regulate recreational fisheries. However this code is voluntary only, not a legally binding instrument nor is it the intention that this code be used as the basis for future legislation.

Its aim is also to be compatible with the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats European Charter for Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity (2010), the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission's [EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries](#) (2008) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (adopted 1995). These three documents all contain mention of good practice for invasive alien species and this code draws these together in one document but further brings in the concept of biosecurity following the approach taken in the United Kingdom and in this case the Check, Clean, Dry protocols developed by the GB Non Native Species Secretariat in collaboration with other United Kingdom Government Departments and Non-Governmental Organisations are followed. Many of the codes in these documents are repeated verbatim here or slightly altered to highlight the issues around invasive alien species.

#### **3.1 Awareness, education, research, training and monitoring**

The recreational fishing sector should:

- Promote awareness of the code to encourage responsible recreational fisheries through targeted information, education and training of recreational fishers, managers, policy-makers and other stakeholders. Particular emphasis should be placed on identification and reporting procedures together with biosecurity.
- Collaborate with relevant experts in developing awareness and education programmes aimed at informing recreational fisheries on invasive alien species.
- Government agencies and authorities should engage with recreational fishers in programmes to remove invasive alien species.
- Promote research into recreational fisheries as well as on associated aquatic ecosystems and the relevant environmental factors which influence recreational fisheries.
- In collaboration with government agencies and recreational fisheries associations, monitor the application and implementation of the Code of Conduct and its effects on recreational fisheries among Member States.
- This Code of Conduct should be reviewed periodically, and as appropriate, taking into account new developments in IAS as it impacts recreational fishing.

#### **3.2 Fisheries management**

The EIFAC code states in Article 11.1 that “the over-arching goal of recreational fisheries management is to ensure the long term sustainability of fisheries resources thereby safeguarding the availability of these resources for future generations. Sustainability of fisheries resources includes conservation biodiversity at all levels, including genetic diversity, as well as supporting terrestrial and

aquatic ecosystems.” Invasive alien species are a threat to this principle. Recreational Fisheries should therefore:

- Prevent the release, spread and translocation of invasive alien species that have impacts on native fish populations or the environment.
- Authorities should engage recreational fishers in programmes to remove invasive alien species to increase educational and practical awareness as well as using them as a resource.
- Recreational fishers should engage with authorities or others in management planning for biosecurity and control and eradication of invasive alien species.
- Stocking and re-stocking should only be in accordance with Member State regulation and guidance which should also be in accordance with IUCN guidelines.
- Immediately report the presence of invasive alien species in accordance with Member State guidelines.
- Not stock, introduce or transfer live fish or other aquatic organisms within or between catchments without permission from the authorities.
- Use bait, particularly live bait, only in agreement with local or national regulations and use aquatic organisms only in the water body from which these were collected; never transfer aquatic live bait from one water body to another.
- Introduction of any non-native species to create fisheries should be avoided. Where proposed, they must comply with the EIFAC Code of Practice on Species Introductions, local or national regulations and be reviewed by qualified, independent experts.

### **3.3 Biosecurity for Recreational Fishing**

In some places in Europe this will be a new concept but builds on the practices in Australia, New Zealand and most recently in the United Kingdom following the recent discovery of Ponto-Caspian species in that country. The overriding principle is that prevention is better than cure and the key to success in this approach is the awareness, education and training principles noted previously and recognises that recreational fishers contact with water via equipment or clothing can result in their inadvertently becoming a vector for the transfer of invasive alien species. Equipment includes fishing tackle but also boats and engines used during fishing.

#### ***General***

- Anglers should make themselves aware of invasive alien species and partake in education programmes designed for this.
- Adequate signage or guidance should be in place, making all anglers aware of the risk and providing advice on how to prevent spread.
- Ideally all cleaning and inspection operations should be supervised by a volunteer or member of staff.
- Where practical, access and egress for anglers should be limited, preferably to a single spot, preferably to a single point. Anglers should log in and out, confirming that they have cleaned and inspected their equipment. Where a new invasive alien species has been identified this procedure should always be followed to allow containment.
- Any site may have invasive alien species and diseases that can be spread.
- Risk can be reduced by reducing the contact time in which equipment is exposed to water.
- If possible nets, drogues, boats and boat equipment should be provided at the site and used in preference to personal equipment brought in from off site.

- De-hooking mats and bass bags should not be allowed in the water and should be thoroughly cleaned after use and dried.

#### ***Check, Clean, Dry disinfection procedures***

- **Check** – all clothing and equipment should be thoroughly inspected and any visible debris (mud, plant or animal matter) should be removed and left at the water body where it was found. Particular attention must be paid to the seams and seals of boots and waders. Any pockets of pooled water should be emptied.
- **Clean** – Equipment should be hosed down or pressure washed on site. If facilities are not available equipment should be carefully contained, e.g. in plastic bags, until they can be found. Washings should be left at the water body where the equipment was used, or contained and not allowed to enter any other watercourse or drainage system (i.e. do not put them down the drain or sink). Where possible clean equipment should be dipped in disinfectant solution (e.g. Virkon) to kill diseases but note that this is unlikely to kill alien species.
- **Dry**- Thoroughly drying is the best method for disinfecting clothing and equipment. Boots and nets should be hung up to dry. Equipment should be thoroughly dry for 48 hours before it is used elsewhere. Some alien species can survive for as many as 15 days in damp conditions and up to 2 days in dry conditions so the drying process must be thorough.

#### ***Boats***

Where recreational fishers and fisheries use boats or float tubes for angling purposes then in addition to the above:

- Biofouling must be thoroughly removed from all hulls and other submerged surfaces before transfer to another site.
- Care should be taken with trailers which have cavities that may retain water and be hard to inspect. If possible trailers and launching trolleys should be provided at the site and used in preference to personal equipment.
- Any water that collects in bilges or inside boats and float tubes must be completely emptied before leaving the site.
- Water cooled engines must be washed through with tap water to ensure the system does not harbor invasive alien species.

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

**Recommendation No. 171 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014,  
on the setting-up of national policing/investigation priorities to tackle illegal killing,  
trapping and trade of wild birds**

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild fauna and its natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species;

Recalling that Article 6 requires Parties to take the necessary and administrative measures to ensure the special protection of the wild fauna species specified in Appendix II, prohibiting in particular all forms of deliberate capture and keeping, and deliberate killing, as well as the possession and internal trade in these animals, alive or dead;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 5 (1986) on the prosecution of persons illegally catching, killing or trading in protected birds, addressing for the first time wild-bird crimes;

Further recalling its Recommendation No. 155 (2011) on the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, which identified the main challenges related to the legal, biological and institutional aspects of this problem;

Reminding the commitment undertaken through the Larnaca Declaration, adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> European Conference on illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds (Larnaca, Cyprus, 6-8 July 2011), which called on responsible stakeholders, governments, local communities, law enforcement agencies, and nature conservation NGOs, including hunting associations, to unequivocally condemn all forms of illegal taking and trading in wild birds, to pledge a zero tolerance approach to illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds, and to adopt a full and proactive role in fighting against these illegal activities;

Bearing in mind the conclusions of the Second conference on Illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds (Tunis, Tunisia, 29-30 May 2013), and its focus on moving to the concrete implementation;

Recalling Recommendation No. 164 (2013) and the “Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds” as tools for guiding Parties towards the implementation of specific actions, as well as for monitoring the effectiveness of the measures undertaken and the progress towards the eradication of illegal killing of birds at pan-European level;

Acknowledging the contribution that the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 can give to the achievement of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, and in particular of Aichi Target 12, aimed at preventing the extinction of known threatened species and improving the conservation status of those in decline;

Welcoming the setting-up, under the Bern Convention, of the Network of Special Focal Points for illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds, to facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge, synergies at national and international level among all relevant bodies as well as the identification of the most suitable interlocutors and experts for each of the specific issues related to wild bird crimes, and encouraging other Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and stakeholders involved in this field to refer to them for knowledge and information sharing;

Welcoming the international attention that the problem of wild bird-crimes is receiving, and the successful cooperation and coordination initiated by the Bern Convention with other concerned MEAs, organisations and stakeholders, in particular the CMS, the AEWAs, the Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia, the EU, the INTERPOL, BirdLife International and its local partners, the European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation (FACE), and the IUCN;

Recalling IUCN Resolution WCC-2012-RES-029 on Combating the illegal or unsustainable capture, trade or killing of migratory birds in the Mediterranean urging, among others, that countries of the Mediterranean basin ensure the rigorous enforcement of legislation on hunting of migratory birds and that those which still have insufficient legislation devote the necessary effort to put this in place;

Having regard to CMS Resolution 10.26 on Minimizing the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds, the AEWAs-led multi-stakeholder Plan of Action to address bird trapping along the Mediterranean coasts of Egypt and Libya (UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.10.12) and the most recently adopted CMS Resolution 11.15 on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds and its Guidelines;

Acknowledging the adoption by the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the CMS of Resolution 11.16 on the prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds, calling on the CMS Secretariat to convene an intergovernmental Task Force to address illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean, in conjunction *inter alia* with the Bern Convention, as a clear contribution to the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020;

Recalling the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (COM (2011) 244) and, in particular, its target 1 “Fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives”, and the Roadmap elaborated for addressing illegal killing of birds in EU member states, in line with the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020;

Aware that coordination at national level, prior to the international level, is a key factor for the success and effectiveness of the specific actions tackling wild-bird crimes, and that in some Parties the necessary infrastructures for addressing these issues still need to be put in place;

Stressing that awareness of the general public and of future generations on the challenges and impact of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds at all level of the enforcement chain should be an on-going and long-term effort,

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites Observer States to:

1. Identify policing/investigation priorities to tackle wild-bird crimes at national level, as well as the bodies in charge of their enforcement and monitoring, having in due regard the following criteria:
  - The recognition and evaluation of the impact that illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds has on the conservation status of the affected species,
  - The legal or administrative status of the area where the offence took place,
  - The possible damage to the ecological balance or to the habitat as a consequence of the offence,
  - The particular nature of the area (e.g. hotspots of bird conservation),
  - The level of penalties provided by the legislation;



Parties may also wish to consider the following complementary criteria as appropriate:

- Public perception of the seriousness of the offence,
  - Intrinsic value of wildlife,
  - Socio-economic benefits of wildlife,
  - Public interest,
  - Known regional black-spot of illegal activities;
2. Identify and actively engage in the eradication process the stakeholders already involved in the enforcement and the judiciary chain;
  3. Step-up efforts towards the setting-up of the necessary infrastructures enabling for the national exchange information and effective action at identified black-spots of illegal activities;
  4. Continue and improve efforts aimed at enhancing inter-sector cooperation at national level and involving all relevant Ministries, particularly the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Interior or Home Affairs, Justice and Education;
  5. Where appropriate, implement the actions proposed in the methodology appended to this recommendation.

**Appendix I to Recommendation No. 171 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014, on the setting-up of national policing/investigation priorities to tackle illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds**

**METHODOLOGY DOCUMENT TO SET UP  
NATIONAL POLICING AND INVESTIGATION PRIORITIES**

**INTRODUCTION**

The opportunity of setting up a national policing and investigation methodology common to Contracting parties to the Bern Convention was discussed at the 2013 meeting of the Convention's Group of Experts on the conservation of wild birds (Tunis, Tunisia), and highlighted in the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds (as appended to [Recommendation No. 164 \(2013\)](#)). Measures that may be considered as appropriate for addressing the specific national priorities to eradicate "wild-bird crime" are listed for analysis by Contracting Parties.

Tackling wild-bird crime is a long-term process and involves many stakeholders which have to be identified in the preparation phase of national action plans. Structures have to be in place to exchange information and allow specific actions to improve the situation at identified black-spots.

To tackle wild-bird crime at all relevant levels, it is suggested that the elements and procedures listed below are discussed at the national level. This discussion between stakeholders and Special Focal Points should ensure a coordinated approach to set the priorities for national policing and investigation.

Appendix I to this document contains a checklist which can be used by Special Focal Points or regional focal points, and stakeholder coordinators, to identify gaps in action plans to tackle wild-bird crime at the national, regional and stakeholders' organisations level.

**I. IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS**

Wild-bird crime is an issue that is widespread but often one which stakeholders involved in the enforcement and judiciary chain are not sufficiently aware of. These stakeholders need to be identified and systematically informed to ensure they have knowledge of all aspects of the process of tackling wild-bird crimes. In some cases of wild-bird crime the perpetrators can be a specific group of people most of whom are law-abiding citizens. There are also opportunities to involve the wider public in reporting on wild-bird crime to the relevant authorities.

Proposed actions:

- Identify stakeholders in the law enforcement chain. The inventory of enforcement teams and officers is important to set up a structure of data collection, reporting and feedback. It will help to identify target groups for training, required protocols and gaps in law enforcement capacity.
- Identify stakeholders in the judiciary system. The inventory of stakeholders in the judiciary system at the regional and national level allows a better exchange of information and will enhance the efficiency of training.
- Identify stakeholder groups linked to drivers. The motivation from perpetrators to break the law related to wild-birds is often based on cultural and financial grounds. The drivers behind this are shared with groups of law abiding citizens who are doing the same specific activity without breaking the law. These groups of stakeholders have communication platforms that are also very useful to reach the perpetrators. They also have the moral authority to demonstrate and communicate the right and lawful way. Formation of a stakeholder group that meets regularly (i.e. every 6 months) to discuss progress and next steps on country specific wildlife crime issues.

- Identify other sources of information to get information on the extent of wild-bird crimes. Groups of people and individual people are shocked by wild-bird crimes and want to help the enforcement and judiciary authorities to end this.

## **II. COMMUNICATION AND PREVENTIVE EDUCATION**

Communication related to wild-bird crimes is a very important part of ensuring its prevention. One of the key priorities is to communicate the impact of wild-bird crime on biodiversity in general and especially on threatened species. This effect is observable at international, national, as well as regional levels.

Communication related to wild-bird crime should also cover law enforcement. Perpetrators need to be aware that they will be exposed and caught/prosecuted. They should also be made aware of the number of convictions and the severity of the punishments.

### Proposed actions:

- Ensure the establishment of a structure for internal communication among and between the stakeholders for use when actors in the detection and investigation of wild bird crime are identified.
- Develop a national or regional communication strategy and action plan with clear communication targets, including education of young people and specific stakeholder groups.
- Identify a coordinator for the transmission of information between stakeholders.
- Inform and advise local stakeholders of the financial and/or structural help they can get from the government or other sources if their activity is under threat due to wildlife.
- Make sure that there is a clear distinction between legal sustainable hunting activities and wild-bird crime in all communication related to the issue.
- Increase communication regarding existing laws to protect wild birds and the penalties involved when breaking the law.
- Communicate widely about the enforcement capacity and the number of perpetrators caught and sentenced, including the level of fines. This should deter potential offenders and combat the sense of impunity.
- Test the option of joined press releases and other communication activities between enforcement authorities and stakeholders.
- Promote environmental education campaigns for schoolchildren to change socio-cultural attitudes against wild-bird crime and towards nature and wildlife.
- Use existing or develop new instruments to involve people in bird conservation (eg. The [European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity](#); [The Human dimension as a tool for bird conservation](#)).

## **III. SURVEILLANCE, INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS**

Inspections and surveillance, enforcement and bringing cases to court are costly and time consuming. It is important to investigate and discuss measures to improve the effectiveness in the whole inspection and enforcement process and to include these discussions in workshops with stakeholders.

### Proposed actions:

- Identify actors in the detection and investigation of wild-bird crimes and make a clear overview of the authorities potentially involved in tackling wild-bird crime. These include civil servants who qualify as law enforcement officials and criminal investigation police officers. Create a specialist patrol team of environment/forestry officers in order to deliver more effective surveillance and increase prosecution efficacy.
- Create a national catalogue of materials used in connection to wild-bird crime, such as toxic substances used as poisoned bait. This can include websites or other online platforms.
- Control the import and sale of material used for wild-bird crimes. This includes for instance toxic substances likely to be used as poison, material for lime sticks, nets.

- Identify measures to get control over substances used for wild-bird crimes and make them less readily available.
- Draw up proper procedural protocols for law enforcement officials in charge of surveillance and preventive action to follow.
- Draw up proper procedural protocols for law enforcement officials in charge of collecting and the preliminary investigation of the offence to follow.
- Draw up a general legal protocol for administrative action.
- Draw up proper procedural protocols for wildlife rescue centres and toxicology laboratories to identify wild-bird crimes, experts to be contacted and consulted, and methodology of proper data collection.

#### **IV. JUDICIARY SYSTEM**

Conviction and adequate punishment of perpetrators of wild-bird crimes are very important elements in combatting wild-bird crime. Sharing the experience of stakeholders in the judiciary system on tackling wild-bird crimes could be very beneficial, especially for identifying shortcomings in the enforcement chain, burden of proof, and minimum and maximum height of fines because of the punitive and preventive effect.

The independence of the judiciary system must be fully respected in the process. The representatives of the judiciary should be invited to the stakeholder workshops to contribute to the organisation of this internal exercise on methodology and reporting.

##### Proposed actions:

- Ensure that the legal validity of toxicological analysis and expert appraisals are well described in protocols and that this information is distributed to the relevant stakeholders.
- Adopt administrative measures and ensure proper liaison and coordination with criminal proceedings.
- Ensure that the judiciary is granted access to information on national wild-bird crime priorities, the purpose of conservation impact statements and offence gravity factors. The judiciary should be encouraged to use these to inform sentencing guidelines, in the full respect of its independence.
- Make sure that mechanisms for recording and reporting results of wildlife prosecutions are in place.

#### **V. TRAINING**

In most national reports the lack of awareness and training is mentioned as one of the gaps in tackling wild-bird crime. The stakeholder groups have different requirements in terms of training; these have to be mapped specifically for each of those groups.

##### Proposed actions:

- Identify training requirements from all stakeholders (including the judiciary system on wildlife crime).
- Set up multi-level communication platforms and exchange of best-practices.
- Set up an information campaign to take awareness-raising measures for all stakeholders, with a specific approach for each of them.
- Ensure that the enforcement teams are trained on the proper collection of evidence material and custody of evidence and carcasses.
- Organise well-structured seminars for awareness raising and specialisation of enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges.

## **VI. DATA COLLECTION AND EXCHANGE**

To get a good overview of where capacity is needed to tackle wild-bird crime, it is important to get information on the historical background of the different types of wild-bird crime in a region from all available sources of information. This information is necessary to build on the concept of intelligence-led policing and to raise awareness. The intelligence-led policing model is based on the concept of defining the intelligence question and subsequent collection and analysis efforts being determined by this. The concept implies a continuum of analysis informing decision-making and new information feeding back into the process.

### Proposed actions:

- Increase and improve available information on wild-bird crime by creating a national mechanism for recording reports on wild-bird crime to provide statistical evidence of the areas of offending. This involves creating a national database, using existing international databases and producing hazard maps.
- Enhance knowledge of the drivers and effects of wild-bird crime to allow for better risk analysis.
- When the drivers of wild-bird crime are known and enforcement actions ongoing, it is important to get an idea of the impact of the work by monitoring indicator species at black-spot, regional or national levels.
- Because the cause of death is not always obvious when a carcass or remains are found it can be an option to collect and check all fauna carcasses and remains, even when found under power lines or wind farms. Types of wild-bird crime such as poisoning can't be identified solely based on location.
- When possible it is relevant to identify the social costs of inspection and enforcement activities to bring wild-bird crimes to court.

## **VII. ACTION PLAN**

When starting to develop an action plan to address wild-bird crime in a specific region, it is important to include all stages of the implementation of the specific actions described in the plan. This includes preventive investigation procedure in cases with clear evidence of wild-bird crimes, surveillance and interception of suspects and post-interception procedures.

### Proposed actions:

- Identify the organisational level needed for the development and implementation of the action plan: national, regional, provincial or other relevant levels based on stakeholders that are involved and the national types of wild-bird crime.
- Set clear priorities for action, and make sure these priorities are identified for the national as well as regional level.
- Scale down regional plans to local circumstances and focus on specific types of wild-bird crime at the local scale.
- Identify surveillance projects that should be focused on areas with previous records of wild-bird crime or areas and estates with a high potential of wild-bird crime.
- Scale up local actions into networks to allow exchange of best practices and knowledge; and identify the possibilities to employ enforcement teams in different localities across the region or nationally, linked to identified priorities.
- Promote and improve cooperation and collaboration with other government authorities and organizations responsible for devising the action plan on tackling wild-bird crime.

## **VIII. FUNDING**

Wild-bird crime, similarly to other types of crime, is not easy to eradicate in the short term. An action plan should also identify ways of financing actions now and into the future, and use synergies as much as possible. A holistic approach to these issues at the level of the national governments should be adopted. Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention should invest time and resources to promote inter-Ministerial

cooperation in this endeavour, including and in particular between the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Interior or Home Affairs, Justice and Education.

Proposed actions:

- Identify funding opportunities for training, data exchange and database management.
- investigate and discuss measures to improve the effectiveness in the whole inspection and enforcement process.
- Improve inter-ministerial communication and cooperation.

## **CHECKLIST FOR NATIONAL OR REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND STAKEHOLDER COORDINATORS TO IDENTIFY GAPS IN ACTION PLANS TO TACKLE WILD-BIRD CRIMES ON THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND STAKEHOLDER ORGANISATION LEVEL**

### **Preparation, information and data gathering**

Actors in the detection and investigation of wild-bird crimes identified	
Agreed database structure on wild-bird crimes is prepared, known and used	All stakeholders
Stakeholders for data collection and exchange are identified	Police, customs, environment agencies, other specialised agencies, prosecutors, inter-governmental partners, non-governmental organisations
Stakeholders for prevention and communication are identified	Linked to drivers on cultural and financial grounds
Round-table workshop is organised with all stakeholders to identify priorities and actions	
National wildlife crime priorities are established	
Timing and methodology for updates and review is agreed	
Training needs of stakeholder groups are identified	
Draft procedural protocols	For surveillance and preventive action, data collection and investigation, administrative actions, experts and laboratories.

### **Methodology**

National and/or regional focal point on wild-bird crimes in place	Governmental agency
National and regional action plan developed	
Structure for internal communication in place	Including exchange of best practices
Communication strategy developed for all appropriate levels	
Coordinator for communication among stakeholders identified	
Training of stakeholders groups funded and ongoing	
Regular reporting to stakeholders and public	Number of wild-bird crimes, sentences and fines
Intelligence-led policing is used to improve effectiveness in inspection and enforcement	
National catalogue of material used for wild-bird crimes	
Control the import and sale of material used for wild-bird crimes	



Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

**Recommendation No. 172 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014,  
interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) of the Standing Committee to the  
Bern Convention**

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats,  
acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Considering Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention;

Having regard to its Resolution No. 1 (1989) on the provisions relating to the conservation of habitats;

Having regard to its Recommendation No. 16 (1989) on Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI);

Having regard to its Resolution No. 3 (1996) on the setting-up of a pan-European Ecological Network;

Recalling its Resolution No. 5 (1998) concerning the rules for the Network of areas of special  
conservation interest (Emerald Network);

Recalling its Resolution No. 6 (1998) listing the species requiring specific habitat conservation measures;

Recalling that forty-five species from Resolution No. 6 (1998) are marked with the sign (#) described as  
follows: *Conscious that some species listed may be abundant in parts of Europe and may not require  
specific habitat conservation measures everywhere, and marking those species with the sign (#);*

Recognising the need for clarifying the provision of Resolution No. 6 (1998) linked to the sign (#) and its  
possible use by Contracting Parties and Observer States working on the establishment of the Emerald  
Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest and its practical implementation;

Reminding that the *Criteria for assessing the national lists of proposed Areas of Special Conservation  
Interest (ASCIs) at biogeographical level and procedure for examining and approving Emerald candidate  
sites* (T-PVS/PA (2013)13) describes the biogeographic process of sufficiency evaluation of national lists  
of proposed Emerald sites for the species and habitats listed in Resolutions No. 6 (1998) and No. 4 (1996);

Reminding that one of the purposes of the biogeographic evaluation is to establish a national reference list  
of species and habitats from Resolutions No. 6 (1998) and No. 4 (1996) present in a given country and for  
which that country holds a responsibility;



Recalling that during the biogeographic process, organised through a series of seminars, a consensus is sought between the main actors involved when debating the sufficiency of the proposed Emerald sites, on a species by species and habitat by habitat basis,

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites Observer States to:

1. Inform in written the Secretariat of the Bern Convention when they consider that achieving a satisfactory conservation status of certain species marked with the sign (#) in Resolution No. 6 (1998) does not require the designation of ASCIs on their national territory;
2. Justify their considerations, using the information form provided in Annex 1 to this Recommendation, duly filled in with all required information (one form is to be submitted for each species concerned);
3. Agree that the question of the designation of ASCIs on their territory for the species concerned is evaluated during the biogeographical process organised for their country;
4. Submit, at each reporting exercise for the Emerald Network as foreseen by Resolution No. 8 (2012) of the Standing Committee, an updated information form for the species for which the biogeographical process officially concluded that a designation of ASCIs is not required.

**Appendix 1 to Recommendation No. 172 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014, interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention**

**INFORMATION FORM FOR CONTRACTING PARTIES AND OBSERVER STATES REQUESTING EXCEPTIONS TO THEIR NATIONAL REFERENCE LISTS (EMERALD NETWORK OF ASCIS)**

Please provide information on (at all appropriate levels, national, regional and local) \*:

- 1) Contracting party submitting the request (including contact person for additional questions concerning this species)

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- 2) Species name (from the list available in Annex 2 below)

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- 3) Official national (and where relevant, regional and local) protection status, with reference to relevant laws

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- 4) Detailed information on population size and distribution, including trends

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\* Please add as many additional sheets as necessary.

5) Distribution (including distribution maps)

6) Information on (typical) habitats for the species and possible threats

7) Information on hunting/fishing/collecting/harvesting regulations (including information on quantity/quotas, etc.)

8) Conservation status (national, European and global levels)

9) Information on population management (including eventual Action Plan(s) targeting the species)

10) Information on international aspects, i.e. trans-boundary issues

11) Justification of sustainable management, without a specific designation of Emerald sites

12) Important references/literature/publications/webpages, relevant for the taxonomy, conservation status and geographical distribution

**Appendix 2 to Recommendation No. 172 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014, interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention**

**List of species marked with the sign “#” in Annex I of Resolution No. 6 (1998)**

SPECIES NUMBER	TAXONOMIC GROUP	SPECIES NAME
1188	A	<i>Bombina bombina</i>
1193	A	<i>Bombina variegata</i>
1166	A	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>
1171	A	<i>Triturus karelinii</i>
A037	B	<i>Cygnus bewickii</i>
A038	B	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>
A098	B	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
A014	B	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>
A390	B	<i>Oceanodroma castro</i>
A140	B	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
1102	F	<i>Alosa alosa</i>
1989	F	<i>Alosa caspia vistonica</i>
1103	F	<i>Alosa fallax</i>
2490	F	<i>Alosa macedonica</i>
2491	F	<i>Alosa pontica</i>
1130	F	<i>Aspius aspius</i>
1149	F	<i>Cobitis taenia</i>
1113	F	<i>Coregonus oxyrhynchus</i>
1163	F	<i>Cottus gobio</i>
1099	F	<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>
1096	F	<i>Lampetra planeri</i>
1095	F	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
1134	F	<i>Rhodeus sericeus amarus</i>
1106	F	<i>Salmo salar</i>
1078	I	<i>Callimorpha quadripunctaria</i>
1911	M	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>
1352	M	<i>Canis lupus</i>
1337	M	<i>Castor fiber</i>
1912	M	<i>Gulo gulo</i>
1364	M	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
1355	M	<i>Lutra lutra</i>
1361	M	<i>Lynx lynx</i>
1340	M	<i>Microtus oeconomus arenicola</i>
1365	M	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>
1351	M	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
1910	M	<i>Pteromys volans</i>
1335	M	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>
2608	M	<i>Spermophilus suslicus</i>
1349	M	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
1354	M	<i>Ursus arctos</i>
1961	P	<i>Luzula arctica</i>
1969	P	<i>Primula scandinavica</i>
1528	P	<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>
1279	R	<i>Elaphe quatuorlineata</i>
1293	R	<i>Elaphe situla</i>



Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

**Recommendation No. 173 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014,  
on hybridisation between wild grey wolves (*Canis lupus*) and domestic dogs (*Canis lupus  
familiaris*)**

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and its natural habitats;

Recalling in particular Articles 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the Convention;

Recalling its Recommendations No. 74 (1999) on the conservation of large carnivores, No. 82 (2000) on urgent measures concerning the implementation of action plans for large carnivores in Europe, No. 115 (2005) on the conservation and management of transboundary populations of large carnivores, No. 137 (2008) on population level management of large carnivores populations, No. 162 (2012) on the conservation of large carnivores populations in Europe requesting special conservation action, and No. 163 (2012) on the management of expanding populations of large carnivores in Europe;

Recalling also the “Action Plan for the Conservation of the Wolves (*Canis lupus*) in Europe” [“Nature and Environment Series” No. 113] and the “Guidelines for Population Level Management Plans for Large Carnivores” [document T-PVS/Inf(2008)17];

Aware of the challenges posed to the conservation of wolves (*Canis lupus*) by hybridisation between wild wolves and domestic dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*);

Noting the need to address these challenges through effective preventive and mitigation measures, including the detection of free-ranging wolf-dog hybrids and their government-controlled removal from wild wolf populations exclusively by bodies entrusted with this responsibility by the competent authorities;

Noting, at the same time, that it is in the interest of effective wolf conservation to ensure that the removal of any detected wolf-dog hybrids is conducted exclusively in a government-controlled manner;

Noting that several Contracting Parties already adopted measures to prevent wolves from being intentionally or mistakenly killed as wolf-dog hybrids;

Taking note of document T-PVS/Inf (2014) 15, analysing the scope and substance of relevant legal obligations under the Bern Convention in respect of the problem of wolf-dog hybridization;

Wishing to clarify the meaning of the provisions of the Convention in respect of the problem of wolf-dog hybridisation,

Recommends the Contracting Parties to the Convention to:

1. Take adequate measures to monitor, prevent and mitigate hybridisation between wild wolves and dogs, including, as appropriate, effective measures to minimise numbers of feral and stray (free-ranging) dogs, and the prohibition or restriction of the keeping of wolves and wolf-dog hybrids as pets;
2. Take action to promote the detection of free-ranging wolf-dog hybrids, and to ensure government-controlled removal of detected wolf-dog hybrids from wild wolf populations;
3. Ensure that the government-controlled removal of wolf-dog hybrids takes place after government officials and/or the bodies entrusted by governments for this purpose and/or researchers have confirmed them as hybrids using genetic and/or morphological features. Removal should only be carried out by bodies entrusted by the competent authorities with such a responsibility, while ensuring that such removal does not undermine the conservation status of wolves;
4. Adopt the necessary measures to prevent wolves from being intentionally or mistakenly killed as wolf-dog hybrids. This is without prejudice to the careful government-controlled removal of detected wolf-dog hybrids from the wild by bodies entrusted with this responsibility by the competent authorities.

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Footnote: Reminder of prohibitions under second sentence of Article 6

The following will in particular be prohibited for these species:

- a all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing;
- b the deliberate damage to or destruction of breeding or resting sites;
- c the deliberate disturbance of wild fauna, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing and hibernation, insofar as disturbance would be significant in relation to the objectives of this Convention;
- d the deliberate destruction or taking of eggs from the wild or keeping these eggs even if empty;
- e the possession of and internal trade in these animals, alive or dead, including stuffed animals and any readily recognisable part or derivative thereof, where this would contribute to the effectiveness of the provisions of this article.



Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

**Recommendation No. 174 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014, on the conservation of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and of sand dunes and other coastal habitats in Southern Kyparissia bay (NATURA 2000 – GR 2550005 “Thines Kyparissias”, Peloponnesos, Greece)**

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the objectives of this Convention, which aims to conserve wild fauna and flora and their natural habitats, by giving particular attention to vulnerable species, including migratory species threatened by extinction;

Noting that the beach and the coastal areas in southern Kyparissia Bay contain natural habitats protected by the Convention and the EU Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive);

Noting that most of the important habitats for sea turtle nesting in EU Member States are protected as Natura 2000 sites;

Noting that the beach of Kyparissia is a nesting beach of great importance for the sea turtle *Caretta caretta*, a species listed in Appendix II to the Convention, under threat in the whole Mediterranean Sea;

Noting that, thanks to conservation efforts during the last 25 years concerning nest protection, Kyparissia beach was in 2013 the most important known nesting beach for sea turtles in the whole Mediterranean basin, having registered up to 1450 nests;

Recalling the provisions of Article 4, paragraphs 1 to 3, and Article 6 of the Convention;

Recalling that, for Natura 2000 sites, European Union Member States are under the obligation to take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of natural habitats and of the habitats of species as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of the Habitats Directive;

Noting with concern that, roads have already been built on the dune systems in the core area of one of the Natura 2000 sites in Kyparissia Bay, and that the building of further holiday villas is planned in no less than 3 Km of the dune system adjacent to the key nesting beaches for sea turtles,



Recommends that Greece

1. Considers giving the key nesting areas for sea turtle an appropriate protection status that may ensure the long-time conservation of their high natural values, including sea turtle nesting beaches, dunes systems, coastal forests, marine habitats and others;
2. Permanently restricts or prohibits as appropriate based on an appropriate assessment the construction of any villas or other buildings, new roads or other infrastructure, in the key areas where construction licenses have been suspended by decree thus preserving the present natural state of those areas;
3. Restores the original sand dune and forest habitat in the above mentioned area by demolishing any illegal road built perpendicularly to the shoreline, as well as other existing illegal artificial infrastructure; puts immediately effective measures in place to prevent cars and caravans from reaching the proximity of the nesting beaches and produce nuisance to sea turtle nesting and hatching;
4. Ensures that the owners of the houses that have already been built in sensitive areas in the vicinity of the core nesting area, avoid changing the profile of the dune, and controls that the communities and geomorphological dynamics; further ensures that the existing houses change or shade the lights illuminating the beach causing photo-pollution affecting negatively sea turtle nesting and hatching; remove invasive alien plants already planted in some of those areas (for instance *Carpobrotus*) as they may spread into dune and beach nesting areas making them inappropriate for sea turtle nesting;
5. Avoids any agriculture in the public domain and restore dunes to their original natural state;
6. Addresses in the whole Nature 2000 site the problem of photo-pollution, particularly in Kalonero; all lights should be shaded in a way to avoid illuminating the beach and dune areas;
7. Ensures that the beach's equipment used now in the Natura 2000 site is removed at night or stored in a way that reduces the area occupied on the beach; prohibits does not give any licences to any new beach equipment so that core nesting area remain free of obstacles for nesting turtles;
8. Prohibits any sand and gravel extraction or any new structures in the sea (breakwaters, etc.);
9. If new housing is to be built to accommodate growing tourism, favours building in areas already urbanised (such as Kyparissias town) avoiding delivering building licenses in pristine natural areas within the Natural 2000 site, independently from the ecologically friendly characteristics of the new buildings;
10. Consider regulating the navigation of vessels in the marine part of the Natura 2000 site GR 2550005 during the nesting and hatching season (April to October) so as to avoid the killing of turtles by boats; assesses existing fishing practices and prohibits those that may negatively affect nesting and mating turtles, as some are likely to be drowned in fishing nets;
11. Enforces measures aimed at avoiding people and cars visiting the sea turtle nesting beaches at night, particularly from the camping sites; controls feral dogs as they have proved to attack and hurt many nesting sea turtles;
12. Keeps the Standing Committee regularly informed about the progress in the implementation of this Recommendation.



Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

**Revised Annex I to Resolution 4 (1996) of the Bern Convention on endangered natural habitat types using the EUNIS habitat classification**

*(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 9 December 2010)*

**ENDANGERED NATURAL HABITAT TYPES**

<b>EUNIS code</b>	<b>EUNIS name</b>
A	Marine habitats
A1.11	Mussel and/or barnacle communities
A1.141	Association with <i>Lithophyllum byssoides</i>
A1.22	Mussels and fucoids on moderately exposed shores
A1.44	Communities of littoral caves and overhangs
A2.2	Littoral sand and muddy sand
A2.3	Littoral mud
A2.4	Littoral mixed sediments
A2.5	Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds
A2.61	Seagrass beds on littoral sediments
A2.621	<i>Eleocharis</i> beds
A2.72	Littoral mussel beds on sediment
A3	Infralittoral rock and other hard substrata
A4	Circalittoral rock and other hard substrata
A5	Sublittoral sediment
A6.911	Seeps in the deep-sea bed
B	Coastal habitats
B1.1	Sand beach driftlines
B1.3	Shifting coastal dunes
B1.4	Coastal stable dune grassland (grey dunes)
B1.5	Coastal dune heaths
B1.6	Coastal dune scrub

B1.7	Coastal dune woods
B1.8	Moist and wet dune slacks
B1.9	Machair
B2.1	Shingle beach driftlines
B2.3	Upper shingle beaches with open vegetation
B2.1	Shingle beach driftlines
B3.24	Unvegetated Baltic rocky shores and cliffs
B3.3	Rock cliffs, ledges and shores, with angiosperms
C	Inland surface waters
C1.1	Permanent oligotrophic lakes, ponds and pools
C1.222	Floating <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i> rafts
C1.223	Floating <i>Stratiotes aloides</i> rafts
C1.224	Floating <i>Utricularia australis</i> and <i>Utricularia vulgaris</i> colonies
C1.225	Floating <i>Salvinia natans</i> mats
C1.226	Floating <i>Aldrovanda vesiculosa</i> communities
C1.2416	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> beds
C1.24113	Transylvanian hot-spring lotus beds
C1.25	Charophyte submerged carpets in mesotrophic waterbodies
C1.32	Free-floating vegetation of eutrophic waterbodies
C1.33	Rooted submerged vegetation of eutrophic waterbodies
C1.3411	<i>Ranunculus</i> communities in shallow water
C1.3413	<i>Hottonia palustris</i> beds in shallow water
C1.4	Permanent dystrophic lakes, ponds and pools
C1.5	Permanent inland saline and brackish lakes, ponds and pools
C1.66	Temporary inland saline and brackish waters
C1.67	Turlough and lake-bottom meadows
C1.33	Rooted submerged vegetation of eutrophic waterbodies
C2.111	Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and springfens
C2.12	Hard water springs
C2.18	Acid oligotrophic vegetation of spring brooks
C2.19	Lime-rich oligotrophic vegetation of spring brooks
C2.1A	Mesotrophic vegetation of spring brooks
C2.1B	Eutrophic vegetation of spring brooks
C2.25	Acid oligotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams
C2.26	Lime-rich oligotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams
C2.27	Mesotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams
C2.28	Eutrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams
C2.33	Mesotrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers
C2.34	Eutrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers
C3.4	Species-poor beds of low-growing water-fringing or amphibious vegetation
C3.51	Euro-Siberian dwarf annual amphibious swards (but excluding C3.5131 Toad-rush swards)
C3.55	Sparsely vegetated river gravel banks
C3.62	Unvegetated river gravel banks
D	Mires, bogs and fens

D1.2	Blanket bogs
D2.226	Peri-Danubian black-white-star sedge fens
D2.3	Transition mires and quaking bogs
D3.1	Palsa mires
D3.2	Aapa mires
D3.3	Polygon mires
D4.1	Rich fens, including eutrophic tall-herb fens and calcareous flushes and soaks
D4.2	Basic mountain flushes and streamsides, with a rich arctic-montane flora
D5.2	Beds of large sedges normally without free-standing water
D6.1	Inland saltmarshes
D6.23	Interior Iberian salt pan meadows
E	Grasslands and lands dominated by forbs, mosses or lichens
E1.11	Euro-Siberian rock debris swards
E1.12	Euro-Siberian pioneer calcareous sand swards
E1.2	Perennial calcareous grassland and basic steppes
E1.3	Mediterranean xeric grassland
E1.55	Eastern sub-Mediterranean dry grassland
E1.71	<i>Nardus stricta</i> swards
E1.722	Boreo-arctic <i>Agrostis-Festuca</i> grasslands
E1.83	Mediterraneo-montane <i>Nardus stricta</i> swards
E1.9	Open non-Mediterranean dry acid and neutral grassland, including inland dune grassland
E1.B	Heavy-metal grassland
E2.15	Macaronesian mesic grassland
E2.2	Low and medium altitude hay meadows
E2.3	Mountain hay meadows
E3.1	Mediterranean tall humid grassland
E3.3	E3.3 Sub-mediterranean humid meadows
E3.4	Moist or wet eutropic and mesotrophic grassland
E3.5	Moist or wet oligotrophic grassland
E4.11	Boreo-alpine acidocline snow-patch grassland and herb habitats
E4.12	Boreo-alpine calcicline snow-patch grassland and herb habitats
E4.3	Acid alpine and subalpine grassland
E4.4	Calcareous alpine and subalpine grassland
E5.4	Moist or wet tall-herb and fern fringes and meadows
E5.5	Subalpine moist or wet tall-herb and fern stands
E6.1	Mediterranean inland salt steppes
E6.2	Continental inland salt steppes
E7.3	Dehesa
F	Heathland, scrub and tundra
F2.22	Alpide acidocline <i>Rhododendron</i> heaths
F2.26	<i>Bruckenthalia</i> heaths
F2.32	Subalpine and oroboreal <i>Salix</i> brush
F2.336	Rhodope <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> thickets
F2.41	Inner Alpine <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub
F2.42	Outer Alpine <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub

F2.43	Southwestern <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub
F2.44	Apennine <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub
F2.45	Hercynian <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub
F3.12	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> thickets
F3.16	<i>Juniperus communis</i> scrub
F3.21	Montane <i>Cytisus purgans</i> fields
F3.241	Central European subcontinental thickets
F3.245	Eastern Mediterranean deciduous thickets
F3.247	Ponto-Sarmatic deciduous thickets
F4.1	Wet heaths
F4.2	Dry heaths
F4.3	Macaronesian heaths
F5.13	Juniper matorral
F5.171	Iberian arid zone <i>Ziziphus matorral</i>
F5.18	<i>Laurus nobilis</i> matorral
F5.516	<i>Laurus</i> thickets
F5.517	Coastal <i>Helichrysum garrigues</i>
F5.51G	Tall spiny broom brush
F5.52	<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i> formations
F5.53	<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanica</i> -dominated garrigues
F5.54	<i>Chamaerops humilis</i> brush
F5.55	Mediterranean pre-desert scrub
F5.56	Thermo-Mediterranean broom fields (retamares)
F5.5B	Cabo de Sao Vicente brushes
F6.7	Mediterranean gypsum scrubs
F6.8	Xero-halophile scrubs
F7	Spiny Mediterranean heaths (phrygana, hedgehog-heaths and related coastal cliff vegetation)
F9.1	Riverine scrub
F9.3	Southern riparian galleries and thickets
G	Woodland, forest and other wooded land
G1.11	Riverine <i>Salix</i> woodland
G1.12	Boreo-alpine riparian galleries
G1.13	Southern <i>Alnus</i> and <i>Betula</i> galleries
G1.21	Riverine <i>Fraxinus</i> - <i>Alnus</i> woodland, wet at high but not at low water
G1.22	Mixed <i>Quercus</i> - <i>Ulmus</i> - <i>Fraxinus</i> woodland of great rivers
G1.3	Mediterranean riparian woodland
G1.4115	Eastern Carpathian <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> swamp woods
G1.414	Steppe swamp <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> woods
G1.44	Wet-ground woodland of the Black and Caspian Seas
G1.51	Sphagnum <i>Betula</i> woods
G1.6	<i>Fagus</i> woodland
G1.7	Thermophilous deciduous woodland
G1.8	Acidophilous <i>Quercus</i> -dominated woodland

G1.917	Oroboreal <i>Betula</i> woods and thickets
G1.918	Eurasian boreal <i>Betula</i> woods
G1.925	Boreal <i>Populus tremula</i> woods
G1.A1	<i>Quercus - Fraxinus - Carpinus betulus</i> woodland on eutrophic and mesotrophic soils
G1.A4	Ravine and slope woodland
G1.A7	Mixed deciduous woodland of the Black and Caspian Seas
G1.B3	Boreal and boreonemoral <i>Alnus</i> woods
G2	Broadleaved evergreen woodland
G3.134	Holy Cross fir forests
G3.15	Southern Apennine <i>Abies alba</i> forests
G3.16	Moesian <i>Abies alba</i> forests
G3.17	Balkano-Pontic <i>Abies</i> forests
G3.19	<i>Abies pinsapo</i> forests
G3.1B	Alpine and Carpathian subalpine <i>Picea</i> forests
G3.1C	Inner range montane <i>Picea</i> forests
G3.1D	Hercynian subalpine <i>Picea</i> forests
G3.1E	Southern European <i>Picea abies</i> forests
G3.1F	Enclave <i>Picea abies</i> forests
G3.1G	<i>Picea omorika</i> forests
G3.1H	<i>Picea orientalis</i> forests
G3.21	Eastern Alpine siliceous <i>Larix</i> and <i>Pinus cembra</i> forests
G3.22	Eastern Alpine calcicolous <i>Larix</i> and <i>Pinus cembra</i> forests
G3.25	Carpathian <i>Larix</i> and <i>Pinus cembra</i> forests
G3.26	<i>Larix polonica</i> forests
G3.31	<i>Pinus uncinata</i> forests with <i>Rhododendron ferrugineum</i>
G3.32	Xerocline <i>Pinus uncinata</i> forests
G3.41	Caledonian forest
G3.4232	Sarmatic steppe <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests
G3.4233	Carpathian steppe <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> woods
G3.4234	Pannonic steppe <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> woods
G3.43	Inner-Alpine Ononis steppe forests
G3.44	Alpine Spring heath <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests
G3.4E	Ponto-Caucasian <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests
G3.5	<i>Pinus nigra</i> woodland (but excluding G3.57 : <i>Pinus nigra</i> reforestation)
G3.6	Subalpine mediterranean <i>Pinus</i> woodland
G3.7	Lowland to montane mediterranean <i>Pinus</i> woodland (excluding <i>Pinus nigra</i> )
G3.8	Canary Island <i>Pinus canariensis</i> woodland
G3.9	Coniferous woodland dominated by <i>Cupressaceae</i> or <i>Taxaceae</i>
G3.A	<i>Picea</i> taiga woodland
G3.B	<i>Pinus</i> taiga woodland
G3.D	Boreal bog conifer woodland
G3.E	Nemoral bog conifer woodland
H	Inland unvegetated or sparsely vegetated habitats
H1	Terrestrial underground caves, cave systems, passages and waterbodies

H2.1	Cold siliceous screes
H2.2	Cold limestone screes
H2.3	Temperate-montane acid siliceous screes
H2.4	Temperate-montane calcareous and ultra-basic screes
H2.5	Acid siliceous screes of warm exposures
H2.6	Calcareous and ultra-basic screes of warm exposures
H3.1	Acid siliceous inland cliffs
H3.2	Basic and ultra-basic inland cliffs
H3.511	Limestone pavements
H4.2	Ice caps and true glaciers
H4.3	Rock glaciers and unvegetated ice-dominated moraines
H6	Recent volcanic features
X	Habitat complexes
X01	Estuaries
X02	Saline coastal lagoons
X03	Brackish coastal lagoons
X04	Raised bog complexes
X09	Pasture woods (with a tree layer overlying pasture)
X18	Wooded steppe
X29	Salt lake islands
X35	Inland Sand Dunes