



HUMAN RIGHTS,  
DEMOCRACY  
AND THE RULE OF LAW

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

DROITS DE L'HOMME,  
DÉMOCRATIE  
ET ÉTAT DE DROIT

# 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles

## Trondheim (Norway), 9-10 October 2017

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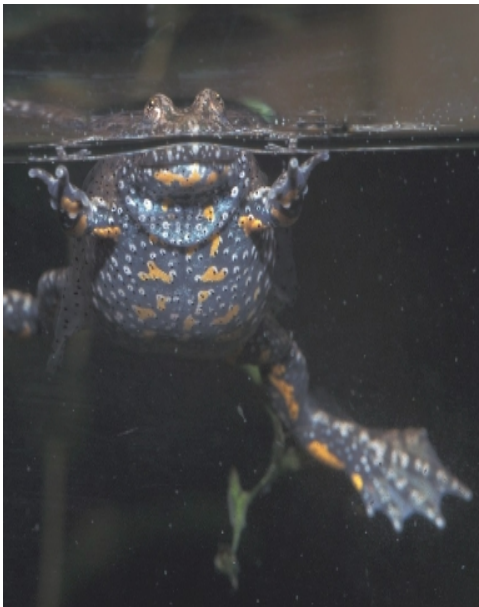
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# Agenda Item 3: Quick reminder on past BC work



- 1978: CM of the CoE calls for cooperation on the issue of herpetofauna conservation
- Since 1987:
  - 24 specific Recommendations:
    - 10 on marine turtles
    - 3 general ones: Recommendation No. 13 (1988) concerning measures for the protection of critical biotopes of endangered amphibians and reptiles, Recommendation No. 27 (1991) on the conservation of some threatened amphibians in Europe and Recommendation No. 119 (2006) on the conservation of certain endangered species of amphibians and reptiles in Europe



- Since 2015: issue of A&R diseases taken on board - Recommendation No. 176 (2015) on BSaI
- 5 Species Action Plans:
  - Crested Newt Complex (*Triturus cristatus*)
  - Italian Agile Frog (*Rana latastei*)
  - Sand Lizard (NW.Europe) (*Lacerta agilis*)
  - Aesculapian Snake (*Zamensis longissimus.*)
  - Meadow Viper (*Vipera ursinii*)



- Group of Experts: gathers information, reviews standards and proposes advice and guidance, including new Recs.
- Cooperation with NGOs: support the work of reviewing implementation at national level (Rec. No. 119 (2006) on the conservation of certain endangered species of amphibians and reptiles)
- Case-files system: numerous complaints in particular on marine turtles





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# Agenda Item 5: Parties' reports on implementation of Recommendation No. 176 (2015)

## Reporting on implementation of Rec. 176 (2015) on Bsal

- 2 reporting requests: 2016 and 2017
  - 2016 request: no reporting format
  - 2017 request: questionnaire-based reporting following the operational points of the Recommendation
- 2016: 14 Parties sent reports, including the EU
- 2017: 9 Parties sent reports
- 19 Parties reported all together

## **Parties' reports on implementation of Rec. 176 (2015) on Bsal (cont.)**

- 4 Parties report on having identified Bsal on their territories: BE, DE, NL and UK
- 5 Parties report on having developed biosafety protocols for the treatment of amphibians affected by the Bsal: BE, DE, FR, UK and CZ. Unknown for NL as not stated!
- 3 Parties report on having trade restrictions in place in their country as a preventive measure: PL, DE and SR



## **Parties' reports on implementation of Rec. 176 (2015) on Bsal (cont.)**

- Monitoring programmes to control the possible further spread of the disease exist in 8 Parties: AN, BE, CZ, FR, DE, NL, SR, SK and UK
- 6 Parties report on carrying out research into the biology, epidemiology, and mitigation of *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*: BE, CZ, FR, DE, NL and UK
- 8 Parties report on taking measures to improve public's awareness on the issue of amphibians' diseases and their impacts, as well as on means for prevention, biosafety and surveillance: BE, CZ, FR, DE, NL, SK, UA and UK

## **EU report on implementation of Rec. 176 (2015) on Bsal**

- Directive 92/65/EEC: regulates import from non-EU countries from an animal health perspective with national rules
- EU Regulation 2016/429 (“Animal Health Law”)
- Consideration is given to whether imports could be restricted through inclusion of exotic amphibian species in the Annexes to the Wildlife Trade Regulations
- DG Environment has commissioned a study to review the risk posed by importing Asiatic species of salamanders and newts
- In 2016, the EC was carrying out the selection procedure for the project "Mitigating a new infectious disease in salamanders to counteract a loss of European biodiversity"

## Focus on specific action and research on Bsal in CPs

- BE: 4-year NP aimed at coordinating action to address Bsal throughout the 3 regions
- FR: Action plan being drafted with the aim of responding to point 7 of Recommendation 176.
- CZ: Developing a universally useful methodology regarding disease control
- DE: Launched a project on the development and testing of conservation strategies for amphibians in Central Europe in view of Bsal.



## Research on CC impact on herpetofauna

- 3 Parties report on implementing or initiating research on the impact of climate change on amphibian and reptile species: AN, CZ and FR
  - Andorra: member of a POCTEFA project: Ectopyr, initiated in 2016. No results available at the moment
  - Czech Republic: Research at the Institute of Vertebrate Biology of the Czech Academy of Sciences
  - France: 2 research centres develop analysis of large data bases (e.g. at the scale of France) along temporal series and in ecophysiology of amphibians and reptiles, connected with CC.

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# Agenda Item 9: Work priorities, methods and future activities

# ***Modus operandi* of other Bern Convention GoE**



- **Invasive Alien Species:**
  - Full Group of Experts and Select GoE meeting in alternate years
  - Small group of experts (including web WG) in continuous coordination in preparation of next meetings
  - Develops voluntary Guidance documents (Codes of Conduct)
- **Climate Change and Biodiversity:**
  - Adopted Programme of Work
  - Recently adopted the system of Full and Select GoE meetings in alternate years
  - Adopted mandate for the Restricted GoE – help implement the PoW
  - Joint meetings with other GoE



## ***Modus operandi* of other Bern Convention GoE**

- **Conservation of Birds:**
  - Key specific issue such as Illegal Killing of Birds (IKB) – Network of SFPs created
  - Action Plan on IKB developed at a European Conference
- **Emerald Network:**
  - Ad-Hoc Group created on specific issues – i.e. Reporting
  - Focus on communication
  - Update of lists of species listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998)



## Current Programme of Work on Climate Change of the BC

- Adopted in 2015
- Articulated around 9 priority areas of action:
  - **Promote implementation of Recs.**
  - **Assess species' vulnerability**
  - **Establish and manage protected areas appropriately**
  - Monitor using common approaches
  - Assess the role of biodiversity in maintaining ecosystem function
  - Promote research
  - Promote actions to conserve Arctic S&H
  - Prepare and communicate Guidance and toolkits
  - Co-operate with other institutions
- No timeline or deadlines

## A few lessons learned from the work of other GoE

- (Framework) Programme of Work
- Clear expected outcomes and timeframe
- Smaller WGs (Restricted GoE) moving the agenda further
- New tools for efficient action-oriented reporting by Parties necessary





## A few lessons learned from the work of other GoE (cont.)

- Species Action Plans ? Deadlines
- New Recommendations ? Deadlines
- Integrate specific species' considerations into the work of other GoEs
- Realise strong co-operation initiatives and partnerships
- Communication! – Bern Convention Campaigns



## Future work priorities

- Continue monitor implementation of Recs.
- Cooperate with other GoE (Protected Areas)
- Non-native species introduction
- IHA identification
- Communication?

