



Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 4 October 2017
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T-PVS/PA(2017) 4

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

8th meeting
27-28 September 2017

AGENDA

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation*

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| | | Documents | Expected results |
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| Wednesday 27 September | | | |
| 9:30 | 1. Opening of the meeting <i>Opening speech by Mr Aleksandar Vesic, Assistant to the Minister of Environmental Protection</i> | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 2. Adoption of the agenda | Meeting agenda T-PVS/PA(2017)4 For adoption | Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed of the aims of the meeting and adopt the agenda. |
| | 3. Mandate of the Group and decisions of the 35th and 36th meetings of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention <i>Presentation by Gianluca Silvestrini</i> | Report of the 7th meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks T-PVS/PA(2015)13E Report of the 2016 meeting of the Ad-hoc Restricted Group of Experts on Reporting on the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest T-PVS/PA(2016)9E Extract from the list of decisions and adopted texts on the protection of habitats T-PVS/PA(2016) 5E T-PVS/PA(2017)6E | The salient points of the 35 th and 36 th meetings of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention are recalled. |

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| | | For information | |
| | 4. Development of the Emerald Network guidance | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>4.a Reporting on negative changes impacting Areas of Special Conservation Interest and especially the shrinking of the areas</p> <p><i>Presentation by Otars Opermanis</i></p> <p><i>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are invited to discuss the working document and to exchange views on possible follow up work.</i></p> | <p>Guidelines for explaining negative changes in Emerald Network proposed, candidate and adopted sites</p> <p>T-PVS/PA(2017) 7</p> <p>For discussion and decision</p> | <p>Follow up actions are agreed on by the members of and observers to the Group of Experts.</p> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>4.b The concept of the “ecological character” of sites in the Bern Convention/Emerald Network context</p> <p><i>Presentation by Dave Pritchard</i></p> <p><i>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are invited to discuss the assessment report and to exchange views on possible follow up work.</i></p> | <p>Study on the “ecological character” of sites</p> <p>T-PVS/PA(2017)8</p> <p>For discussion and decision</p> | <p>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts agree on the development of a new Bern Convention guidance on detecting, assessing and responding to changes and likely changes in the ecological character of ASCIs.</p> |
| | <p>4.c Proposals of additional species to Resolution N° 6 (1998) and/or habitats to Resolution N° 4 (1996) and follow-up on previously proposed additional habitats to Resolution N° 4</p> <p><i>Reminder by the Secretariat (Marc Hory)</i></p> <p><i>Representatives of the Contracting Parties and Observer states are reminded that they should</i></p> | For information | <p>No additional species and/or habitats are proposed by the representatives of the Contracting Parties and Observer states.</p> |

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| | <i>inform the Secretariat of the lists of species and habitats they propose for Resolution N° 6 (1998) and/or Resolution N° 4 (1996)</i> | | |
| 10:50 – 11:20 | Coffee break | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <p>5. State of play of the Emerald Network and future perspectives - Reports by Contracting Parties and list of Emerald Network candidate sites</p> <p><i>Representatives of the Contracting Parties and Observer states are invited to present orally the major achievements regarding the development of the Emerald Network in their respective countries. Presentations should be limited to 4 minutes.</i></p> <p><i>Representatives of the Contracting Parties and Observer states are invited to confirm that all newly proposed sites from their latest national databases are to be sent for official nomination to the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention.</i></p> <p><i>Representatives of the Contracting Parties and Observer states are invited to inform the Secretariat whether their country is submitting its candidate Emerald sites for official adoption as Emerald sites by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention.</i></p> | <p>Revised calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network (2011-2020) T-PVS/PA(2015)16</p> <p>Publication: Emerald Network status in the Eastern Partnership region and the Russian Federation</p> | <p>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed on progress in the setting-up of the Emerald Network in all Contracting Parties and Observer States concerned.</p> <p>Countries which request their newly proposed Emerald Network sites for official nomination as candidate Emerald sites by the Standing Committee are identified.</p> <p>Countries which request the official adoption as Emerald sites of their candidate sites by the Standing Committee are identified.</p> |
| 12:40 – 14:00 | Lunch | | |

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| | <p>6. Recent developments of Natura 2000 and plans for the near future</p> <p><i>Presentation by Frank Vassen</i></p> | <p>For information</p> | <p>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed of latest developments of the Natura 2000 network.</p> |
| | <p>7. Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) of the Bern Convention</p> | | |
| <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Outcomes of the 2nd meeting of the Ad-Hoc Restricted Group of Experts on Reporting on the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest</p> <p><i>Presentation by Marc Hory</i></p> <p><i>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed on the outcomes of the 2nd meeting of Ad-Hoc Restricted Group of Experts on Reporting on the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest and are invited to propose follow up actions.</i></p> | <p>Final draft of the legal analysis of the Emerald Network reporting requirements under the Bern Convention T-PVS/Inf(2017)11</p> <p>Reporting format for the period 2013-2018 T-PVS/PA(2017)9</p> <p>Proposal of selected species and habitats T-PVS/PA(2017) 10</p> <p>Guidelines, favourable reference values, pressures and threat lists, conservation measures list, species checklist</p> <p>For approval</p> | <p>The draft format of the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) is agreed on by the members of and observers to the Group of Experts and sent for adoption by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention.</p> <p>A selection of species and habitats to be considered for the 1st reporting cycle under Resolution No. 8 (2012) is agreed on by the members of and observers to the Group of Experts and sent for adoption by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention.</p> <p>Supporting documents for the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) are agreed on by the members of and observers to the Group of Experts.</p> |

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| | <p>8. Road map for achieving a fully operational Emerald Network : conclusions from the Joint EU/CoE Programme “Emerald Network of Nature Protection Sites, Phase II” implemented by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine</p> <p><i>Presentation by Dave Pritchard</i></p> | <p>Three dimensional road map for achieving a fully operational Emerald Network in 7 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and South Caucasus T-PVS/PA(2016)10</p> <p>For information</p> | <p>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are aware of the outcomes and conclusions of the Joint Programme “Emerald Network of Nature Protection Sites, Phase II”;</p> |
| 15:10 - 15:40 | Coffee break | | |
| <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>End of the 1st meeting day 17h10</i></p> | <p>8.a Working Group sessions</p> <p><i>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are invited to join their respective working group and discuss the proposed topics:</i></p> <p><i>Working Group A: Identifying and designating sites</i></p> <p><i>Working Group B: Protection and Management</i></p> <p><i>Working Group C: Communication</i></p> | <p>For discussion</p> | <p>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - discuss whether the roadmap is relevant to their own respective context. - know each other better and understand where their peers stand in the implementation of the provisions of the Emerald Network. - learn from each other’s success stories and challenges. - the Secretariat knows about the priorities of and challenges faced by the Contracting Parties. |
| Reception offered by the Ministry of Environmental Protection | | | |
| Thursday 28 September | | | |
| 9:30 | <p>8.b Feedback from the Working Groups</p> <p><i>Rapporteurs of the working groups report to members of and observers to the Group of Experts on the outcomes of the discussions in their respective working groups</i></p> | <p>For information</p> | <p>Follow up actions for the implementation of the road map are identified.</p> <p>Priorities for the future work of the Secretariat of the Bern Convention are identified;</p> |

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| | 9. Data flows and tools | | |
| | 9.a Data flow principles including scoring <i>Presentation by Marc Roekaerts</i> | For information | Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed of the latest data flow updates and of the on-going Eionet's discussions on scoring. |
| | 9.b The Emerald Network and Natura 2000 Viewers <i>Presentation by Marc Roekaerts</i> The new Natura 2000 Viewer <i>Presentation by Frank Vassen</i> | For information | Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed of the functionalities of the Viewers and can use and promote it. |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | Coffee break | | |
| | 10. Future work of the Group of Experts | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 10.a Programme of activities 2018-2019 <i>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are invited to propose and discuss new activities in 2018</i> | For discussion and decision | Priority activities are identified and will feed into the Programme of activity 2018-2019 of the Bern Convention (subject to the availability of financial and human resources) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 10.b Date and place of the next meeting of the Group of Experts <i>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts wishing to host the next meeting of the Group of Experts are invited to inform the Secretariat.</i> | For decision | The provisional venue and dates of the next meeting are agreed on. |

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| | <p>11. Video on the European Diploma for Protected Areas</p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Experts interested in a version of the video with subtitles of voice over in their national language are invited to inform the Secretariat.</i></p> | <p>For information</p> | <p>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are aware of the video and can use and promote it.</p> |
| | <p>12. Any other business</p> | | |
| | <p>13. Conclusions of the meeting</p> | | |
| <p>12:15</p> | <p>End of the meeting</p> | | |