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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

36th meeting
Strasbourg, 15-18 November 2016

**BERN CONVENTION
PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET
FOR 2017**

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE BIENNIAL BUDGETARY CYCLE: REMINDER

Overview of the procedure for the adoption of the Council of Europe “Programme and Budget”

Since 2011 the Council of Europe follows two consecutive financial years, called the “biennium”. The Council of Europe “Programme and Budget” presents for each financial year of the biennium the General Budget (including the “Ordinary Budget¹”), and the budgets of the Partial and Enlarged Agreements.

The Committee of Ministers examines the proposal of activities submitted by the Secretary General, including a progress review of the previous and on-going years, as well as the strategic priorities identified for the two forthcoming years (Y1-Y2), together with their budgetary implications.

During the whole process, the proposal is also screened by the Committee of Ministers’ Budget Committee, as well as by an Internal Auditor responsible for evaluating and contributing to the improvement of risk management, control, and governance processes, and by an External Auditor. The latter is appointed by the Committee of Ministers with the task of, inter alia, certifying the annual financial statements and the budgetary management accounts of the Organisation, making observations with respect to the economy efficiency and effectiveness of the financial procedures. The adoption of the “Programme and Budget” by the Committee of Ministers is generally expected by the end of November.

The “Programme and Budget” includes:

- ⇒ the programme of activities for the biennium,
- ⇒ the budget for year N,
- ⇒ the provisional budget for year N+1.

During year N, until 1st November, the member states and the Secretary General may request the re-opening of the debate on the budget for year N+1 so to adjust its programme when necessary in response to political priorities.

If no such request is made, the Committee of Ministers takes the decision to approve the budget.

The Bern Convention Programme of activities

The Bern Convention adapted to the requirements of the Council of Europe biennial programme and budget to ensure the efficient implementation of its own Programme of activities as well as budgetary discipline.

At its 35th meeting in 2015, the Standing Committee formally adopted its Programme of activities for the period 2016-2017, as well as its budget for 2016 and pre-validated the provisional budget for 2017. The PoA presented below is therefore based on the programme pre-validated by the Standing Committee in 2015, as amended to take account of the needs expressed by the Group of Experts which met in 2016, as well as of new issues raised under the Convention in the current year.

It should be noticed that the draft Programme of Activities for the Bern Convention is prepared and examined by the Bureau before the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe Programme and Budget. The amounts presented to the Standing Committee are therefore forecasts and takes into account both the expected provision allocated to the Bern Convention via the Ordinary Budget as well as the estimated voluntary contributions to be received from countries.

¹ The Ordinary budget derives from the contributions of Contracting Parties. The calculation of the scales of Member States’ contributions is effected using the average of the data on annual population and GDP (Gross Domestic Product, converted to US dollars) of each MS in respect of the three-year period ending 24 months before the date of entry into force of the scale. In the calculation, the weighting to be given to data on GDP shall be 5 times the weighting to be given to the data on population. In 2013, the Committee of Ministers further adopted CM Resolution (2013)7 concerning “Financial arrangements for the participation of non-member States in Council of Europe conventions”, according to which non-member states should contribute to the costs related to the functioning and operation of Council of Europe’s Convention with monitoring mechanism to which they are Party.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET OF THE BERN CONVENTION FOR THE YEAR 2017

1. Meetings of the statutory bodies (Standing Committee and Bureau)

The Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, whose existence is foreseen in Article 13 of the Convention for enabling parties to meet regularly to develop common and co-ordinated programmes, is the body composed of the representatives of the parties. It has much of the responsibility for the functioning and monitoring of the Convention and meets once a year.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee takes administrative and organisational decisions in between meetings of the Standing Committee. It includes the Chair of the Standing Committee, the Vice-chair, the previous Chair, and two additional Bureau members, and is assisted by the Secretariat.

2. Monitoring and assistance to Parties in species conservation

The activities planned under this heading aim at assessing and recording the conservation status of the populations of species listed in the appendices to the Convention, identifying species at risk, devising processes affecting loss of wild biological diversity, setting-up models to monitor change in wildlife outside protected areas. Common management standards may be proposed through action plans. Monitoring of the implementation of Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention, as well as of the pertinent recommendations should also be carried out by the relevant Group of Experts.

These activities may directly contribute to the following CBD Aichi Targets: 1, 9, 12, and 15.

3. Conservation of natural habitats

The activities planned under this heading aim at ensuring the conservation of natural habitats and the implementation of Article 4 of the Convention, as well as of Resolutions Nos (1989) 1, (1996) 3, (1996) 4, (1998) 5, (1998) 6 and Recommendations Nos (1989) 14, (1989) 15 and (1989) 16 of the Standing Committee. The setting-up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI) in Europe, and the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network are the two main medium-term objectives of the Convention's work in this field.

These activities may directly contribute to the following CBD Aichi Targets: 1, 11, and 12.

4. Implementation of Article 3

Article 3 of the Convention sets out the general obligation for each Contracting party to take action individually, with respect to the conservation of wild flora and fauna and all natural habitats in general, by for instance promoting national conservation policies as well as education and information. Through the activity planned under this heading, the Secretariat seeks to provide assistance to parties in building capacities for communicating on the biodiversity advantage.

5. Monitoring of sites at risk

The activities to be implemented under this heading concern the monitoring of the implementation of the obligations of the Convention by parties by examination of case-file complaints or in the framework of the mediation procedure. They may also concern emergencies in the eventuality of a grave ecological damage as a result of a catastrophe, an accident or a conflict situation, and include on-the-spot appraisals organised for the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

Bern Convention Budget for 2017					
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
			604316	374900	244403
1. Statutory bodies			55505	39700	15805
Meeting of the Standing Committee (4 days)			45504	29699	15805
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (average: 24 experts*5 per diem). Chair + Countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, BiH, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Portugal, Serbia, Slovak Republic, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, Morocco, Tunisia, Burkina Faso, Senegal</i>	120	175	21000	10900	10100
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	24	470	11280	5575	5705
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	6	2 204	13224	13224	0
1st Meeting of the Bureau (1 day)			4563	4563	0
<i>Subsistence of Bureau Members (5 experts*1,5 per diem)</i>	7,5	175	1313	1313	0
<i>Travel expenses of Bureau Members (5 experts)</i>	5	650	3250	3250	0
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	0	0	0	0	0
2nd Meeting of the Bureau (1,5 days)			5438	5438	0
<i>Subsistence of Bureau Members (5 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	12,5	175	2188	2188	0
<i>Travel expenses of Bureau Members (5 experts)</i>	5	650	3250	3250	0
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	0	0	0	0	0

2. Monitoring and assistance to Parties			83575	33677	64885
Select Group on Illegal killing of birds and GoE birds (2 days)			18425	9950	8475
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	15	470	7050	3450	3600
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (15 experts*3 per diem)</i>	45	175	7875	4000	3875
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	3 500	3500	2500	1000
Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species (2 days)			22925	7407	15518
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	15	470	7050	3450	3600
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (15 experts*3 per diem)</i>	45	175	7875	3957	3918
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	2	4 000	8000	0	8000
Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles (1,5 days)			24225	7820	16405
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	15	470	7050	2820	4230
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (15 experts *2,5 per diem)</i>	37,5	175	6563	3000	3563
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4000	2000	2000
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	3	2 204	6612	0	6612
Select Group of Experts on Climate Change (1 day)			14988	0	14988
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	15	470	7050	0	7050
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (15 experts *1,5 per diem)</i>	22,5	175	3938	0	3938
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4000	0	4000

Technical support on Large Carnivores, Plant conservation (Planta Europa Conference), and the CMS Pan-Mediterranean Task Force			10000	4000	6000
<i>Lumpsum AA</i>	1	0	10000	4000	6000
Capacity building on IAS management [including ruddy duck]			8000	4500	3500
<i>Lumpsum AA</i>	1	0	8000	4500	3500
3. Conservation of Natural Habitats			72645	37923	34722
Group of experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks (1,5 days)			23317	18595	4722
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	14	470	6580	5170	1410
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (14 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	35	175	6125	4813	1312
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4000	2000	2000
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	3	2 204	6612	6612	0
Emerald Pilot project in Tunisia			0	0	0
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	pm	0	0	0
2nd Emerald Pilot project in Morocco			20000	0	20000
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	20 000	20000	0	20000
Emerald Phase II in Turkey			0	0	0
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	pm	0	0	0

Emerald biogeographic evaluations (2 days)			20000	10000	10000
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	2	10 000	20000	10000	10000
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	14	470	6580	6580	0
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (14 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	35	175	6125	6125	0

Group of Specialists on the EDPA (1 day)			9328	9328	0
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	6	470	2820	2820	0
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (6 experts*2)</i>	12	175	2100	2100	0
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	2	2 204	4408	4408	0

4. Implementation of Article 3			17000	6000	11000
Capacity building on the biodiversity advantage, including marine turtles			5000	3000	2000
<i>Lumpsum (training and consultancy)</i>	1	5 000	5000	3000	2000

Awareness and visibility: Communication strategy			12000	3000	9000
<i>Lumpsum (communication supports)</i>	1	8 000	8000	3000	5000
<i>Lumpsum (electronic publications)</i>	1	4 000	4000	0	4000

5. Monitoring of and advise on sites at risk			29950	21400	8550
<i>Travels Experts</i>	10	470	4700	3500	1200
<i>Subsistence Experts</i>	30	175	5250	3900	1350
<i>Consultancy/AA</i>	10	2 000	20000	14000	6000

6. Official Journeys of staff			22500	22500	0
<i>Travel and subsistence</i>	15	1 500	22500	22500	0

7. Provision for the Chair			5000	3000	2000
<i>Travel and subsistence expenses (lumpsum)</i>	1	5 000	5000	3000	2000

8. Overheads			27700	27700	0
<i>Printing Internal</i>	110 000	0,03	3300	3300	0
<i>Postage (Lumpsum)</i>	1	400	400	400	0
<i>Prepress (lumpsum)</i>	1	2 500	2500	2500	0
<i>Translation Services</i>	636	33,805	21500	21500	0

9. Staff costs*			290 442	183000	107 442
Permanent staff, senior management and office costs	lumpsum		161 900	161900	0
Pensions Permanent staff	lumpsum		21 100	21100	0
Temporary staff and office costs	27	3979,33	107442	0	107442

The Bern Convention Special Account will be used to cover expenses that cannot be covered by the ordinary budget of the Council of Europe.

The activities that will not receive additional contributions will not or partially be implemented.

The Council of Europe provides around 374,900 € in 2017 (€191,900 for financing the programme of activities including overheads, and €183,000 for staff, office, pensions and high level management costs).

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2017

	Meetings	Date	Place
1	Group of Specialists on the European Diploma (1day)	8 March 2017	Strasbourg
2	1 st meeting of the Bureau (1day)	21 March 2017	Strasbourg
3	Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species back-to-back with a Seminar on the “Eradication of IAS in small European islands” (2 days)	1-3 June 2017	Madeira (Portugal)
4	Select Group of Experts on IKB and Group of Experts on the Conservation of birds (back-to-back meetings) (2 days)	21-23 June 2017	Malta
5	Select Group of Experts on Climate change (1 day)	tbc	tbc
6	2 nd meeting of the Bureau (1.5 days)	18-19 September 2017	Strasbourg
7	Emerald Network evaluation Seminar (2 days)	tbd	tbd
8	Group of Experts on Protected areas and Ecological Networks and Restricted Group of Experts on Reporting on the Emerald Network (back-to-back meetings) (2.5 days)	25-27 September 2017	Serbia
9	Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles (1.5 days)	9-10 October 2017	Norway
10	37 th meeting of the Standing Committee	5-8 December 2017	Strasbourg