

Strasbourg, 10 April 2017
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T-PVS (2017) 9

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

37th meeting
Strasbourg, 5-8 December 2017

Meeting of the Bureau

Strasbourg, 21st March 2017

MEETING REPORT

*Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair, Mr Øystein Størkersen, opened the meeting on 21st March 2017 and noted with satisfaction that the Bureau is meeting in its complete composition. He welcomed in particular the two new Bureau members, Ms Sandrine Liegeois and Mr Igor Ivanenko, sitting at the Bureau for the first time.

Mr Eladio Fernández-Galiano, Head of Department Culture, Nature and Heritage, briefly presented the new internal structure of the Directorate General Democracy where the Bern Convention Secretariat operates. He further presented the two new staff members which have joined the Convention on 1st January 2017: Mr Gianluca Silvestrini, who is now overseeing both the Bern Convention and the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, and Mr Marc Hory, in charge of the Emerald Network and the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

The draft Agenda was adopted without amendments (see appendix 1).

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2017 PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Ms Iva Obretenova presented the main activities carried out since the beginning of the year for launching the implementation of the Convention's Programme of work for 2017.

2.1 Expert meeting on the implementation of the Action Plan for the eradication of the ruddy duck in Europe

The expert meeting took place in Sevilla on 30-31 January 2017 at the kind invitation of the Spanish conservation authorities and was aimed at assessing the progress in the implementation of the Action Plan for the eradication of the ruddy duck in Europe [Recommendation No. 185 (2016)] and identifying priorities for action to achieve the alien species' eradication from the wild by 2020.

The meeting agreed that efforts should be focused on four key countries (Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United-Kingdom) while for other second priority countries it was essential to increase their reactive capability. The complete set of priority action will be reported to the upcoming 37th meeting of the Bern Convention Standing Committee on 5-8 December 2017.

DECISION: The Bureau warmly thanked the Spanish conservation authorities for hosting the event and welcomed the good news about the practical eradication of the alien species in Spain. It further acknowledged the continuous efforts of the other concerned countries towards the complete eradication.

The Bureau agreed that the objectives of the Action Plan are perfectly in line with the Aichi Target 9 on the management of IAS' spread and hoped a complete eradication will be achieved by 2020.

2.2 Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas: results of the meeting

The meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas (EDPA) took place in Strasbourg on 8 March 2017.

In light of the independent expert's proposals and of the discussions during the meeting, the Group reviewed and amended 7 draft resolutions for the renewal of the European Diploma to 7 areas, with a certain number of conditions and recommendations. The draft resolutions will be forwarded to the Standing Committee for endorsement and submitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for final adoption in 2018.

Annual reports for 2016 were received from 63 areas holding the Diploma. The reports were analysed by the Secretariat and the members of the Group. More specifically, the assessment focused on the measures implemented to comply with the conditions and/or recommendations for the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. The Group debated in particular areas requiring attention due to

long-term issues, new alarms received on conservation problems encountered or pending implementation of the Diploma award conditions/recommendations. The Group also discussed the situation in the Poloniny National Park (Slovak Republic) and in the Bialowieza National Park (Poland).

In 2017, in view of the renewal of the Diploma, 15 areas should be visited.

In 2018, the composition of the Group of Specialists has to be renewed by half according to the rotation principle. The specialists from the Netherlands, Ukraine and Portugal are outgoing, while those of Italy, Hungary and Sweden will remain for another term of 2 years.

After a careful examination of the past composition of the Group, and in respect of a fair geographical representation, the Secretariat proposed that Germany, Georgia and Romania are invited to designate members to the Group as from 2018.

DECISION: The Bureau welcomed the adoption of the Management Plan for the Poloniny National Park and thanked the Slovak Republic national authorities for their multiple efforts in the past years to secure this adoption.

The Bureau agreed with the plan made by the Group of Specialists for 15 appraisal visits which should take place in 2017, including the proposal for a visit to the Poloniny National Park. It further agreed with the proposal for the new composition of the Group of Specialists as from 2018 and instructed the Secretariat to invite the authorities of Germany, Georgia and Romania to designate Specialists for the Group.

The Bureau suggested that the Secretariat issues a press release or statement on the European Diploma in relation to the European Day of Parks.

Eventually, the Bureau thanked the outgoing members of the Group of Specialists from Portugal and Ukraine and the Chair of the Group, Mr Jan-Willem Sneep, from the Netherlands, for their hard work and dedication to the European Diploma.

2.3 Invasive Alien Species: state of preparation of the meeting of the Group of Experts on IAS

As foreseen in the Programme of Work 2017, the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species will hold its full meeting back-to-back with a Seminar on the “Eradication of IAS in small European islands”, in Madeira on 1-3 June.

As decided by the Standing Committee at its 36th meeting in 2016, the draft Code on Planted Forests and IAS will again be debated by the Group. However, the Secretariat informed of a delay in the finalisation of the 4th draft version of the Code by the consultant. It is hoped that this reviewed version will be sent to all Contracting Parties at the beginning of April.

A number of other new tools are going to be debated at the events, including a draft Code of Conduct on international travel and IAS.

DECISION: The Bureau warmly thanked the Madeira and Portugal authorities for the kind invitation to host the events and took note of the state of preparation of the meetings. It further stressed the leading role of the Bern Convention in setting-up international standards in the field and in supporting its Parties in implementing them.

2.4 Follow-up to the Tunis Action Plan 2020: state of preparation of the 4th Meeting of the Special Focal Points on Illegal killing of birds and of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds

The upcoming back-to-back meetings on the conservation of birds and the particular issue on illegal killing of birds are one of the highlights of 2017 for the Convention. It is the first time the Bern Convention Special Focal Points network and the CMS Taks Force MIKT are going to organise a joint event dedicated to the eradication of IKB phenomena. The meetings are organised in Malta, on the kind invitation of the Maltese authorities and are part of their EU Presidency agenda.

The Secretariat underlined the very good co-operation between the Secretariats of the two MAEs and the progress in the planning and organisation of the meeting. A high number of participants are expected to attend, including from CSOs.

A major focus of the Group of Experts' meeting on the conservation of birds will be discussions on the implementation of Bern Convention existing standards, the necessity of developing new ones or revising/adapting the existing ones, as well as discussion on pending case-files before the Convention linked to birds conservation.

The Joint Bern/CMS event will in particular debate and hopefully finalise a new draft scoring tool aimed at assessing the progress in combating IKB. The 1st draft of the tool is currently drafted by a consultant with the support of the two MAEs Secretariats and will be submitted for a first review to a Working group composed of a few voluntary Contracting Parties before it is debated at the upcoming meeting in Malta.

DECISION: The Bureau warmly thanked the Maltese authorities for the kind invitation to hold the meetings and welcomed the progress in the preparations for the back-to back meetings thanked to the good co-operation of the two MAEs Secretariats.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to invite the authorities of all relevant case-files concerning the conservation of bird species to attend the meeting of the Group of Experts on 21st June and to seek possible solutions and co-operation with relevant national NGOs and other partners.

2.5 Climate change: state of preparation of the meeting of the Restricted Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change

The 1st meeting of the Restricted Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change will take place at the Council of Europe premises in Paris, on 14-15 June 2017. The Group's mandate is to plan the next reporting round on Parties' compliance with Bern Convention Recommendations on the issue, including guidance on the collection and analysis of information and data. The main objective is to identify more effective ways for triggering action by Parties on existing standards, in particular adaptive management.

The Group will further discuss the feasibility of the priority areas of work identified at the last meeting of the full Group of Experts on Climate Change and Biodiversity in 2016 and the timeframe for their realisation. The event will also discuss the available tools for assessing species vulnerability to climate change and which tool will be most adapted to the Bern Convention needs. Another point on the agenda of the meeting is possible synergies and ways to bridge activities between EUR-OPA and the Bern Convention, for example on the issue of nature based solutions.

A number of initiatives and partner organisations will be invited at the meeting as well.

DECISION: The Bureau welcomed the progress in the preparations for the meeting. They acknowledged the idea of looking for synergies between the Bern Convention and EUR-OPA activities, which represents a chance for the nature conservation agenda. It instructed the Secretariat to seek co-operation with the European Commission, IUCN, PEDRR and UNESCO as well.

The Bureau agreed that it is useful to take closer look at all available tools for the assessment of species vulnerability and to select the most applicable one to the Bern Convention. The Bureau further proposed that the added value of Emerald sites which are peat boxes (Belarus, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova) to climate change mitigation and adaptation is recognised.

Eventually, the Bureau agreed with the invitation at the meeting of 6 Parties, which have shown stable participation and interest in the work of the Convention on the issue of Climate Change over the years – Switzerland, Norway, Slovak Republic, Albania, Italy and France.

2.6 Setting-up of the Emerald Network: state of progress, planning of activities for 2017 and co-operation with the EU and EEA

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the progress in the setting-up of the Emerald Network, as well as about its current efforts in negotiating a follow-up project for the setting-up of the Emerald Network in Central and Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. Currently negotiations are held with the European Environment Agency and DG NEAR, with the Agency already informing about their readiness to support financially the future efforts in identifying additional Emerald sites in the countries from the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and for the scientific evaluation of these new site proposals.

The Secretariat further informed about the intentions of the Secretariat to reconnect with the countries from the West Balkans in relation to the establishment of the Emerald Network. As part of the Meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks scheduled provisionally from 26 to 28 September 2017 in Serbia, it is intended to devote a half-day meeting to inform representatives from these countries on the latest revisions of the Emerald Network tools, to present a preliminary assessment of any updated data they submit and to discuss the opportunity of a second biogeographical seminar aiming at their evaluation in 2018.

DECISION: The Bureau appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat in securing a follow-up project to support the establishment of the network in Eastern Europe and the South-Caucasus, but also in the Balkan countries.

The Bureau suggested that a new project proposal focuses on Phase III of the Network constitution process, in particular on issues such as planning conservation objectives and preparing for establishing management regimes for the adopted Emerald sites. It advised that a new project also includes: 1) a legal support component aimed at providing assistance on how to implement obligations arising from the Convention and its Emerald Network during the national designation of sites and 2) a component supporting countries in identifying further potential Emerald sites by taking into account climate change.

The Bureau further reminded that Turkey has expressed an interest in implementing the Emerald Network at last Standing Committee meeting of the Convention and underlined again the undisputable importance of the participation of the Russian Federation to the Network.

Eventually, the Bureau appreciated the readiness expressed by the European Environment Agency to support some of the Convention activities on the Emerald Network establishment for the period 2017-2019. It appreciated as well the continuous financial support of the EU in the past 7 years to the Emerald process and invited Contracting Parties to consider supporting financially the Network implementation in Turkey and the Russian Federation.

2.7 Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles: state of preparation

The Secretariat presented the very preliminary ideas for the main objective of the meeting, namely to focus discussions on amphibian diseases and to possibly develop a more general recommendation for Contracting Parties than Recommendation No. 176 (2015) on the prevention and control of the *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans chytrid fungus*. It was pointed out by some Parties that the Convention should also deal with the *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* as well as other diseases facing the species.

DECISION: The Bureau welcomed the ideas for the meeting objectives. It further stressed that amphibians are the most threatened taxa by climate change. It proposed that Parties are also invited to report on evidence they have on impacts of climate change on amphibian species, ahead of the meeting.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to co-operate with the EU, as they have recently started studies on the fungus presence in EU Member States. Co-operation with CITES should also be pursued.

In relation to the implementation of Recommendation No. 176 (2015), the Bureau discussed the necessity of setting limitations to trade for biosafety reasons and the need to identify who should issue such biosafety procedures and how these can be imposed on traders.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION: CASE-FILES

3.1 Specific Sites - Files open

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

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the national authorities for their report and additional comments on the case-file process.

The Bureau reminded that since the adoption of Recommendation No. 184 (2015) on the planned hydropower plants on the territory of the Mavrovo National Park by the Standing Committee on 1st December 2015, the follow-up of the file is done through regular reporting requests on the state of implementation of the recommended measures. The procedure is standard to all Contracting Parties involved in case-files before the Convention.

Eventually, the Bureau decided that a letter signed by the Chair of the Standing Committee should be addressed to the Permanent Representation of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” to the Council of Europe, kindly proposing a meeting with the Secretariat of the Convention. The aim of the meeting will be to explain the Bern Convention case-file system procedure and the role of the Secretariat and to offer support on the implementation of Recommendation No. 184 (2015).

3.2 Possible files

3.3 Complaints on stand-by

➤ **2012/5: Sport and recreation facilities in Çıralı key turtle nesting beach (Turkey)**

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the national authorities of Turkey for the last minute information that the case before a national court was withdrawn.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to seek confirmation by the complainant of the state of play of the national court case and to request updated information on the development of the sport and recreational facilities. It further instructed the Secretariat to request an updated report to the national authorities on the future plans for the protection status of the area and any plans for the construction of the facilities, now the national court case was withdrawn. Both reports should be requested for the next meeting of the Bureau in September 2017.

The file remains on stand-by.

➤ **2014/6: Wind energy: Possible threats to an endangered natural habitat in Izmir (Turkey)**

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the Turkish authorities for the detailed report clarifying the national legislation on EIA procedures applicable to different sized wind energy installations.

The Bureau noted however that an SEA and cumulative impact assessment for all wind energy developments - which appear to increase in the area - are not yet communicated nor documented. The Bureau pointed out that international standard (such as AEWa and CMS standards and guidance) in this relation should be closely followed.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to renew the reporting request to the national authorities and request in particular information on the SEA on wind energy development in the area and to seek advice from AEWa, Eurobats and the CMS on the process for the development of the study and the impact assessments made.

The report should be requested for the next meeting of the Bureau in September 2017.

The Bureau further invited the national authorities to attend the upcoming meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds (Sliema, Malta, 21st June 2017) and to inform on the impact assessments for the wind energy installations in the area and on the SEA developed or any plans to develop such a study, in order to allow a discussion in relation to important bird migratory routes.

The file remains on stand-by.

➤ **2014/1: Presumed risk of national extinction of badgers in Ireland**

DECISION: The Bureau noted the restored contact with the national authorities in charge of nature conservation in Ireland, through the designation of a new Bern Convention Focal Point.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to remind the new Focal Point for Ireland of the pending national report submission and decided to wait for the updated report on the population numbers of the species in the country before making a decision on the case-file.

The file remains on stand-by.

➤ **2014/8: Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs in Greece**

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the Greek authorities for their timely report and welcomed the measures implemented in the past year for controlling the illegal trade of the species.

The Bureau noted however that the fines presented might not be dissuasive enough and that efforts should be oriented towards long-term monitoring and controlling illegal trade. A plan on how to tackle these activities in the long term should also be considered, in particular taking into account the severe impact on the environment from illegal to harvest of *Lithophaga lithophaga*.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request a new report to both the authorities and the complainant specifically on 1) their assessment of the scale of the illegal harvest and trade, 2) on any illegal activities recently recorded and 3) on any other activities planned or implemented to control the illegal activities in the long term.

The Bureau also invited the European Union to inform the Bureau on its own action, if any, in relation to the case.

The file remains on stand-by.

➤ **2014/3: Presumed deliberate killing of birds in Serbia & 2016/3: Alleged deliberate killing of birds of prey in Serbia**

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the national authorities and the complainants for their reports.

It reminded that trade or even storing of Carbofuran is a serious offence in the European Union and that its extremely high toxicity for both wildlife and humans is very well-known. Cases linked to this pesticide have to be treated with extreme severity and the population's awareness raised on risks for both human and wild animal's health.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to send a new reporting request to the Serbian authorities, requiring information on progress achieved to control the pesticide trade and to reduce the bird mortality cases through the different measures and inter-institutional co-operation initiated.

It further invited the national authorities of Serbia to attend the upcoming meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds (Sliema, Malta, 21st June 2017) and the following 1.5 day meeting on illegal killing of birds (Sliema, Malta, 22-23 June 2017), to inform on recent developments and debate on possible solutions with other Parties.

The file remains on stand-by.

3.4 Other complaints

➤ **2015/2: Possible impact of wind-farm developments on bats (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)**

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the national authorities for the report and additional documentation sent and to EUROBATS for their kind co-operation.

The Bureau took note of Eurobats opinion on the EIA study, which contains neither data on local bats nor a description of methods used for the survey. On the post-construction monitoring scheme planned for the park, it was noted that mortality surveys have been excluded, while they are highly recommended by Eurobats. In addition, the monitoring aims are not established.

The Bureau stressed that both the EIA and the post-construction monitoring should be in line with the Bern Convention and Eurobats guidelines on wind farms on wildlife.

It underlined that it is the objective of the Bureau to help the authorities plan the best possible monitoring, with a view to implement well adapted mitigation measures. It recommended to the national authorities to consider ways to fill in the gaps in the monitoring scheme for the park by using established international standards and guidance.

Eventually, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to make a new reporting request to the national authorities for the next Bureau meeting in September 2017, requesting information on the measures planned to fill in the gaps in the monitoring scheme for the park.

The case remains as other complaints.

➤ **2016/4: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site (Montenegro)**

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the national authorities for their report. It recognised that Skadar Lake is a biodiversity hotspot in Europe, also particularly important for local communities' social and economic development.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to seek co-operation with the Ramsar Convention in seeking information on if and how the project affects the Skadarsko Jezero Ramsar site and opportunities for international co-ordination in the organisation of a fact finding mission to the area (if accepted by the national authorities).

It further instructed the Secretariat to request a new updated report to the national authorities on 1) the state of development of the project, 2) the state of play of the new Spatial Plan of the National Park and how it is articulated with the Mihailovci State Location Study, 3) the mitigation measures planned for the project, whether it is built or not and 4) the results of the on-going scientific research and investigations aimed at reconsidering the candidate Emerald sites boundaries in the country, including the Skadar Lake site. The Bureau kindly requested the national authorities to equally provide a copy of the EIA study for the project.

The case remains as under the category other complaints.

➤ **2016/05: Presumed negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Vjosa river in Albania**

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the national authorities for their report.

It recognised that plans for the development of hydro-power installations in the Balkans' region have drastically increased in the past few years and that careful and strategic planning for this kind of energy is necessary in order to avoid serious negative impacts on biodiversity.

The Bureau recommended the development of Bern Convention Guidelines on hydro power development and its strategic planning, including a good practices section, is a matter of urgency. It instructed the Secretariat to develop such guidance for the 38th Standing Committee meeting in 2018 and to seek possible financial support for its development from major financial institutions.

On the specific case, the Bureau agreed that in order to take an informed decision it needs more information on how the cumulative impact of all hydro-power projects in Albania is being assessed. Detailed information is also needed on the expected impact of Bern Convention species and habitats.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request a new report to the national authorities, in particular on the current (and future) protection status of the area, taking into account its possible qualification for an Emerald/Natura 2000 site. The authorities are further invited to report on the foreseen impact of the project on the Bern Convention species and habitats and how these will be mitigated, as well as on the allegations by the complainant that the 140 pages presented as an SEA cannot be considered as such.

The Bureau further instructed the Secretariat to request the complainant to send a new and detailed report on the project impact on existing protected areas and on Bern Convention species and habitats.

After an examination of the new reports by the authorities and the complainant, the Bureau will consider the necessity of organising a fact finding appraisal to the area.

Eventually, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to seek a meeting with the Permanent Representation of Albania to the Council of Europe, in order to discuss the case and the future plans of the national authorities for hydropower development. The meeting is aimed at explaining the concerns hydro energy can raise if developed without careful strategic environmental assessment, corresponding to international standards.

The case remains as under the category other complaints.

➤ **2016/09: Possible threat to Svaneti 1 Candidate Emerald site from Nenskra HPP (Georgia)**

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the national authorities for their report, as well as the EBRD for providing the links to the ESIA documents and particular the Biodiversity Impact Assessment Chapter.

The Bureau agreed that taking into account the changes in the borders and coverage of the candidate Emerald site Svaneti 1, the sufficient conclusions for all species and habitats described in the site SDF at the 1st Emerald Biogeographical Seminar from May 2015 should be re-opened for discussion at the next evaluation Seminar.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request the opinion of the complainant on the ESIA documents and studies developed for the HPP which are now disclosed, in particular regarding the assessed impact of the project on the Bern Convention species and habitats.

Eventually, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request a new report by the national authorities on 1) their plans for the territories removed from the initial Svaneti 1 candidate Emerald site, which were evaluated as having many biodiversity assets, 2) on their plans and actions to inform local populations and civil society actors on the HPP development and its potential impacts and 3) the plans for any public consultation on the ESIA study which is now finalised.

The European Union and the EBRD should be informed of the decision of the Bureau.

The case remains as under the category other complaints.

4. FOLLOW-UP OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS: PROPOSAL BY THE SECRETARIAT

The Bureau agreed that the following four Recommendations should be follow-up during 2017 and measures taken for their implementation presented at the 37th meeting of the Standing Committee to the Convention:

- **Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach (Turkey).**
- **Recommendation No. 176 (2015) on the prevention and control of the *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* chytrid fungus**
- **Recommendation No.190 (2016) on the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, specially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland**
- **Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of *Caretta Caretta* in Laganas bay, Zakynthos (Greece)**

Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach (Turkey) should be followed-up as per decision taken at the 35th meeting of the Standing Committee in 2015, where the authorities of Turkey were invited to submit a full and comprehensive report on the measures put in place to implement the Recommendation in 2017.

After discussion, the Bureau agreed that Recommendation No. 176 (2015) on the prevention and control of the *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* chytrid fungus should also be submitted to the follow-up of procedure in relation to the upcoming meeting of the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles in October 2017. The choice for submitting Recommendation No.190 (2016) on the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, specially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland to the follow-up procedure, is due to the deadlines included in the Recommendation itself.

The Bureau also agreed that the Greek authorities should be invited to present an updated report on the state of play of protection of the Laganas Bay, Zakynthos, 30 years after the adoption of Recommendation No. 9 (1987).

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Including gender mainstreaming in the PoW of the Bern Convention: discussion

<p>DECISION: After discussion, the Bureau agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a draft Recommendation on the inclusion of gender mainstreaming and gender balance in all Convention activities, including the functioning of its Secretariat and its various Groups of Experts and decision-making bodies. The draft text of a possible recommendation should be submitted for the attention of the next Bureau meeting, taking place in Strasbourg on 18-19 September 2017.</p>

Appendix 1



Strasbourg, 13 March 2017



T-PVS (2017) 3

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee
Bureau meeting

Strasbourg, 21 March 2017
(Room 17, opening: 9:30 am)

DRAFT AGENDA

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

[T-PVS (2017) 3 - Draft agenda]

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2017 PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

[Note for the Bureau]

[T-PVS (2016) 20 - Programme of Activities and budget for 2017]

2.8 Expert meeting on the implementation of the Action Plan for the eradication of the ruddy duck in Europe: report of the meeting

[T-PVS/Inf (2017) 3 – Meeting report]

2.9 Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas: results of the meeting

[T-PVS/DE (2017) 3 - Agenda]

[T-PVS/DE (2017) 9 - Draft Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas]

2.10 Invasive Alien Species: state of preparation of the meeting of the Group on IAS

[T-PVS (2017) 6 - Draft agenda]

2.4 Follow-up to the Tunis Action Plan 2020: state of preparation of the 4th Meeting of the Special Focal Points on Illegal killing of birds and of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds

[T-PVS (2017) 4 - Draft Agenda of the 6th meeting of the GoE Conservation of Birds]

[T-PVS (2017) 7 - Draft Agenda of the joint Bern SPFs Network/CMS MIKT meeting]

2.5 Climate change: state of preparation of the meeting of the Select Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change

[T-PVS (2017) 8 - Draft agenda]

2.6 Setting-up of the Emerald Network: state of progress, planning of activities for 2017 and cooperation with the EU and EEA

2.7 Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles: state of preparation

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION: CASE-FILES

[T-PVS/Notes (2017) 1 – Summary of case files and complaints]

[T-PVS/Inf (2017) 2 – Register of Bern Convention's case-files]

3.1 Specific Sites - Files open

- 2013/1: Hydro power development within the territory of Mavrovo National Park (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)

[T-PVS/Files (2017) 9 – Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files (2017) X – Complainant report]

3.2 Possible files

3.3 Complaints on stand-by

- 2012/5: Sport and recreation facilities in Çıralı key turtle nesting beach (Turkey)

[T-PVS/Files (2017) X – Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files (2017) X – Complainant report]

- 2014/6: Wind energy: Possible threats to an endangered natural habitat in Izmir (Turkey)

[T-PVS/Files (2017) 5 – Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files (2017) X – Complainant report]

- 2014/1: Presumed risk of national extinction of badgers in Ireland

[T-PVS/Files (2017) X – Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files (2017) X – Complainant report]

- 2014/8: Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs in Greece

[T-PVS/Files (2017) 6 – Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files (2017) X – Complainant report]

- 2014/3: Presumed deliberate killing of birds in Serbia & 2016/3: Alleged deliberate killing of birds of prey in Serbia

[T-PVS/Files (2017) 8 – Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files (2017) 4 – Complainant report]

3.5 Other complaints

- 2015/2: Possible impact of wind-farm developments on bats (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 1 – Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 2 – Complainant Report]

- 2016/4: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site (Montenegro)

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 49 – Complaint Form]

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 45 – Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files (2017) 3 – Complainant Report]

- 2016/05: Presumed negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Vjosa river in Albania

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 50 – Complaint Form]

[T-PVS/Files (2017) 1 – Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files (2017) 2 – Complainant Report]

- 2016/09: Possible threat to Svaneti 1 Candidate Emerald site from Nenskra HPP (Georgia)

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 51 – Complaint Form]

[T-PVS/Files (2017) 7 – Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files (2017) X – Complainant Report]

NOTE: To be assessed at the September 2017 Bureau meeting:

- **File Open** - 2004/2: Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica
 - **File Open** - 1995/6: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula
 - **File Open** - 2010/5: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias
 - **File Open** - 2012/9: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey)
 - **Possible File** - 2001/4: Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge
- 4. FOLLOW-UP OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS: PROPOSAL BY THE SECRETARIAT**
- **Recommendation No. 176 (2015) on the prevention and control of the *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* chytrid fungus**
- 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 5.1 Including gender mainstreaming in the PoW of the Bern Convention: discussion**
- 5.2 Other complaint** - 2017/01: Lack of legal protection for Northern goshawk and birds of prey in Norway
- Other complaint** - 2016/06: Presumed risk of national extinction of great bustards (*Otis tarda*) in Serbia
- Possible File** - 2001/4: Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge

Appendix 2

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