

Strasbourg, 28 June 2017
[pa06e_2017.doc]

T-PVS/PA (2017) 6

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

**EXTRACT FROM THE LIST OF DECISIONS AND ADOPTED
TEXTS ON THE
PROTECTION OF HABITATS,
AT THE 36TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE BERN CONVENTION**

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

Table of Contents

Point 4.5 Habitats - 3 -
Appendix I : Updated list of officially nominated candidate Emerald Sites - 5 -
Appendix II : Updated list of officially adopted Emerald Sites - 6 -

[....]

4.5 Habitats

4.5.1 Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

Relevant documents: T-PVS/PA (2016) 9 – Report of the meeting of the ad-hoc Restricted Group of Experts
T-PVS/PA(2016)10 –Three dimensional Road Mapfor achieving a fully operational Emerald Network in 7 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus
T-PVS/PA (2016) 11 - Updated list of officially nominated candidate Emerald sites
T-PVS/PA (2016 12 - Updated list of officially adopted Emerald sites

a. Report of the Ad Hoc Restricted Group of Experts on reporting on the Emerald Network

The Committee took note of the conclusions of the meeting of the Restricted Group and its future programme of activities and confirmed how important it was for the format for reporting on the implementation of the Emerald Network for the period from 2013 to 2018 to be finalised by the end of 2017.

The Committee noted Switzerland’s reservations concerning the approval in principle of the reporting format as presented during the Restricted Group meeting and proposed that discussions on this subject should continue at future Group meetings and include the matter of the limitation on the number of species and habitats to be covered by the first reporting cycle.

The Committee also noted and approved the Restricted Group’s decision to set a deadline for the annual updates of the Contracting Parties’ national Emerald Network databases and to set the deadline at 28 February of each calendar year. The Committee invited all the Contracting Parties concerned by the implementation of the Emerald Network to respect this deadline and to submit annually updated databases.

b. Conference “Reaching concerted site conservation at pan-European level: progress, challenges and future of the Emerald Network”

The Committee welcomed the outcomes of the Conference “Reaching concerted site conservation at pan-European level: progress, challenges and future of the Emerald Network”, which took place in Minsk, on 4-5 October 2016. It further acknowledged the importance of the actions foreseen in the “3-dimensional Road Map for achieving a fully operational Emerald Network in 7 countries from Eastern Europe and the South-Caucasus”, particularly because they were jointly planned by national authorities and relevant stakeholders in a concerted way.

The Committee endorsed the Road Map and warmly thanked the European Union for its continuous support to the setting-up of the Emerald Network in the past 7 years and expressed its hopes that this generous contribution will continue in the future.

c. Emerald biogeographical evaluations in 2016 and consolidated evaluation conclusions’ database

The Committee took note of the progress achieved in the setting-up of the Emerald Network and expressed its satisfaction of its steady growth accomplished over the last years thanks to the joint efforts of the Secretariat of the Convention and the Parties concerned. The EU and its Member States stressed that both Emerald and Natura 2000 play a crucial role for nature and landscape protection as well as for ecosystem services that they provide.

The Committee particularly welcomed the newly developed visibility tools, namely the Emerald Network Web-Ap and public viewer, and thanked the European Environment Agency and its European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity for the critical help in their development. The Committee acknowledged that these tools clearly show that together the Emerald and Natura 2000 Networks form the biggest and most ambitious network of protected sites built on the same criteria in the world.

d. Draft updated lists of candidate sites and Emerald sites

The Committee congratulated Belarus and Ukraine for their decision to propose for official adoption their already nominated candidate Emerald sites, as well as all their newly proposed sites in 2016. The Committee noted with satisfaction that this decision will significantly increase the number of sites officially adopted before the Convention.

The Committee further noted the request by Georgia for a slight change in the list of sites proposed for official nomination as candidate Emerald sites for the country and thanked the other countries which made additional proposals for the updated list of officially nominated candidate Emerald sites.

The Committee further welcomed the information provided by the delegate of Iceland on the plans to submit their national list of possible Emerald sites before the end of 2017.

The Committee examined and adopted the following documents with minor corrections:

- Updated list of officially nominated candidate Emerald sites;
- Updated list of officially adopted Emerald sites.

Appendix I : Updated list of officially nominated candidate Emerald Sites

Kindly consult document [T-PVS/PA \(2016\) 11](#) on the website of the meeting.

Appendix II : Updated list of officially adopted Emerald Sites

Kindly consult document [T-PVS/PA \(2016\) 12](#) on the website of the meeting.