

# **COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

## **COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS**

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RECOMMENDATION No. R (82) 13

### **OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES ON DRY GRASSLANDS IN EUROPE**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 3 June 1982  
at the 348th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to the resolutions of the European Ministerial Conferences on the Environment ;

Having regard to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats ;

Having regard to its Resolution (76) 17 on the European network of biogenetic reserves ;

Having regard to the study on dry grasslands of Europe commissioned by the European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources ;

Considering that dry grasslands, in view of their great floristic and faunistic variety, their phyto-geographic features and their steppe-like appearance, represent a highly specialised type of ecosystem which is of great importance for nature conservation ;

Considering that dry grasslands are the biotopes of various plant and animal communities and especially of a variety of insect populations which could not survive in other biotopes ;

Considering that dry grasslands are the remains of a traditional, even a historic landscape, and often contain prehistoric sites ;

Considering that large dry grasslands are of great aesthetic and recreational interest to man ;

Considering that in some regions of Europe dry grasslands still play an important role as pasturage ;

Noting that dry grasslands are one of the most threatened ecosystems in Europe ;

Noting that the main reasons for their regression, sometimes by as much as 90 %, in all the dry regions of Europe are the abandonment of grazing, the taking over of mesophilic grasslands for intensive agriculture, building and road-works, and the increase in tourism,

Recommends that the governments of the member states :

- I. contribute in a suitable manner to the effective conservation and protection of dry grasslands within the framework of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats ;

II. take appropriate steps with a view to implementing the following measures :

1. establish plans for the conservation of dry grasslands ;
2. introduce effective measures for their protection, taking particular care to select areas of optimum size so as to ensure their viability ;
3. in countries where this has not yet been done, draw up an inventory of dry grasslands and assess their ecological significance ;
4. contribute to the establishment of the European network of biogenetic reserves by designating important dry grassland areas ;
5. encourage scientific research with a view to ensuring appropriate conservation and management ;
6. encourage and promote information for the public and provide adequate teaching at primary and secondary level on the role and the value of dry grasslands in nature, the need to conserve and protect them, and the measures which should be taken to preserve the diversity of this ecosystem.