

Press Release

Directorate of Communication

Ref: 877a09

Tel. +33 3 88 41 25 60

Fax +33 3 88 41 39 11

Internet: www.coe.int

e-mail: pressunit@coe.int



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Council of Europe and United Nations strengthen synergies for nature preservation

Strasbourg, 23.11.2009 – *The [Council of Europe's Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats](#), known as the "Bern Convention", and [the United Nations' Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals](#), known as the "Bonn Convention", have signed today in Bern a [Memorandum of Co-operation](#) on the occasion of their common 30th anniversary.*

The Memorandum of Co-operation provides a common platform to strengthen synergies by better defining areas of technical co-operation, improving information exchanges, and elaborating common projects. Endangered migratory animals will benefit from the joint implementation of action plans to conserve migratory birds, bats, as well as whales, dolphins, and marine turtles around Mediterranean, Baltic and Black Sea waters.

Quotes for the media:

Council of Europe Director of Natural Heritage, Robert Palmer stressed: "Regional and global treaties to protect biodiversity must be well co-ordinated to better service our member Parties and achieve our common objective to conserve nature in a context of global change".

Acting Deputy Executive Secretary Bert Lenten of the Bonn Convention said: "Co-operating on issues of common interest will help both Conventions to tackle the most pressing challenges more efficiently. These include climate change, invasive species and sustainable use of species such as hunting and fishing."

Background information for the media:

The Council of Europe's Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979) is a binding international treaty in the field of nature conservation aimed at the protection of the natural heritage of the European continent. The Bern Convention has 50 Contracting Parties.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) concluded in Bonn in 1979 aims at preserving terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range. This international treaty was concluded under the United Nations Environment Programme, and is concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale. To date it counts with 112 Parties from Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

Contacts:

Carolina Lasen Diaz, Secretary of the Bern Convention,
Tel. +33 3 90 21 56 79 ; Mobile : +33 6 62 28 09 20 ; carolina.lasen-diaz@coe.int ;
website www.coe.int/biodiversity

Melanie Virtue, Inter-Agency Liaison Officer, UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Tel.: +49 228 815 2462 ; mvirtue@cms.int ; website www.cms.int

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