

Strasbourg, 29 September 2016
[tpvs21e_2016.docx]

T-PVS (2016) 21

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

36th meeting
Strasbourg, 15-18 November 2016

Meeting of the Bureau

Strasbourg, 5-6 September 2016

MEETING REPORT

*Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was opened on 5 September 2016 by the Chair of the Standing Committee to the Convention, Mr Øystein Størkersen. The Chair welcomed the Bureau members and thanked the Secretariat for a smooth transition during the important staff turnover period, which allowed all planned activities to take place as foreseen and to produce good results. He further noted that 2016 is an exceptionally compact year for biodiversity, with a very high number of events taking place, including CBD and CITES COPs and IUCN World Congress.

Eventually, the Chair introduced the draft agenda which was adopted without amendments (see appendix 1).

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2016 PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

*[T-PVS/Inf (2015) 6 – Summary table of reporting]
[T-PVS (2015) 6 - Report of the 1st meeting of the Bureau]*

Mr Eladio Fernández-Galiano welcomed the Chair and the Bureau members, and presented Ms Iva Obretenova who has taken over the post of Secretary of the Bern Convention in May. He informed that Ms Christina Baglai-Durnescu is leaving the Secretariat mid-September. A new staff member will have to be recruited in order to provide support to Ms Obretenova by taking over the responsibility for the work of the Convention on protected areas and ecological networks, including the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

Ms Iva Obretenova presented the main activities carried out or planned between March and December 2016 for the implementation of the Convention's Programme, including some external events at which the Convention was invited and presented, such as the IENE 2016 International Conference "Integrating Transport Infrastructures with living landscapes, Lyon (30 August-2 September 2016) and the 4th meeting of the Eastern partnership panel on Environment and Climate Change, Brussels (26-27 May 2016).

She stressed the efforts of the Secretariat to keep using the social media to spread information on the activities of the Convention and the results achieved. The work on visibility and dissemination of results was very fruitful during 2016. Several visibility items are under finalisation, in particular the promotional video on the Emerald Network in motion graphics, the publication of a Manual on Communicating climate change and biodiversity to policy makers, and the production of Manual on Informing and communicating on the Emerald Network beyond the scientific community.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the detailed presentation of the members further exchanged information on on-going activities at national level linked to species protected by the Convention and provided the Secretariat with ideas on possible topics for future publications on the Convention Facebook page linked to the conservation of the wolf, the bear and the lynx in Europe.

2.1 Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas

*[T-PVS/DE (2016) 4 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas]
[T-PVS/DE (2016) 9 - Progress report on the fulfilment of the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers (2012)19 on the European Diploma to the Poloniny National Park]
[T-PVS/DE (2016)11 - Draft proposed amendment to revised Regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas]*

The Secretariat recapped the outcomes of the last meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas. The programmes of on-the-spot appraisals for eventual renewal of the ED is very busy for 2016 and 2017, with 16 visits to take place before the meeting of the Group of Specialists in 2018 when a decision on the eventual renewal should be made. The Secretariat informed on the visits which already took place and those who are planned for the autumn. The Secretariat reminded that the renewal of the ED to Białowieża National Park (Poland) and the Central Balkan National Park (Bulgaria) are still suspended. The Secretariat further informed that no new applications for the European Diploma were received in 2016.

Eventually, the Secretariat reminded the positive developments related to the Poloniny National Park (Slovak Republic). Mr Adamec, member of the Bureau, informed on the progress made on the implementation of the conditions accompanying the last renewal of the European Diploma to Poloniny National Park. As presented in the written report received by the Bureau, the biggest task was fulfilled,

namely the adoption of a new 30-year Management Plan for the area. The Government is currently evaluating different options for the financing of the implementation of the Plan, including LIFE projects, EU structural funds, etc. The Ministry of Environment is preparing a project proposal, to be accepted by the end of the year and allow for the initiation of implementation activities in 2017. In addition, Mr Adamec informed that the Ministry of Environment has adopted a management plan for the wolf in Slovakia.

DECISION: The Bureau welcomed the positive developments regarding the adoption of the Management Plan and asked that the English version, currently under preparation, is sent to the Group of Specialists which can then more easily check how the ED Resolution recommendations are taken into account in the plan.

Regarding the draft proposed amendment to Article 9, paragraph 7, of the revised Regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas (CM/ResDip (2008)1) by the Group of Specialists, the Bureau welcomed this proposal but asked that the whole text of the Article is presented to the T-PVS/DE document which will reach the Standing Committee for easier reference and informed decision.

The Bureau further took note of the proposals by the Group of Specialists for the on-the-spot appraisals which should take place in 2017 and instructed the Secretariat to make sure funds for this are included in the Draft Programme of Work of the Convention for 2017.

2.2 Outcomes of the meeting of the Select Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species

[T-PVS (2016) 12 – Report of the meeting]

[T-PVS (2016) 13 - Draft Recommendation on the control of American mink (Neovison vison) in Europe]

The Secretariat informed on the main outcomes of the work of the Select Group of Experts on IAS, which has met in Rome on 31st March-1st April. The meeting, attended by experienced experts and national delegates, including from the hosting country, was able to produce a Draft recommendation on the control of the American mink in Europe, which will be proposed for adoption to the Standing Committee. The Group debated as well that the preparation of an additional, more general recommendation on other fur species such as the racoon, the silver fox, etc. might be an idea for the future work of the Group.

Two Codes of Conduct will again be put on the table of the Committee for endorsement, the Code of Conduct on Planted Forest and IAS and the European Code of Conduct on Recreational Boating and IAS. A Guidance document for governments on IAS pathways management and risk assessment will also be presented to the Committee.

The Group has also identified several possible future areas of work in relation to IAS:

- ✓ Publicising and disseminating the Codes of Conduct already produced;
- ✓ Possible elaboration of a code of conduct on e-commerce and IAS and on international travel and IAS;
- ✓ Identification of alien species for priority risk assessment and risk assessment for groups of alien species (i.e. geckos, squirrels, tortoises);
- ✓ Use of other legal instruments (postal regulations, sanitary regulations, wildlife trade regulation) to prevent entry and spread of IAS;
- ✓ Dealing with wildlife pathogens.

Eventually, the Secretariat informed that the Convention is supporting the organisation of an IAS related side-event at the CBD COP 13 in Cancun, where the newly developed tools above will also be presented.

In 2017, the full Group of Experts on IAS will be meeting in Madeira. The May/June period was agreed as the most preferable. The meeting of the group will be followed by a back-to-back Seminar on eradication of IAS on small European islands.

The Chair thanked the experts that participated in the work of the Select Group and underlined that the Select Group is succeeding well in producing results and brainstorming on possible future areas of work.

DECISION: The Bureau thanked Italian hosts of the meeting of the Select Group of Experts, as well as the countries that appointed delegates for this work.

Moreover, the Bureau decided to submit the proposed Draft Recommendation and Codes of Conduct to the Standing Committee for adoption and endorsement.

2.3 Outcomes of the Outcomes of the 3rd Meeting of the Special Focal Points for Illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds

[T-PVS (2016) 15 – Report of the meeting]

[T-PVS/Inf (2016) 8 - Mid-Term Review of the Implementation by Parties of the Tunis Action Plan 2020 – second draft]

[T-PVS (2016) 7 –National Focal Points for IKB]

[T-PVS (2016) 9 - Draft reporting format for recording wildbird crime cases]

The Secretariat presented the outcomes of the 3rd meeting of the Special Focal Points for Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of Wild Birds, which took place in Tirana (Albania) on 14-15 April 2016.

The meeting was aimed at reviewing the progress at mid-term in the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan (AP). The analysis of implementation of the actions promoted by the AP showed that in general there is progress, although this progress is not evenly spread across Contracting Parties. In addition, the draft report of the expert concludes that progress was often achieved where it was not necessarily expected, for instance the awareness and work of prosecutors and legal experts which has led to an increase in sentences on illegal killings cases.

However, the level of reporting by Parties for the mid-term review of implementation of the Action Plan was not satisfactory. The Secretariat reminded Parties on this reporting request, in addition to a reminder to those who haven't yet designated their special focal points to do so. An updated version of the Mid-term review of implementation of the AP will be presented to the Standing Committee in November.

In addition, the Secretariat informed that the Convention is joining forces with the Convention on Migratory Species and other relevant partners to act in synergy for the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan. There are plans that in 2017, the meeting of the Group of Experts on the conservation of birds and of the Network of Special Focal Points on Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds is organised back-to-back with the newly established CMS Intergovernmental Task Force to address illegal killing of birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT).

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the Albanian conservation authorities for their hospitality and support in the organisation of the meeting. It suggested that a meeting between the CMS and Bern Convention Secretariats might prove to be useful for enhancing cooperation and synergies and keeping each other informed of progress.

On the format of the reporting request to Parties about the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan, the Bureau expressed its opinion that too detailed information might have been requested and that Agencies/institutes at national level do not necessarily have this type of information ready and gathered for the occasion. It was advised that the focus of such progress analysis could be simpler, requiring information through simple questions, asking for examples rather than for numbers. Gathering information on examples of practices would also be very useful as part of the exchange of good practices aspect of the work of the Convention.

The Bureau agreed that the updated version of the mid-term review of the Tunis Action Plan is presented to the Standing Committee and the Group of Experts on the Conservation of birds can finalise it in 2017.

2.4 Outcomes of the 9th meeting of the Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change

[T-PVS (2016) 17 – Report of the meeting]

[T-PVS/Inf (2016) 11 – Communicating climate change and biodiversity to policy makers - Manual]

[T-PVS (2016) 19 - Draft Recommendation on communicating on climate change and biodiversity]

The Secretariat informed on the results of the work of the Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change in 2016. Their 9th meeting, which took place in Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina, aimed at discussing the draft Manual on Communication of Climate Change and Biodiversity and identifying priority areas for the future work of the Group, in light of the recently endorsed Programme of Work on Climate Change and Biodiversity.

The Group welcomed the Manual developed by Scienseed and recognised the tool can be extremely useful for channelling communication to decision-makers on the urgency climate change brings to addressing biodiversity and ecosystem services loss. On the proposal of several participants, received after the meeting itself, a draft Recommendation will be prepared and sent to the Standing Committee for examination and possible adoption. The Recommendation will be aimed at reminding Contracting Parties to the Convention of the above mentioned challenges and urge the competent authorities to use the Manual (to be appended to the draft Recommendation) in their work.

In relation to the issue of communication and awareness-raising, the Group discussed the recent Paris Climate Change Agreement and the opportunities it provides for the nature conservation sector to find a better place on the political agenda at both national and European level.

The Group of Experts proposed that a full government-designated Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change and a smaller Select Group of Experts meet in alternate years, taking example of the Select Group on IAS under the Convention which produces very good results working on this principle.

The Group identified a few priority topics on which the Convention should step up efforts, i.e. assessing the vulnerability of Bern Convention species to climate change and enhancing the adaptation management of protected areas.

The Secretariat also reminded that the Council of Europe has organised two European Years on Nature Conservation so far. The first one in 1970 conveyed the message that Europe needs more Protected Areas. In 1995, the second year focussed on nature outside protected areas and promoted the idea of establishing ecological networks, including the wider landscape and integrating conservation into other sectorial policies.

The idea launching a 3rd European Year of Nature Conservation in 2020, 25 years later was welcomed by the Group of Experts. This third year could focus on nature and climate change.

DECISION: The Bureau agreed with the proposal for the establishment of a Select Group of Experts on Climate Change which should meet in alternate years alongside the full Group of Experts. The Bureau also welcomed the idea that the Manual of communication on climate change and biodiversity is presented to the Standing Committee for endorsement through a draft recommendation on the issue.

The Bureau further invited the Committee to discuss the selection of priority actions agreed by the Group for its future work on implementing the Programme of Work of the Convention on climate change.

Eventually, the Bureau welcomed the idea of launching a third European Year of nature conservation on the issue of nature and climate change and invited the Committee to debate on this proposal.

2.5 Outcomes of the meeting of the Select Group of Experts on the European Action Plan for the Osprey

[T-PVS (2016) 18 - Conclusions of the workshop on recovery and reintroduction of the Osprey]
[T-PVS/Inf (2016) 12 - Plan for the Conservation and Recovery of Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) in Europe and the Mediterranean]

[T-PVS (2016) 8 - Draft Recommendation on the conservation and recovery of the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) in Europe]

The Secretariat informed that the meeting was aimed at finalising the Draft Action Plan for the Osprey in Europe and the Mediterranean Region prepared by the consultant, Mr Roy Dennis.

The participants debated the different proposals for the improvement of the draft text and agreed that the focus of the paper should be the recovery of areas where the species have been lost or where management is not convenient or sufficient. The Group further agreed that the document should not be called Action Plan, but rather a Plan for the Conservation and Recovery of Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) in Europe and the Mediterranean.

A draft Recommendation on the implementation of the Plan is being prepared and will be sent to the Standing Committee for examination and possible adoption.

DECISION: The Bureau welcomed the progress achieved by the Select Group in finalising the Draft Plan.
--

2.6 Progress in the setting-up of the Emerald Network: Biogeographical evaluation process and strategic cooperation with the EEA

The Secretariat informed the Bureau on the busy agenda of the Convention with regards to the Emerald Network establishment process. Four Emerald Network biogeographical Seminars are organised in 2016 alone. The evaluations which already took place so far in 2016 show that countries progress in the completion of their Networks. However, a lot remains to be done in particular for reaching full sufficiency for all species and in particular the habitats which remain under studied and therefore underrepresented in the currently proposed Emerald sites.

The Secretariat informed that further to the second Emerald biogeographical evaluation Seminar for Norway, which took place in Trondheim in June, the country is expected to propose a big number of its candidate Emerald sites for official adoption at this Standing Committee meeting.

Since 2012, ten evaluation Seminars were organised by the Convention. The Secretariat is extremely satisfied with this achievement as it shows the great progress achieved in the past 5 years on the establishment of the Network. However, the Secretariat reminded that keeping such an important tempo in the organisation of these evaluations is important for the achievement of the objectives of the Emerald Calendar 2011-2020, but is clearly very challenging. One of the main reasons is the fact that 2016 marks the end of the 4 year Joint EU/CoE Project on the implementation of the Emerald Network in seven countries from Central and Eastern Europe. The end of the project translates in the loss of financial resources allowing the Convention to have a full time staff member working on the Emerald Network.

The Secretariat tries to step up its efforts in negotiating an eventual continuation of the current project with the European Union. However, there are many difficulties encountered, the first one being a different approach to funding that is now adopted by the newly established DG NEAR.

The Secretariat further informed that it has presented a proposal to the CBD for the organisation of a side-event at the CBD COP 13 in Cancun. The results of the selection process are expected at the end of September.

Eventually, the Secretariat informed on the results of the strategic co-operation of the Convention with the EEA in 2016. This co-operation is framed by the Memorandum of Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the EEA signed back in 2001. The Secretariat reminded that the technical and

scientific support of the EEA and its Topic Centre on Biological Diversity has been tremendous and vital for the achievement of all previously mentioned results in the Emerald process, in particular in the past 6 years.

In 2016, we celebrate 15 years of the signature of the MoC. The Secretariat of the Convention and the EEA have jointly decided that this important co-operation tool is due to be revised, taking into account the most recent and strengthened co-operation between the two organisations, namely on the setting-up of the Emerald Network. The two organisations agreed on a draft revised text of the Memorandum, which is mainly aimed at including the Emerald Network more strategically.

The document will now be sent to the legal office of the Council of Europe for a check and then presented to the Standing Committee for endorsement before the actual signature.

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the hard work on the Emerald Network establishment, which is one of the most tangible and visible achievements of the Convention, promoting alignment of nature conservation standards at pan-European level.

The Standing Committee should be informed on the difficulties the Secretariat encounters to continue ensuring the Emerald process is implemented as successfully as in the past few years.

The Bureau welcomed the idea of a revision of the Memorandum of Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the EEA. It further welcomed the strategic integration of the Emerald Network in the text of the memorandum, as proposed and agreed that the process of revision should be moved further and presented to the Standing Committee.

2.7 Final event of the EU/CoE JP Emerald Network Phase II: state of preparation and expected results

The Secretariat informed that as the EU/CoE Joint Project is reaching its end, it is organising its final event, a Conference called “Reaching concerted site conservation at pan-European level: progress, challenges and future of the Emerald Network”. The event is taking place on 4-5 October 2016 in Minsk, Belarus. It builds upon the experience of a transnational partnership of the seven countries from Central and Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus in the setting-up of the Emerald Network.

The event is expected to produce a 3 dimensional Road Map, which is supposed to trace the steps/actions to be taken by the national authorities and their partners for establishing a complete and functional Emerald Network by 2020. The road map will be based on the outcome of discussions during the event and its three working groups, one on the identification and designation of areas, the second one on the management of the areas and a third on eon communication and awareness-raising on the network..

Mr Jan Plesnik kindly agreed to chair the meeting and represent the Bureau of the Convention there, a sign for the importance of the event for the overall implementation of the Emerald Network Calendar 2020 and for the establishment of a coherent pan-European network of protected areas.

The Road Map which will be prepared by the Conference will be presented to the Standing Committee for possible endorsement.

DECISION: The Bureau welcomed the organisation of the event and congratulated the countries concerned for the great achievements on the establishment of the Network. The Bureau looks forward to hearing more about the results of the Conference and the Road Map it should prepare.

2.8 Meeting of the restricted ad-hoc Group of Experts on reporting on the implementation of the Emerald Network: state of preparation and expected results

[T-PVS/PA (2016) 3 – Draft agenda of the meeting]

The Secretariat reminded that due to the important staff changes, it was decided that in 2016 only a meeting of the recently created restricted Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Reporting on the Emerald Network will be convened in Strasbourg on 19 September. The full Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological networks will only meet in 2017.

This Ad Hoc Group will work on the preparation of a reporting format for the first Emerald Network Reporting exercise. The first Emerald Network Reporting exercise will cover the period 2013-2018, as foreseen in Resolution No. 8 (2012) of the Standing Committee on the national designation of adopted Emerald sites and the implementation of management, monitoring and reporting measures.

The mandate of the Ad-Hoc Group is to finalise the draft reporting format for the first reporting exercise and to make a selection of the species and habitats on which the Contracting Parties concerned will report on.

The meeting is under preparation and so far 8 Contracting Parties have requested participation, including one EU member state. Participants at the meeting will ideally be people responsible for reporting under international Conventions/Agreements or have experience in monitoring, collection and coordination of biodiversity data in their respective countries. The EEA will also be represented.

DECISION: The Bureau wished the Restricted Group of Experts success in addressing the issue of organising the reporting on the Emerald network, including reporting on the conservation status of species and habitats at national level which is a very complex exercise.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION: CASE-FILES

[T-PVS/Notes (2016) 2 – Summary of case files and complaints]

[T-PVS/Inf (2016) 2 – Register of Bern Convention's case-files]

(Note: a detailed summary of each case-file is available in document TPVS/Notes (2016) 2 – Summary of Case files for Bureau meetings)

3.1 Specific Sites - Files open

➤ 2004/1: Ukraine: Proposed navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary (Danube delta)

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 3 – Romanian Government report]

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 37 – Ukrainian Government report]

[T-PVS/Files (2016) X – Republic of Moldova Government report]

At its 35th meeting, the Standing Committee - with the Agreement of the Parties concerned - decided to keep the case-file open and to entrust the Joint Commission with the task of acting as a supervisory and co-ordination body that will address the remaining issues, including the re-assessment of the EIA in a transboundary context, where appropriate. The Committee invited the Joint Commission to keep the Bureau informed on progress and to report at the 36th Standing Committee meeting.

In February 2016, the Government of Romania forwarded Protocol of the 3rd meeting of the Trilateral Joint Commission which took place in Izmail on 21-22 May 2015. In September 2016, the Government of Ukraine forwarded the Protocol of the 4th meeting of the Joint Commission which took place in Odessa on 23-24 March 2016. When discussing the open case-file before the Bern Convention, the Joint Commission agreed that the topic should be discussed again when the results of the meeting of the Working Group for implementation of Joint Monitoring Programme are available. The topic should be discussed again at the next trilateral meeting foreseen for October 2016.

DECISION: The Bureau congratulated the Parties on their continuous and positive cooperation within the frame of the Joint Commission and thanked them for forwarding the protocols of its meetings which show that the implementation of Recommendation No. 111 (2004) is monitored.

In accordance with its decision from September 2015 and the instructions of the Standing Committee, the Bureau decided to invite the Parties concerned to present the results of the next trilateral meeting foreseen for October 2016 at the 36th Standing Committee meeting.

The Bureau, noting that cooperation between the Parties in the frame of the Joint Commission is constant, fruitful and promising for solving the remaining issues of the case-file, advises the Standing Committee to make a decision on whether to keep the case-file open or to proceed to its closing.

➤ **2004/2: Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica**

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 12 – Government report]

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 13 – NGOs report]

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 23 – Report by the EU]

The Secretariat recalled the decision of the Standing Committee at its 35th meeting, to keep the case-file open and to emphasise that the Bulgarian authorities need to strengthen surveillance after any infrastructure developments to ensure the implementation of the appropriate mitigation measures. The Committee further invited the authorities of Bulgaria to step-up efforts towards the full implementation of Recommendation No. 130 (2007), and to carry out a comprehensive, independent, and quality assessment of the impact of windfarms' developments in the concerned area.

The Secretariat further recalled that on 14th January 2016 the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled against Bulgaria over its failure to protect unique habitats and important species in the Kaliakra special protection area at the Black Sea coast. In July 2016, the European Union informed that the European Commission is currently in dialogue with the Bulgarian national authorities on the implementation of the court judgement.

In an updated report sent in August 2016, the Bulgarian authorities informed that an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for three Natura 2000 zones (Complex Kaliakra, Kaliakra and White Cliffs) was commissioned to the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (IBER) at the Bulgaria Academy of science. This IMP was developed as a result of the ECJ rule from 14th January against Bulgaria and will include 1) the development of combined early warning system, including radars and observers, 2) the implementation of measures to sustain the key habitats for bird species, including active management of affected habitats, and 3) the implementation of conservation and management measures from the Action Plan for the red-breasted goose.

The Secretariat informed that according to the complainant NGO, as foreseen by the ECJ rule, the negative impacts on the site can only be removed if the wind turbines are removed from the relevant sites and this will be also a way to comply with Recommendation No. 130 (2007).

DECISION: The Bureau took note of the activities planned by the Bulgarian authorities as a result of the ECJ ruling, in particular the plans for the development of an early warning system. The Bureau further thanked the complainant for submitting their report and opinion.

The Bureau decided to keep the file open and instructed the Secretariat to invite the Bulgarian authorities to report to the Standing Committee at its upcoming meeting on the issues on which the authorities haven't reported yet in relation to the operational part of Recommendation No. 130 (2007), paying particular attention to the opinion of the complainant NGO.

Eventually, the Secretariat got the instruction to contact the European Union and to ask them to report to the Standing Committee on progress in their dialogues with the Bulgarian authorities on the implementation of the ECJ judgement.

➤ **1995/6: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula**

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 18 – Government report]

The Secretariat recalled that, after several extensions of deadlines, on 4th April 2016 the Cyprus authorities sent their report informing that according to them, some of the content of Recommendation No. 63 (1997) needs to be re-evaluated as “some issues may be deemed as obsolete or no longer relevant in light of the EU member state status of Cyprus”.

The report explains that the designation of the SCI Akamas and the SCI Polis-Gialia was expected by July 2016. A draft Management Plan for the Akamas SPA was also ready and that its public consultation was scheduled to start in May 2016. The adoption of the Plan was expected by the end of 2016.

Taking into account the late arrival of the national report and the pending issues with the establishment of the management system of the area and the request of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat contacted the Cyprus authorities again in July exploring the option of holding an OSA in September. In September the authorities confirmed their agreement for the organisation of the appraisal, which should take place on 10-11 October 2016.

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the Cyprus authorities for their report and noted that their recent actions show a willingness to find solutions and ensure compliance with the actions recommended in Recommendation No. 63 (1997). The Bureau decided to keep the file open and underlined that progress is still very slow and that the final results of the promising planning are still pending.

The Bureau further thanked the authorities for agreeing to host the appraisal, which is hoped to bring more light to the on-the-spot situation of the area and possible amendments to be made to the operational part of Recommendation No. 63 (1997).

➤ **2007/1: Italy: Eradication and trade of the American grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)**

The Secretariat reminded that at its 35th meeting, the Standing Committee welcomed the progress achieved by Italy through the adoption of the Decree on banning the trade and detention of the species, as well as through the implementation of the EU funded LIFE project

The Committee took further note of the commitment of Italy to sustain both the eradication and awareness measures initiated under the LIFE project after the latter will come to an end, however, noting that eradication is not yet fully achieved, the Committee decided to keep this case-file open and invited Italy to report on progress at its next meeting.

On 30th August, the Italian authorities informed the Secretariat that they are awaiting the updated reports by the local authorities and that the national report will be ready for the 36th meeting of the Standing Committee.

DECISION: The Bureau took note of the delays in the preparation of the aggregate national report by Italy, based on the different local reports, and invited the Italian authorities to report on time for the upcoming meeting of the Standing Committee.

The file is kept open.

➤ **2010/5: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias**

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 36 – Government report]

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 34 – NGO report]

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 23 – Report by the EU]

The Secretariat recalled that at its 35th meeting, the Standing Committee decided to keep the case-file open, and to call on the Greek Government for the urgent and full implementation of Recommendation No. 174 (2014).

In its updated report to the Convention from July 2016, the European Union informed that on 18th February the Advocate General of the Court of Justice of the European Union issued her conclusions on case number C-504/14 and that the Court ruling is currently awaited.

The complainant NGO MEDASSET informed that on 24th May 2016, the Ministry of Environment issued a new Ministerial Decision that halts any type of construction activity in the area for the next two years. Because of the temporary nature of the Decision, the need for a Presidential Decree remains high, according to the NGO.

A short report of the national authorities received on 30 August confirmed the adoption of the Ministerial Decision for the protection of both the Marine and Terrestrial Areas in Kyparissia Bay. The national authorities inform however that the decision provides a 3 and not a 2-year protective status until the legal procedures for the issuing of a Presidential Decree are completed.

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the national authorities and the complainant NGO for their reports. It further welcomed the adoption of a new Ministerial Decision that halts any type of construction activity in the area.

The Bureau decided to keep the case-file open and noted that no information was submitted by the authorities on the measures taken for the implementation of Recommendation No. 174 (2014). The Bureau invites the Greek authorities to report to the Standing Committee more concretely on their efforts in ensuring they comply with the Recommendation and their plans and timetable for the adoption of the Presidential Decree.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to invite the European Union to inform on what is the expected timetable for the issuing of the ECJ decision.

➤ **2012/9: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey)**

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 25 – Government report on Fethiye]

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 28 – Government report on Patara]

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 35 – NGOs report]

At its 35th meeting, after considering the expert report from the on-the-spot appraisal to the two areas and the opinion of both the Government and the NGOs, the Standing Committee adopted two Recommendations (No. 182 (2015) on the conservation of *Caretta caretta* and its habitat at Patara Nesting Beach and No. 183 (2015) on the conservation, management and restoration of Fethiye Nesting Beaches).

The Secretariat summarised the two reports submitted by the Turkish authorities in July 2016 presenting the progress in the implementation of the two abovementioned recommendations. The complainant NGO, MEDASSET, also submitted their report on time for the Bureau meeting.

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the Turkish authorities for providing a timely report on the measures implemented in both areas between May and August 2016.

Taking into account the concerns expressed by the complainant in their report, linked among others to the short-term of the measures implemented, the Bureau decided to keep the case-file open. It further invited the authorities of Turkey to attend the Standing Committee meeting in order to present their views on the concerns expressed by the NGO and to report point by point on the operational part of the Recommendations which would facilitate an informed decision-making by the Committee.

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

*[T-PVS/Files (2016) 5 – Complainant report]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 32 – Government report]*

The Secretariat recalled that in 2015, further to the on-the-spot appraisal to the area, the Standing Committee adopted Recommendation No. 184 (2015) and decided to keep then case-file open in order to follow-up the implementation of the recommended measures.

In July 2016 the national authorities reported that the implementation of all the foreseen government projects (big and small) in the Park have been suspended until an SEA is completed, as recommended in Recommendation No. 184 (2015). Authorities further informed that the implementation of privately funded small/micro hydro plants in development before December 2015 are not subject to the Recommendation, however, concessioning for the remaining planned small/micro plants within the territory of the NP are suspended as well. They also report that the Government initiated the establishment of a national program for the recovery of the Balkan lynx for the implementation of which the Government is currently looking for financial support.

The complainant, on his side, expressed concerns regarding the way the new SEA study is going to be developed, in particular it's the transparency of the planning process (setting-up of ToR for the SEA) and the consultation of all relevant stakeholders and civil society.

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the authorities of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” for providing their timely report and for their efforts in quickly starting the implementation of the recommended measures, including the plans for the establishment of a national program for the recovery of the Balkan lynx.

The Bureau noted the concerns expressed by the complainant and decided to keep the case-file open and to request the national authorities to report to the Standing Committee on the status of the new SEA study, on the process leading to its preparation and launching and on any other relevant measure they consider important.

3.2 Possible file

➤ **2011/4: Turkey: threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*)**

[T-PVS/Files (2015) 10 – Government report]

The Secretariat recalled that in December 2015 and in June 2016 it has reiterated the demand of the Committee to receive the Barcelona Convention's own assessment of the Action Plan adopted by the Turkish authorities, as well as any other information relevant to the complaint that might be used for formulating the necessary recommendations. The Secretariat informed that both its requests remained unanswered.

DECISION: The Bureau regretted the difficult cooperation with the Barcelona Convention and emphasised again the critical conservation status of the monk seal.

The Bureau decided to keep the case as a possible file and invited the Turkish authorities to attend the Standing Committee meeting and to provide an updated report on the pending national court procedure and provide any other information they wish on conservation measures put in place for the species. The Bureau further invited that the complainant to present its opinion on the pending case-file to the Standing Committee.

➤ **2001/4: Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge**

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 11 – Government report]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 10 – NGOs report]

The Secretariat recalled that, in December 2015, the Standing Committee decided to consider this closed file as a possible file and invited the Bulgarian authorities to keep the Bureau informed of any relevant development.

The complainant and the Bulgarian authorities provided their timely reports for both Bureau meetings in 2016. The authorities informed that as part of the continuing efforts of the authorities to find the optimal solution for the motorway project, a completely new eastern alternative was formulated in April-June 2016 and that this new alternative will be evaluated together with the previous alternatives as part of the new formal EIA procedure which began in 2014.

The complainant disagrees with the new alternative proposed by the Bulgarian authorities which is not in compliance with Recommendation No. 98 (2002) and rejects all the arguments used for the abandonment of the long-tunnel option. They further consider that the construction of the motorway sections Lot. 3.1 and 3.3 had already begun, taking into account that land acquisition around Lot 3.2 (section which passes through the Kresna Gorge) have already started. According to them, these pieces of information raise doubt concerning the reality of the exploration of alternative roads and the abandonment of the original contested project.

DECISION: The Bureau thanked both the authorities and the complainants for their timely reports and their motivated opinions.

The Bureau decided that the file should reach the Standing Committee as a possible file. Both the authorities and the complainants are invited to attend the meeting and present their updated reports with latest news regarding the EIA procedure.

The Bureau further instructed the Secretariat to request the European Union to present the outcomes of its current talks with the national authorities with regards to the case-file.

➤ **2012/3: Poland: Possible spread of the American mink**

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 14 – Government report]

The Secretariat recalled that the meeting of the Select Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species, which took place in Rome on 31st March – 1st April 2016, prepared a draft Recommendation on the control of American mink (*Neovison vison*) in Europe. The draft Recommendation will be presented to the Standing Committee for examination and possible adoption.

DECISION: The Bureau congratulated the Group of Experts for their good work and welcomed the draft Recommendation proposal.

The Bureau recommended that the case-file is dismissed if the draft Recommendation is adopted, which will allow the Standing Committee to monitor progress through the follow-up of previous recommendations mechanism.

3.3 Complaints on stand-by

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

*[T-PVS/Files (2016) 24 – Government report]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 15– Complainant report]*

The Secretariat recalled that this complaint was submitted in July 2014 by a citizen of Çeşme, İzmir, to denounce the exponentially increasing number of wind energy installations (WEIs) that could affect an endangered natural area including its wildlife, and noted that the Bureau was not convinced that the file was well-founded on the ground. A chance was given to the complainant to make its case on the possible breach of the convention with solid evidence.

In March 2016 the Bureau took note of the information submitted by the complainant on the species and habitats concerned and warned that the number of installations was increasing. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to send the complainant's report to the national authorities asking for information and comments on the cumulative impact of wind-farm developments in the area.

The Turkish authorities submitted their report in July 2016. The report describes the regulations and the process related to EIAs in Turkey. It is particularly highlighted that EIAs should evaluate possible disturbances caused by the project during both the construction and the operational phases and should take into account the cumulative effects of all projects in the same geographical area, including effects on any sensitive areas around the project site. Furthermore, the report disagrees with the complainant on the list of species considered as being threatened by the project. Concerning the list of birds, the Turkish authorities consider it to be relevant, as they agree that the project may create a significant problem for coastal and wetland birds if not planned wisely. However, the report states that the bird migration route passes between the windmills. Birds use migration corridors through valleys along the hills, at the top of which the wind turbines are located.

The report concludes that the companies which would be involved in the project made an official commitment to the Turkish government, to not only protect the biodiversity, but to also support monitoring. New technological turbines have radar systems to shut down the blades of the turbines in case of an encounter with a migrating group of birds.

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the national authorities for their timely report and took note of the information they provided. The Bureau decided that the complaint will be kept on stand-by until there is solid evidence the cumulative impact of the developments is carefully addressed. The national authorities of Turkey are also invited to ensure the existing best practice guidance on wind farms and birds (document T-PVS/Inf (2013)15) is duly taken into account and to report for its next meeting in spring 2017 on the cumulative impact of wind-farm developments in the area and on any monitoring schemes put in place already.

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

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

The Secretariat recalled that, as a follow-up to a previous complaint submitted in 2011 on the same issue, the Irish authorities recognised a certain decline in the badger population in Ireland, but informed that the latter was under control and that it would not continue further.

The reporting requests of the Secretariat in 2016 remained unanswered, although the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the Council of Europe has promised that a report will be submitted before the September Bureau meeting.

DECISION: In the light of the information above, the Bureau regretted the difficult cooperation on the file and decided to keep the complaint on stand-by. It instructed the Secretariat to re-contact the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the Council of Europe on time for providing a report at the next Bureau meeting in March 2017.

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

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 17 – Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 6– Complainant report]

The Secretariat recalled that this complaint concerns the large-scale illegal exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs in Greece, including species protected under the Convention, as well as under other regional or international conventions and the EU legislation such as CITES.

At its meeting in March 2016, the Bureau noted that there was enough evidence of the presumed illegal trade, probably due to the lack of knowledge of legal regulations by restaurant managers or simply by the lack of implementation of the law.

The national authorities reported that according to the information they hold, neither import or export permits for specimens of the species concerned have ever been issued by any of the Greek CITES Management Authorities, nor has corresponding request been submitted. As instructed by the Bureau, the Secretariat liaised with the CITES Secretariat seeking relevant information they could provide in particular on illegal trade of the species *Lithophaga lithophaga* in Greece, but its information request were not answered.

The Bureau will discuss the issue at its next meeting to see whether it may be dealt with as a possible case-file.

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the Greek authorities for their short reply to the reporting request. The Bureau further noted that the authorities should provide more detailed and clear information on whether they are aware of and dealing with the illegal trade of the species and what measures they have or plan to put in place to enforce the conservation law.

The Bureau will discuss the issue at its next meeting in March 2017 and will make a decision on whether the file should be dealt with as a possible case-file.

➤ **2014/3: Presumed deliberate killing of birds in Serbia (stand-by) and 2016/3 Alleged deliberate killing of birds of prey in Serbia in the period 2014-2016 (other complaints)**

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 29 – Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 21 – Complainant report for 2016/03]

The Secretariat recalled that complaint 2014/03 was submitted to denounce a presumed breach of the Convention by Serbia for failing to take adequate measures against illegal bird poisoning. Poisoning concerned 122 birds listed in Appendix II to the Convention, including 26 white-tailed eagles, killed over the period 2007-2014 (until March 2014).

In March 2016, complaint 2016/3 was submitted by another organisation, on the same issue but presenting evidence on the illegal killings after 2014. This complaint is on the agenda of the Bureau under the item other complaints.

The national authorities submitted a joint report on the two complaints, taking into account that the issue is dealt with by the same institutions and during the same institutional and coordination meetings.

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the authorities and one of the complainants for their reports. It welcomed the measures taken by the national authorities of Serbia on the cases of illegal killing of birds and in particular the initiatives initiated to improve inter-institutional cooperation.

The Bureau agreed that the actions undertaken by the authorities, in particular the inter-institutional cooperation, are a sign of their good will and commitment to tackle the issue. The Bureau stressed however that this co-operation has to be followed up until it gives tangible results. The Bureau underlined that the issues are complex, i.e. the illegal trade of pesticides including on the internet.

The Bureau decided that the two complaints should be dealt with together, for the sake of coherence and for saving time and resources. Both case-files will be dealt with at the next Bureau meeting in March 2017 as case-files on stand-by. The Bureau requests the authorities to provide information on the results the implemented measures are giving on the ground. The Complainants are also invited to send updated reports.

➤ **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]*

The Secretariat recalled that the file concerns wind-farm development near the village of Bogdanci, located in the very close vicinity of the Dojran Lake, an important candidate Emerald site and an Important Bird Area in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”. The complainant considers that the Bogdanci wind farm development poses a threat for not less than 15 bat species occupying the area where the farm was built, which is only several kilometres from the main migratory route Morava-Vardar.

In February 2016 the national authorities informed on the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) implemented for the project and its features. Further to the comments received by EUROBATS, the need for additional information was concluded. For the September meeting of the Bureau, the authorities sent the ESIA document in English, including what is considered as the baseline bat/birds surveys, as well as the Terms of reference for the post construction monitoring.

The authorities and the complainant express conflicting opinions on the presence or not of bat species in the Bogdanci area. The authorities conclude that the ESIA clearly showed that bird and bat fauna aspects do not present an obstacle for the project development and explained that a three-year operational monitoring of the park will provide a comprehensive and detailed evidence of actual effects of the project to bird and bat fauna with an ultimate goal to address any potential effects with corrective mitigation measures.

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the authorities of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” for their timely report and noted the conflicting opinions on the recorded presence or not of the bat species at stake in the area concerned.

The Bureau decided to consider this complaint as a complaint on stand-by at its next meeting in March 2017. It further instructed the Secretariat to contact EUROBATS to kindly request their opinion on the ESIA documents provided by the authorities and to request a subsequent reporting to the authorities taking into account the opinion of EUROBATS as well.

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

The Secretariat recalled that the above complaint concerns the allocation of a land including 75 % of Çıralı beach – among the 20 key nesting areas in Turkey - to a football society for the establishment of football grounds and recreation facilities.

In a short note sent in March 2015 the authorities confirmed that a national court ruling is pending on the same issue and that in the meantime, the area enjoys the 1st degree natural site protection granted to the area, with no sport activities implemented.

The same information was reiterated in February 2016 by the national authorities, while the complainant didn't address a report. In April 2016, the Secretariat asked the authorities to inform the Bureau on the result of the national Court ruling as soon as it is available. No updated report was sent by the authorities for the meeting of Bureau.

DECISION: The Bureau took note of the information provided and decided to keep this complaint on stand-by and to re-assess it after the sentence of the court is issued. The Turkish authorities are asked to report to the Conventions soon as the court ruling is available.

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

The Secretariat recalled the choice of previous Recommendations for follow-up during 2016, made by the Bureau at its March meeting.

There are two Recommendations on the agenda of the Committee linked to case-files. One of them concerns a file, closed in 2015, on the impact of the construction of an Overhead Power Line (OHL) in an environmentally sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish border, i.e. Recommendation No. 175 (2015) on the monitoring of the agreement concluded in the frame of complaint n° 2013/5. The other one concerns a file still on stand-by but where progress is monitored through a Recommendation, i.e. Recommendation No. 169 (2013) on the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland).

The follow-up of Recommendation No. 96 (2002) on conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, especially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland will be dealt with under the agenda item "On-the-Spot Appraisals" at the 36th Standing Committee meeting. The appraisal visit, as requested since 2014 by the Standing Committee took place in May this year. Its results should be ready on time for the upcoming Committee meeting.

The follow-up of Recommendation No. 144 (2009) on the wind park in Smøla (Norway) and other wind farm developments in Norway is a decision of the Standing Committee and will be resumed at its 36th meeting. Both the authorities and the NGOs were invited to report on the status of the implementation of each of the 10 operational paragraphs of the Recommendation, by 30th September.

Recommendation No. 110 (2004) on minimising adverse effects of above-ground electricity transmission facilities (power lines) on birds is also on the agenda of the Committee further to a decision by the Committee itself, while the implementation of Recommendation No. 176 (2015) on the prevention and control of the *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* chytrid fungus is monitored as the issue calls for urgent implementation of measures.

DECISION: The Bureau thanked the national authorities who have already submitted their reports and instructed the Secretariat to send a reminder to all Parties on the reporting request on implementation of Recommendations No. 110 (2004) and No 176 (2015).

5. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that it is planning to prepare a short document presenting the outcomes of the work of the Convention in support to the implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan for biodiversity.

In addition, the Secretariat informed that in 2016 is celebrated the 15th anniversary of the signature of the Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) between the Council of Europe and the EEA. The Bern Convention Secretariat and the EEA have discussed the possible revision of the MoC, taking into account that co-operation in the past years has concentrated mainly on the setting-up of the Emerald Network. The Secretariat quickly presented the proposed amendments to the existing MoC between the two organisations.

DECISION: The Bureau welcomed the idea of the revision of the Memorandum of Co-operation and expressed its acknowledgement of the important technical support and scientific advice the EEA and its Topic Centre on Biological Diversity provide for the development of the Emerald Network.

The Bureau further welcomed the proposed amendments of the MoC and instructed the Secretariat to present these amendments and their objective to the Standing Committee at its upcoming meeting, in view of the signature of the revised MoC before the end of the year or at the beginning of 2017, taking into account the time necessary for the legal checks of the document and the procedure to be followed for its official signature.

6. 36TH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

6.1 Draft agenda

[T -PVS (2016) 1 – Draft Agenda]

The Bureau discussed the draft agenda of the 36th meeting. The Secretariat warned that a few items that might change as a consequence of the forthcoming meetings of Groups of Experts and the results achieved.

DECISION: The Bureau validated the draft Agenda for submission to the Standing Committee.

6.2 Draft Programme of activities 2017

[T-PVS/Notes (2016) 3 – Draft Calendar of meetings for 2017]

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

The Secretariat presented the draft Programme of Activities and Budget for 2017 and reminded that this document results from the biannual Programme of Activities for 2016-2017 adopted at the 35th meeting of the Standing Committee. The Secretariat further recalled that changes (mainly reallocation of funds) to the document might be necessary as two meetings dealing with the Emerald Network are taking place after the meeting of the Bureau.

DECISION: The Bureau validated the draft Programme of Activities and budget for 2017. It noted that the figures on the Council of Europe's financial provision are estimates, although no changes are expected on the amounts. It further noted that some additional activities might have to be accommodated if the Groups of Experts meeting after the Bureau request so.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to carefully study the results of the upcoming meetings of Experts under the Convention and to change the allocation of funds accordingly, when possible.

The Bureau reminded that when choosing the countries which might benefit of financial support

for their participation at the various meetings organised by the Convention, priority shall be given to non-EU countries, countries with economies in transition, countries which made voluntary contributions to the budget of the Convention and countries with interest and contribution to the conservation issue at stake.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed by the Bureau.

Appendix 1

Strasbourg, 5 September 2016



T-PVS (2016) 14

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS
Standing Committee
Bureau meeting

Strasbourg, 5-6 September 2016
(Room G2, Agora building, opening: 9:30 am)

AGENDA

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA*[Draft agenda]***2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2015 PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES***[Note for the Bureau]**[T-PVS/Inf (2016) 7 - Summary table of reporting]**[T-PVS (2016) 10 - Report of the 1st meeting of the Bureau]***2.1 Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas: results of the on-the-spot appraisals for 2016***[T-PVS/DE (2016) 4 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas]**[T-PVS/DE (2016) 9 - Progress report on the fulfilment of the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers (2012)19 on the European Diploma to the Poloniny National Park]**[T-PVS/DE (2016)11 - Draft proposed amendment to revised Regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas]***2.2 Outcomes of the meeting of the Select Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species***[T-PVS (2016) 12 – Report of the meeting]**[T-PVS (2016) 13 - Draft Recommendation on the control of American mink (Neovison vison) in Europe]***2.3 Outcomes of the 3rd Meeting of the Special Focal Points for Illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds***[T-PVS (2016) 15 – Report of the meeting]**[T-PVS/Inf (2016) 8 - Mid-Term Review of the Implementation by Parties of the Tunis Action Plan 2020 – second draft]**[T-PVS (2016) 7 –National Focal Points for IKB]**[T-PVS (2016) 9 - Draft reporting format for recording wildbird crime cases]***2.4 Outcomes of the 9th Meeting of the Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change***[T-PVS (2016) 17 –Report of the meeting]**[T-PVS/Inf (2016) 11 – Communicating climate change and biodiversity to policy makers - Manual]**[T-PVS (2016) 19 - Draft Recommendation on communicating on climate change and biodiversity]*

2.5 Outcomes of the meeting of the Select Group of Experts on the European action Plan for the Osprey

*[T-PVS (2016) 18 - Conclusions of the workshop on recovery and reintroduction of the Osprey]
[T-PVS/Inf (2016) 12 - Plan for the Conservation and Recovery of Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) in Europe and the Mediterranean]*

[T-PVS (2016) 8 - Draft Recommendation on the conservation and recovery of the Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) in Europe]

2.6 Progress in the setting-up of the Emerald Network: Biogeographical evaluation process and strategic cooperation with the EEA

2.7 Final event of the EU/CoE JP Emerald Network Phase II: state of preparation and expected results

2.8 Meeting of the restricted ad-hoc Group of Experts on reporting on the implementation of the Emerald Network: state of preparation and expected results

[T-PVS/PA (2016) 3 – Draft agenda of the meeting]

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION: FILES

*[T-PVS/Notes (2016) 2 – Summary of case files and complaints]
[T-PVS/Inf (2016) 2 – Register of Bern Convention's case-files]*

3.1 Specific Sites - Files open

- 2004/1: Ukraine: Proposed navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary (Danube delta)
*[T-PVS/Files (2016) 3 – Romanian Government report]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 37 – Ukrainian Government report]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) X – Republic of Moldova Government report]*
- 2004/2: Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica
*[T-PVS/Files (2016) 12 – Government report]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 13 – NGOs report]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 23 – Report by the EU]*
- 1995/6: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 18 – Government report]
- 2007/1: Italy: Eradication and trade of the American grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)
[T-PVS/Files (2016) X – Government report]
- 2010/5: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias
*[T-PVS/Files (2016) 36 – Government report]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 34 – NGO report]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 23 – Report by the EU]*
- 2012/9: Turkey: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs
*[T-PVS/Files (2016) 25 – Government report on Fethiye]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 28 – Government report on Patara]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 35 – NGOs report]*
- 2013/1: “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”: Hydro power development within the territory of the Mavrovo national Park
*[T-PVS/Files (2016) 5 – Complainant report]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 32 – Government report]*

3.2 Possible file

- 2011/4: Turkey: threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*)
[T-PVS/Files (2015) 10 – Government report]
- 2001/4: Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge
*[T-PVS/Files (2016) 11 – Government report]
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 10 – NGOs report]*
- 2012/3: Poland: Possible spread of the American mink
[T-PVS/Files (2016) 14 – Government report]

3.3 Complaints on stand-by

- 2014/6: Wind energy: Possible threats to an endangered natural habitat in Izmir (Turkey)
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 24 – Government report]*
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 15 – Complainant report]*
- 2014/1: Presumed risk of national extinction of badgers in Ireland
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) X – Government report]*
- 2014/8: Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs in Greece
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 17 – Government report]*
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 6 – Complainant report]*
- 2014/3: Presumed deliberate killing of birds in Serbia
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 29 – Government report]*
- 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]*
- 2012/5: Sport and recreation facilities in Çıralı key turtle nesting beach (Turkey)
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 7 – Government report]*
- **On-the-spot appraisals**

3.4 Other complaints

- 2016/3: Alleged deliberate killing of birds of prey in Serbia in the period 2014-2016 in Serbia
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 29 – Government report]*
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 21 – Complainant report]*
- [2016/4: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site (Montenegro)]
- [2016/5: Presumed negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Vjosa river (Albania)]

4. FOLLOW-UP OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

- File closed N° 2013/5: Presumed impact of a construction of Overhead Power Line (OHL) in an environmentally sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish borderland
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 27 – Government report + Appendix]*
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 26 – Complainant report]*
- Complaint on stand-by N° 2011/5: France / Switzerland: threats to the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland)
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 22 – Swiss Government report]*
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 33 – French Government report]*
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 31 – Complainant report]*
- Recommendation No. 96 (2002) on conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, especially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland
- Recommendation No. 144 (2009) on the wind park in Smøla (Norway) and other wind farm developments in Norway
- Recommendation No. 110 (2004) on minimising adverse effects of above-ground electricity transmission facilities (power lines) on birds
 - [T-PVS/Files (2016) 20 – Reports by the Parties]*

- Recommendation No. 176 (2015) on the prevention and control of the *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* chytrid fungus

[T-PVS/Files (2016) 30 – Reports by the Parties]

5. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

5.1 Follow-up to the CBD Strategic Plan for biodiversity

5.2 Relations with other MEAs

6. 36TH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

6.1 Draft Agenda

[T -PVS (2016) 1 – Draft Agenda]

6.2 Draft Programme of Activities 2017

[T-PVS/Notes (2016) 3 – Draft Calendar of meetings for 2017]

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

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Appendix 2**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE

Ms Hasmik GHALACHYAN, Head, Division of Plant Resources Management, Agency of Bioresources Management, Ministry of Nature Protection, Government Building 3, Republic Square, 0010 YEREVAN

Tel.: +374 10273890. E-mail: ghalachyanhasmik@yahoo.com

CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

Mr Jan PLESNIK, Adviser to Director in foreign affairs, Nature Conservation Agency (NCA CR), Kaplanova 1931/1, CZ-148 00 PRAGUE 11 – CHODOV

Tel +42 283 069 246. Fax +42 283 069 E-mail: jan.plesnik@nature.cz

[Apologised for absence / Excusé]

NORWAY / NORVÈGE

Mr Øystein STØRKERSEN, Principal Advisor, Norwegian Environment Agency, P.O. Box 5672, Sluppen, N-7485 TRONDHEIM

Tel: +47 7358 0500. Fax: +47 7358 0501 or 7358 0505. E-mail: oystein.storkersen@miljodir.no

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

Mr Felix ZAHARIA, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Aleea Alexandru nr. 31-33, BUCURESTI, 011822.

Tel/Fax: +40 214311712 / +40 213192354. E-mail: felix.zaharia@mae.ro

[Apologised for absence / Excusé]

SLOVAKIA / SLOVAQUIE

Mr Michal ADAMEC, Director of Department for Nature and Landscape Protection, State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic, Tajovskeho 28B, SK-974 01 BANSKÁ BYSTRICA.

Tel: +421 048/4722034. Fax: +421 048/4722036. E-mail: michal.adamec@sopsr.sk. Web : www.sopsr.sk; www.biomonitoring.sk

SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT

Council of Europe / Conseil de l'Europe, Directorate of Democratic Governance / Direction de la Gouvernance démocratique, F-67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX, France Tel : +33 3 88 41 20 00.
Fax : +33 3 88 41 37 51

Mr Eladio FERNÁNDEZ-GALIANO, Head of the Democratic Initiatives Department / Chef du Service des Initiatives démocratiques, Directorate of of Democratic Governance / Direction de la Gouvernance démocratique DGII

Tel: +33 388 41 22 59. Fax: +33 388 41 37 51 E-mail: eladio.fernandez-galiano@coe.int

Ms Iva OBRETENOVA, Secretary of the Bern Convention / Secrétaire de la Convention de Berne, Biodiversity Unit / Unité de la Biodiversité

Tel : +33 3 90 90 21 58 81. Fax : +33 3 88 41 37 51. E-mail : iva.obretenova@coe.int

Ms Véronique de CUSSAC, Administrative assistant, Biodiversity Unit / Assistante administrative, Unité de la Biodiversité

Tel : +33 3 88 41 34 76 Fax : +33 3 88 41 37 51. E-mail : veronique.decusac@coe.int