

Strasbourg, 14 November 2013
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T-PVS (2013) 18

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

33rd meeting

Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2013

Opening of the meeting: 9:30 am Tuesday 3rd December 2013, Room 5

DRAFT
ANNOTATED AGENDA

*Document prepared by
The Directorate of Democratic Governance*

PART I – OPENING

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2013) 1 - Draft agenda
T-PVS (2013) 18 - Annotated draft agenda

The 33rd meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention will be opened by the Chair, Mr Jan Plesnik, at the Council of Europe (Strasbourg) at 9:30 am on Tuesday 3rd December 2013.

The draft agenda was drawn up by the Secretariat after consultation with the Bureau.

Decision: The Committee will be invited to adopt the agenda.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DELEGATIONS AND FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Relevant document: T-PVS (2013) 2 and 10 - Reports of the Bureau meetings in April and September 2013

The Chair will report on the development of the Convention since the last meeting of the Committee.

Contracting Parties have the opportunity to report in writing on the implementation of the Convention in their States.

Observer States will be invited to briefly inform the Committee of progress made towards the ratification of the Convention, together with any other information they may consider useful. The representatives of the invited Organisations may report on their activities directly concerned with the Convention (Article 13.3).

NB Delegations are kindly reminded that only written statements will be included in the report of the meeting.

The Secretariat will inform the Committee on the general implementation of the work programme for 2013, presenting at the same time the reports of the meetings of the Bureau of the Committee.

Decisions: No decisions are expected from the Committee under this item.

PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS

3. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION

3.1 Biennial reports 2009 – 2010, 2011 – 2012, concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 and quadrennial reports 2009 – 2012

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 29 - Biennial Reports 2009-2010
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 30 – Biennial Reports 2011-2012
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 19 – General Reports 2009-2012
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 5 - Summary tables of reporting under the Bern Convention

Article 9.2 of the Convention requests Parties to report on the exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Parties may also present general reports on the implementation of the Convention.

These reports will not be discussed unless Parties requires so at the adoption of the Agenda.

Decisions: No decisions are expected from the Committee under this item. The Committee is invited to take note of the reports possibly presented.

PARTIES NOT HAVING SENT THEIR BIENNIAL REPORTS ARE KINDLY REQUESTED TO SEND THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY E-MAIL (veronique.decussac@coe.int) AND BRING A COPY TO THE MEETING

PART III - INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

4. Accession of Belarus to the Bern Convention

4.1 Report of the visit of representatives of the Secretariat to Republic of Belarus and Round Table dedicated to the accession of the country to the Convention

Relevant document: T-PVS/Notes (2013) 5 – Report of the visit of the Secretariat to the Republic of Belarus

The Secretariat will report on the visit paid to Belarus in order to exchange views after the country's accession to the Convention

4.2 Courtesy introductory report by the Government of Belarus

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 37 Introductory Report on Nature Conservation in Belarus

The new Contracting Party will have the opportunity to make a brief introductory report to the Committee.

Decisions: No decisions are expected from the Committee under these items.

PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

Contracting Parties have the opportunity to report on specific conservation actions (only written statements will be included in the report of the meeting).

*Documents for information only:

T-PVS/Inf (2013) 27 - A manifesto for large carnivore conservation in Europe

T-PVS/Inf(2013)18 - Observer organisations' reports on the implementation of the action points of Recommendation No. 155 (2011)

T-PVS/Inf (2013) 12 - Assessment of the compliance by Parties with the Budapest Declaration on Bird Protection and Power Lines

* This item will not be discussed, unless Parties request so at the adoption of the Agenda.

T-PVS/Inf (2013) 16 - Observer Organisation reports on the Implementation of the Action Points listed in the Budapest Declaration on bird protection and power lines

T-PVS/Inf (2013) 11 - Follow-up of Recommendation No. 149 (2010) on the eradication of the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palaearctic – National Reports

T-PVS/Inf (2013) 36 - Report on Progress on the Irish TB Programme for the eradication of *Mycobacterium Bovis* infection from Cattle & Badgers - 2007-2012 – Report by the Government

T-PVS/Inf (2013) 5 – Summary table of reporting under the Bern Convention

5.1 Invasive Alien Species

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2013) 5 + addendum - Report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species and National Reports
 T-PVS/Inf (2013) 20 corrigendum – European Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS
 T-PVS (2013) 11 – Draft Recommendation on the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS
 TPVS/Inf (2013) 22 – European Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS
 TPVS (2013) 12 – Draft Recommendation on the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS
 TPVS/Inf (2013) 28 – Communication on IAS issues to media
 T-PVS/Inf (2013) 34 EPPO-Council of Europe-IUCN workshop “How to communicate on Pests and Invasive Alien Plants” - Conclusions

a. 10th Meeting of the Group of Experts on IAS

The Chair of the Group of Experts Ms Branka Tavzes (Slovenia) will present the outcomes of the meeting of Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species. The consultant, Mr Andrea Monaco, will present the code of conduct and the guidelines. The Secretariat will present the two draft recommendations.

b. Communication on Invasive Alien Species

The Secretariat will present the conclusions of the EPPO-Council of Europe-IUCN workshop on “How to communicate on Pests and Invasive Alien Plants” (Oeiras, Portugal, October 2013).

c. Monitoring of the European Strategy on the eradication of the ruddy duck (Side event)

At its 30th meeting the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention adopted Recommendation No. 149 (2010) on the eradication of the ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palaearctic, inviting Parties to implement, without delay, the Revised Action Plan 2011- 2015.

In order to check the progress made by Contracting Parties in the implementation of their commitments, a 60 minutes side event will take place on Tuesday 3rd December, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in Room 5.

Decision: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the meeting and, in particular, of the very good progress in the implementation of the Convention’s European Strategy on IAS, as well as in the preparation of innovative voluntary Codes of Conduct and Guidelines;
- Thank Italian conservation authorities for the excellent preparation of the meeting and all governments and international organisations represented at the meeting for the very good input given to the discussions;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft recommendations:
 - Draft Recommendation on the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species (appendix 4);
 - Draft Recommendation on European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species (appendix 5).

- Take due note of the proposals of the Group for future work on invasive alien species when adopting its programme of activities and budget for 2014-2015.

5.2 Conservation of Birds – Draft Action Plan and draft recommendations

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2013) 6 – Report of 2nd Conference on illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds and 4th meeting of the Group of Experts on Birds (Tunis, 29-31 May 2013)
T-PVS/Inf(2013)13 - Assessment of the compliance by Parties with Recommendation No. 155 (2011) on the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds
T-PVS (2013) 4 - Draft Recommendation on the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 14 - Overview of the Species Action Plans endorsed by the Bern Convention and need for update
T-PVS (2013) 9 - Draft recommendation on the implementation of twenty-one new or revised action plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 15 - Windfarms and Birds: An updated analysis of the effects of windfarms on birds, and best practice guidance on integrated planning and impact assessment
TPVS/Inf (2013) 9 - Improving the International coordination on Species Recovery Plans - Background document
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 25 – Statement of the CMS to the Conference on Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of Wild Birds (Tunis, May 2013)
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 32 – Programme to combat the illegal killing, trapping and trade in wild birds document

a. 2nd Conference on Illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds

The Secretariat will present the conclusions of the Conference held in Tunis, Tunisia, on 28-29 May 2013, including the draft Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, and the draft recommendation.

The representative of INTERPOL will present its possible contribution to the implementation of the draft Action Plan, in case this is adopted.

b. 4th Meeting of the Group of Experts on the conservation of birds

The Chair of the Group of Experts, Mr Rastislav Rybanic, will present the conclusions of the 4th Meeting of the Group of Experts on the conservation of birds, held in Tunis, Tunisia, on 30 May 2013.

The Secretariat will present the draft recommendation on the new or revised Species Action Plans.

c. Wind-farms and birds – updated guidelines

The Consultant, RSPB for BirdLife International, will present the document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 15: “Windfarms and Birds: An updated analysis of the effects of windfarms on birds, and best practice guidance on integrated planning and impact assessment”.

d. Presentation of the conclusions of the Workshop on recovery and reintroduction of the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

The Consultant, Mr René Rosoux, will present the conclusions of the Workshop.

Decision: The Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the reports of the 2nd Conference and of the meeting of the Group of Experts;
- Thank Tunisian authorities for the excellent preparation of the meetings;
- Support the participation of the Bern Convention in a Working Group on Energy issues at the level of the MEAs ;
- Support the improvement of international coordination on Action Plans for bird species, and the participation of the Bern Convention to an informal coordination task force on this issue;

- Consider, when discussing agenda item 7.2, the suggestion of the Group concerning the possibility for the Bern Convention to adopt the online reporting system launched by the CMS/WCMC;
- Take note of document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 15 on “Wind farms and birds: an updated analysis of the effects of wind farms on birds, and best practice guidance on integrated planning and impact assessment”, as well as of the recommendations and guidance included in the report particularly in view of the further implementation of Recommendation No. 109 (2004) of the Standing Committee on minimising adverse effects of wind power generation on wildlife;
- Take note of the outcomes of the CMS workshop on poisoning of migratory birds and closely follow-up this issue in cooperation with the CMS;
- Decide on the follow-up to be given to the possible cooperation with INTERPOL;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft Recommendations:
 - Draft Recommendation on the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds;
 - Draft Recommendation on the implementation of twenty-one new or revised action plans for most threatened birds in the Convention’s area.

5.3 Invertebrates

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2013) 17 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Invertebrates
 T-PVS (2013) 13 – Draft Recommendation on the threats by neurotoxic insecticides to pollinators
 T-PVS/Inf (2013) 4 – National Reports

The Secretariat will present the outcomes of the meeting of the Group held in Tirana (Albania) on 23-24 September 2013, as well as the draft recommendation.

Decision: The Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the meeting;
- Thank the Albanian government for the efficient preparation of the meeting and the excellent hospitality;
- Continue supporting the work towards the conservation of invertebrate by further encouraging and monitoring national implementation of European Strategy for the Conservation of Invertebrates;
- Encourage and support awareness-raising and communication initiatives in invertebrate conservation’s strategies at national level;
- Take note of the activities proposed by the Group for its future work;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the:
 - Draft Recommendation on the threats posed by neurotoxic insecticides to pollinators

5.4 Conservation of fungi

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 26 – Draft European Charter on Fungi-Gathering and Biodiversity
 T-PVS (2013) 3 – Draft Recommendation on the European Charter on Fungi gathering and biodiversity

The representative of the IUCN will present the final draft European Charter on Fungi gathering and biodiversity.

The Secretariat will present the draft Recommendation.

Decision: The Committee is invited to:

- Thank the IUCN for the good cooperation in the preparation of the Charter;
- Endorse the European Charter on Fungi gathering and biodiversity;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the:
 - Draft Recommendation on the European Charter on fungi gathering and biodiversity

5.5 Habitats

a. Protected Areas and Ecological Networks - Progress report on the establishment of the Emerald Network, draft revised Standard Data Form of Annex 1 to resolution No. 5 (1998) and draft revised Criteria for the evaluation of proposed ASCIs

Relevant Documents: T-PVS/PA (2013) 14 – Report of the 5th meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks
T-PVS/PA (2013) 17 – Draft list of proposed Emerald sites to be nominated as Candidate Emerald Sites
T-PVS/PA(2013) 08 - Draft revised Emerald Network Standard Data Form [Annex 1 Res. No. 5 (1998)]
T-PVS/PA(2013) 13 - Draft revised Criteria for the evaluation of the sufficiency of proposed ASCIs
T-PVS/PA(2013) 04 - Draft form for requesting exceptions to national reference lists (Emerald Network) for species listed in Annex I of Resolution No. 6 (1998)

The Secretariat will present the report of the 5th meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks held in Strasbourg, on 18-19 September 2013. It will inform on progress in the implementation of the Emerald Network, with a particular focus on the work carried out in seven Central and Eastern European countries and in Norway.

The Secretariat will further present the draft revised Emerald Network Standard Data Form [Annex 1 of Resolution No. 5 (1998)] and the draft revised Criteria for the evaluation of the sufficiency of proposed ASCIs, both documents submitted for adoption to the Standing Committee. An introduction to the discussions on the procedure to be followed for the use of the sign # from Resolution No. 6 (1998) will be also done by the Secretariat.

Decision: The Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the meeting of Group of Experts and of the progress in the implementation of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest;
- Consider the draft list of proposed Emerald sites in Norway and, if appropriate, nominate them officially as Candidate Emerald Sites;
- Clarify the procedure to be followed for the use of the sign # marking some species of European importance listed in Resolution No.6 (1998);
- Consider the proposals for the future activities on the setting-up of the Emerald Network and the Pan-European Ecological Network, when adopting its programme of activities and budget for 2014-2015;
- Thank the European Environment Agency and its European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity for the vital technical and scientific support provided for the successful implementation of the Emerald Network throughout 2013;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following documents:
 - Draft revised Emerald Network Standard Data Form of Annex 1 to Resolution No. 5 (1998);
 - Draft revised Criteria for the evaluation of the sufficiency of proposed ASCIs, including additional criteria for the evaluation of bird and migratory bird species.

b. European Diploma of Protected Areas – Adopted resolutions on the award and renewal of the European Diploma of protected areas

Relevant documents: T-PVS/DE(2013) 10E – Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists of the European Diploma of Protected Areas
T-PVS/DE (2013) 08E – Adopted Resolutions on the award and the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas in 2013

The Secretariat will present the report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists held in Strasbourg in March 2013 and inform on the resolutions adopted by the Committee of Ministers regarding the awards and the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas in 2013.

The Secretariat will further inform on the activities to be held in the frame of the European Diploma in 2014.

Decision: The Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the Group of Specialists as well as of the activities proposed for 2014.

PART V – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2013) 16 – Summary of case files and complaints
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 3 – Register of Bern Convention's case-files

(Note: a detailed summary of each case-file is available in document T-PVS (2013) 16 – Summary of Case files)

6.1 Files opened:

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 33 – Government report Ukraine
T-PVS/Files (2013) 35 – Government report Romania
T-PVS/Files (2013) 37 – Government report Republic of Moldova
T-PVS/Files (2013) 12 – Reports of the stakeholders
T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – EU report

This case concerns the excavation of a shipping canal in Bystroe estuary of the Danube delta in Ukraine, which is likely to affect adversely both the Ukrainian Danube Biosphere Reserve – the most important of Ukraine's wetlands – and the whole Danube delta dynamics.

The case is on the Standing Committee's agenda since 2004, when the Committee adopted Recommendation No.111 (2004) on the proposed navigable waterway through the Bystroe estuary (Danube Delta), inviting Ukraine to suspend works except for the completion of phase 1, and not to proceed with phase 2 of the project until certain conditions were met.

This year the Bureau assessed this complaint and decided to keep it open. At its second meeting, the Bureau reiterated its request to the concerned parties – Ukraine, Romania and the Republic of Moldova – to convene as soon as possible a meeting of the Joint Commission and inform the Standing Committee at least on the date of the meeting as well as on the state of trans-boundary cooperation.

Furthermore, the Bureau welcomed the exchange of information between the Secretariats of the ESPOO and Bern Conventions, as a good example of international co-ordination on issues which are relevant to Europe's biodiversity. It finally instructed the Secretariat of the Bern Convention to

approach the ESPOO Convention for any updated information, including any relevant outcome of the 28th Session of the Implementation Committee.

Decision: the Committee is invited to discuss this issue and decide on its possible follow-up.

➤ **Cyprus: Akamas peninsula**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 32 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 48 - NGO report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – EU report

This case concerns plans for the tourist development in the Peninsula of Akamas (Cyprus), with detrimental effect on an ecologically valuable area with many rare plant and animal species protected under the Bern Convention. It was first discussed at the 16th meeting of the Standing Committee in 1996. Two on-the-spot appraisals were carried out in 1997 and 2002 and a recommendation adopted in 1997.

This year the Bureau assessed the case at its second meeting. It took note of the information provided by the authorities and welcomed their commitment to promptly communicate the outcomes of the mapping of the Akamas Peninsula. Moreover, the Bureau further noted that the management plan for the Akamas Peninsula area is about to be finalised, but considered it necessary to follow this in connection with the developments related to the complaint pending at the EU level, more particularly regarding the presumed insufficient designation of the SCI.

The Bureau invited the Party to inform the Standing Committee at its next meeting and instructed the Secretariat to liaise with the European Commission concerning the procedure pending under EU instances.

Decision: The Committee is invited to discuss this issue and decide on its possible follow-up.

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 18 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 6 – NGO report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – EU report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 24 – Opinion of the Bureau

This case was first lodged to question the building of wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra, on the Black Sea coast, but it has then be extended to the exponential rise in wind farms' developments in Bulgaria.

At its first meeting in April 2013, the Bureau decided to keep the case-file open and instructed the Group of Experts on the conservation of birds to put the assessment of this complaint on its agenda.

The Group held an exchange of view, generally recognising the seriousness of the situation, while acknowledging at the same time the efforts of the national authorities toward finding a satisfactory solution to the possible threats posed to birds by the many wind farms in the country. Among the main concerns, the participants noted the high number of developments in the same flyway and the cumulative effect of wind farms.

At its last meeting, the Bureau deeply discussed the complaint, clearly noting the tangible efforts of the authorities, and regretting the difficulty in conciliating bird conservation needs with the development of the green energy sector. The Bureau further discussed the coordination with the AEWA and other partners, including the EU, as a way for providing assistance to Bulgarian authorities on this matter. The Bureau members made several proposals, ending in a draft opinion for the attention of the Standing Committee. The Bureau decided to keep the case file open and invited Bulgarian authorities to report at next Standing Committee meeting.

Decision: The Committee is invited to discuss this issue and decide on its possible follow-up.

➤ **France: Habitats for the survival of the common hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*) in Alsace**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 36 – Government report
 T-PVS/Files (2013) 43 – NGO report
 T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – EU report

This complaint concerns the measures implemented by France to ensure the preservation of habitats needed for the survival of the common hamster. In 1998 the Standing Committee adopted its Recommendation No. 68 (1998) on the protection of the common hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*) in Alsace (France).

In June 2011 the European Court of Justice ruled against France for failing to take adequate measures to protect the species.

This year, the Bureau assessed this complaint at its second meeting, and took note of the updates sent by the authorities of France as well as by the NGO on the measures implemented in spring 2013 to increase the distribution of the species and the number of individuals. The Bureau further noted the efforts deployed by the European Union to accompany France in the implementation of the measures recommended by the ECJ ruling through bilateral meetings.

Conscious that the summer counts of the species population were still undergoing in September, and that the final results were pending, the Bureau decided to keep the case-file open and to invite both the French authorities and the NGOs to report to the Standing Committee meeting on the latest population counts for the species from summer 2013.

Decision: The Committee is invited to discuss this issue and decide on its possible follow-up.

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 7 – Government report

This case concerns the presence of the American grey squirrel in Italy, as a serious threat for the survival of the protected native red squirrel, and the related potential to turn the invasion of this species into a continental problem. Two Recommendations were adopted, respectively Recommendation No. 78 (1999) on the conservation of the red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) in Italy, and Recommendation No. 114 (2005) on the control of the grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and other alien squirrels in Europe, asking Italy to start without delay an eradication programme.

The case file was opened in 2008, following an on-the-spot appraisal. The Committee requested Italy, inter alia, to adopt any useful measure to officially ban the trade of the species in the country.

The Bureau assessed this complaint at its first meeting in April 2013. It noted with satisfaction the legislative progress towards the eradication of the American grey squirrel in Italy and welcomed the adoption by the country of the ban decree “Dispositions for the control of detention and trade of alien squirrels of the species *Callosciurus erythraeus*, *Sciurus carolinensis* and *Sciurus niger*”, issued on 24th December 2012 by the Minister of the Environment Land and Sea, in concert with the Minister of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies and with the Minister of Economic Development. The Bureau further decided to keep the case-file open and asked Italian authorities to inform the Standing Committee, at its next meeting, on the results of the enforcement of the decree, as well as on the further implementation of the Life project.

Decision: The Committee is invited to discuss this issue and decide on its possible follow-up.

➤ **Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 17 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 15 – Report by the complainant (MEDASSET)
T-PVS/Files (2013) 49 – NGO report (ARCHELON)
T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – EU report

This complaint was discussed at the Standing Committee meeting last year, in the absence of delegates of Greece. On the basis of the critical information submitted by the NGO, the Committee decided to keep the complaint as a possible file, emphasising on the need to be informed by the authorities on the state of the situation in the area.

In 2013 the Secretariat invited the Party to report on concrete aspects such as the state of conservation and management of the area, enforcement of relevant legislation, assessment of possible negative impact of the tourism developments, and mitigation measures envisaged. In April, the authorities addressed some but not all the issues, while the complainant acknowledged some positive progress but raised still pending and new concern.

More particularly, the Bureau noted that enforcement was still a major issue and decided to screen again the complaint at its second meeting.

However, at its September meeting, the Bureau regretted to note that no concrete information regarding the conservation and management of the area, as well as the enforcement of relevant legislation, was transmitted by Greek authorities.

Taking into account the updated information submitted by the complainant, and the concern already expressed by the Bureau and the Standing Committee, the Bureau suggested that the case file mentioned above should be discussed as a File open at the 33rd Standing Committee meeting. It instructed the Secretariat to reiterate the reporting request, namely concerning: the state of conservation and management of the area; the enforcement of relevant legislation and administrative decisions (including more particularly the execution of the demolition protocols); the adoption of the measures whose implementation was envisaged as of June 2013; and the progress made over the Action Plan, particularly regarding the cessation of disturbing activities and infrastructures.

Finally, the Bureau invited Greek authorities to attend next Standing Committee meeting.

Decision: The Committee is invited to discuss this issue and decide on its possible follow-up.

6.2 Possible files

➤ **France: Protection of the European green toad (*Bufo viridis*) in Alsace**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 16 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 47 – NGOs Reports
T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – Report by the EU

This complaint was lodged in 2006 by the Association BUFO (*Association pour l'étude et la protection des amphibiens et reptiles d'Alsace*) focusing on threats to the green toad's few remaining habitats in Alsace.

A national action plan was announced by the French government in 2008, but remained in stand-by due to several delays in finalisation. In 2011, replacing consultancy previously in charge of drafting the plan, the National Museum of Natural History (MNHN) was commissioned to complete the work. In 2012, positive developments at regional level were reported as regards measures already implemented and foreseen in Alsace and Lorraine.

This year, the French authorities reported additional delays in the adoption of the National Action

Plan (NAP) and the end of 2013 was announced as a new deadline for completion of the plan. The next milestones should include: consultation with all services concerned at national level, submission to the National Council for Nature Protection, and finally the organization of public consultations.

During its final screening, in September 2013, the Bureau regretted the procedural delays in the adoption of the NAP and invited the French authorities to inform the Standing Committee about the state of play. It further noted that the complainant had not reported to the Secretariat in 2013, and therefore requested updated information on the situation of the green toad. Finally, the Bureau considered that if it should appear that the conservation status of the green toad is suffering from the lack of an adequate action plan or other relevant measures, the Committee should decide on the opportunity of opening a case file.

Decision: The Committee is invited to discuss this issue and decide on whether or not to open a case file.

➤ **Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 21 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 9 – NGO report

This complaint was registered as a possible file at the 32nd Standing Committee meeting, after the presentation by MEDASSET of a detailed report alerting the Committee on the possible severe threats which the presumed lack of adequate management of Fethiye and Patara SPAs could pose to the marine turtles' nesting activity.

The Secretariat sent to national authorities a reporting request in order to inform the Bureau at its first meeting. However, the report of the national authorities reached the Secretariat after that meeting. Although the document submitted provided some scientific data collected through a monitoring exercise in 2012, the Secretariat noted that it didn't address all the issues and requested more detailed information for instance on the measures and actions whose implementation was foreseen this year, as well as on the steps towards the removal of illegal or unauthorised constructions in both Fethiye and Patara SPAs.

Unfortunately, the information requested didn't reach the Bureau by its second meeting. The Bureau therefore decided to keep this complaint as a possible file and to forward it to the Standing Committee, inviting the Party to attend the meeting and report on that occasion.

Decision: The Committee is invited to discuss this issue and decide on whether or not to open a case file.

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 26 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 22 – NGO report

This complaint, lodged last year, was not discussed at the Bureau meeting in April, since the case is pending before a Turkish National Court and the authorities ensured that all developments related to this complaint would be monitored by the competent authorities and that the Secretariat would be informed as soon as the Turkish Justice would emit its judgement.

In September 2013, the authorities further informed that the competent Ministry sent a pool of experts to the area for preparing an official report on the state of the situation. The report was under inspection at the time of the second Bureau meeting.

The Bureau asked to be kept informed of the outcomes of the assessment report and invited the delegate of Turkey to report to next Standing Committee meeting.

Decision: The Committee is invited to discuss this issue and decide on whether or not to open a case file.

➤ **Possible spread of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in Poland**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2012) 35 – NGO report + addendum
T-PVS/Files (2013) 30 – Government Report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – EU report

This complaint was submitted in May 2012 to denounce the non-inclusion of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in the national list of non-native plants and animals that might endanger native species and habitats. The Bureau has repeatedly expressed serious doubts concerning the position of the authorities which affirm that the risk of escape of the American mink into the wild is relatively low.

The Secretariat addressed many detailed reporting requests to the national authorities in 2013 but they all remained unanswered, while the complainant provided an updated report, accompanied by a scientific article confirming, among others, that escapees from farms do occur.

In the light of the above, the Bureau decided to forward this complaint to the Standing Committee as a possible file and invited Polish authorities to report to next Standing Committee meeting.

Decision: The Committee is invited to discuss this issue and decide on whether or not to open a case file.

6.3 On the spot appraisal

➤ **France / Switzerland: threats to the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 45 – Report of the on-the-spot appraisal
T-PVS/Files (2013) 40 – Complainant Report on the on-the-spot appraisal (Pro-Natura, Switzerland)
T-PVS/Files (2013) 50 – Complainant Report on the on-the-spot appraisal (FNE, France)
T-PVS/Files (2013) 46 – Comments of the Swiss Government
T-PVS/Files (2013) 53 – Comments of the Government of France to the draft recommendation
T-PVS (2013) 14 – Draft recommendation

This complaint was lodged in 2011 to denounce the threat of decline of the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*), in the Doubs River (France) and the canton of Jura (Switzerland).

The concerned Parties agreed to an on-the-spot appraisal aimed at preparing a list of recommended actions to be submitted to the attention of the Standing Committee at its 33rd meeting.

At its second meeting, the Bureau expressed its appreciation for the organisation of the on-the-spot appraisal and the preparation of the report by the expert. It decided to forward the draft recommendation to the concerned parties for comments, prior to the submission to the Standing Committee for examination and possible adoption

Professor Jean-Claude Philippart, who conducted the on-the-spot appraisal, will present his report, as amended following the comments received by the parties. The Secretariat will present the draft recommendations.

The delegates of France and Switzerland will be invited to present their countries' position.

Decision: The Committee is invited to discuss the follow-up to be given to the complaint and to examine and, if appropriate, adopt, the following draft recommendation:

- Draft recommendation on the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland)

6.4 Follow-up of previous Recommendations

NB Unless otherwise specified, this agenda item is for information only. Relevant States are invited to report on the follow-up of the above recommendations. The Committee is invited to take note of the information presented.

➤ **Recommendation No. 162 (2012) on the conservation of large carnivores populations in Europe requesting special conservation action**

Relevant document T-PVS/Files (2013) 39 – Compilation of Governments' reports

Through this recommendation the Standing Committee addressed a list of specific recommendations to parties confronted with the conservation of large carnivores' populations in Europe requesting special conservation action. Reporting requests were sent to the following parties: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Italy, Montenegro, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Spain, and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

➤ **Recommendation No. 154 (2011) on the European Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2013) 38 – Compilation of Governments' reports

Through this recommendation the Standing Committee invited Contracting Parties to refer to the principles and guidelines included in the European Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species in the elaboration and implementation of national related policies, as well as to collaborate as appropriate with the private sector involved in breeding, import and trade of pets in implementing and helping disseminate good practices and codes of conduct aimed at preventing entry, release and spread of invasive alien species.

➤ **Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach (Turkey)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 51 – Report by the Turkish Government
T-PVS/Files (2013) 52 – Report by the NGO

This recommendation was adopted in 2002 and originated from a complaint lodged in 2000 and an on-the-spot appraisal carried out in 2002. The recommendation addresses a series of actions which Turkey is invited to implement in order to grant the long-term conservation of the beach's quality for marine turtles nesting. Among other key issues, the recommendation invites Turkey to remove as a matter of urgency the row of greenhouses closest to the sea in beach section K3 and, as soon as feasible, other greenhouses in the same beach section, as well as to maintain monitoring of the chemical waste discharge into the sea by the chrome factory.

This year, MEDASSET recalled that there has been no news or report on progress for the safe disposal of the 1.5 million tons of highly toxic solid waste located right next to Kazanlı's most important green turtle nesting site.

The Bureau invited the authorities to report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of the recommended actions.

PART VI – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

7. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

7.1 International coordination with other MEAs and organisations

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 33 - Strategic Goal C, Aichi Targets 11 and 12: Statement of the Bern Convention to the 17th Meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, Montreal (Canada) 14-18 October 2013- statement by the Secretariat
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 9 - International coordination on Species Recovery Plans – Background document by BirdLife
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 25 – Statement by the UNEP/CMS Technical Workshop on Minimizing Poisoning of Migratory Birds

The Secretariat will inform the Committee on progress in the international coordination with other MEAs and organisations (including the EU, EEA, CBD, CMS, AEWa, IUCN, WCMC and INTERPOL) and invite the Committee to decide on the specific follow-up to be given to the requests of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds related to the international coordination on Species Recovery Plans, on the Energy sector and birds, and on the CMS work on minimizing poisoning risks for birds.

7.2 Harmonising international reporting: possible adoption of the CMS Family Online Reporting System

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 31 - Bern Convention: using the Online Reporting System

The representative of the AEWa will briefly recall the main features of the CMS Online Reporting System, while the Secretariat will present the stakes and benefits of a possible adoption of such a system.

Decision: The Committee is invited to decide on the possible adoption by the Convention of the CMS Online Reporting System.

7.3 Financing the Bern Convention

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2013) 19 – Report of the meeting of the Advisory Group on Budgetary Matters
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 35 - Key Points: The Bern Convention: a priority treaty for Democracy in Europe
T-PVS//Inf (2013) 21 - Proposals and suggestions on ways and means to ensure the appropriate funding for the strategic development and implementation of the Bern Convention – National contributions
T-PVS (2013) 7 - Draft Decision on financing the Bern Convention

a. Ad hoc Advisory Group of Experts on the long-term financing of the Bern Convention

The Secretariat will present the outcomes of the meeting of the Ad hoc Advisory Group of Experts on the long-term financing of the Bern Convention (Strasbourg, September 2013).

b. Draft decision

The Secretariat will present the draft decision on the long-term financing of the Bern Convention, prepared by the Group of Experts on the long-term financing of the Bern Convention and pre-validated by the Bureau.

Decision: The Committee is invited to examine, for possible adoption, the draft decision.

7.4 Draft Programme of Activities for 2014 – 2015

Relevant document: T-PVS (2013) 8 – Draft Programme of Activities 2014-2015

The Secretariat will present the proposal of activities and budget for the years 2014 - 2015, prepared following discussions at the Bureau.

Decision: The Committee is invited to examine and, if appropriate, adopt its Programme of Activities for the year 2014 and pre-validate the PoA for 2015.

7.5 States to be invited as observers to the 34th meeting

The Secretariat will remind the Committee that the following States have been invited to attend this 33rd meeting as Observers:

- A. Council of Europe member States (invited automatically): The Russian Federation and San Marino.
- B. Non-member States: Algeria, Holy See, Jordan.

Following the persistent lack of contacts with Cape Verde, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, the Secretariat suggests to stop inviting them until new contact details are confirmed. Instead, the Secretariat suggests inviting the representatives of Jordan, in accordance with the Council of Europe Neighbourhood policy.

Decisions: The Committee is requested to decide unanimously which States, not members of the Council of Europe, are to be invited to attend its 34th meeting.

PART VII - OTHER ITEMS

8. ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND BUREAU MEMBERS

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 6 – Rules of Procedure: Standing Committee, on-the-spot enquiries, mediation

In accordance with Article 18(e) of the Rules of Procedure “The Chair, Vice-Chair and two additional Bureau members shall be elected at the end of each meeting. They shall execute their respective terms of office from their election onwards until the end of the meeting following the meeting where they were elected. Their terms of office may be renewed, but the total length of term of office shall not exceed four years or, as appropriate, the end of the first meeting following the expiry of this period of four years.

Decisions: The Committee is invited to elect its Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2 Bureau members. According to Rule 19 of the Rules of procedure of the Standing Committee, the Committee will acknowledge the automatic election of the previous Chair.

9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 34TH MEETING

Decisions: In accordance with Article 1 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee is invited to decide on the date of its 34th meeting.

The Secretariat will make a proposal (2-5 December 2014, in Strasbourg).

10. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

Decisions: The Committee is invited to approve the main decisions of the meeting which, in accordance with Article 15 of the Convention, will be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

11. OTHER BUSINESS (ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Any question which does not concern a preceding item of the agenda may be raised here. The Standing Committee will be invited to discuss the issues raised.

DRAFT PLAN FOR DISCUSSION OF THE AGENDA

MORNINGS 9.30 am - 12.30 pm	AFTERNOONS 2.30 - 5.30 pm
TUESDAY 3 December	
<p>1. Opening, adoption of agenda</p> <p>2. Report from Chairman & Communications</p> <p>3. Monitoring and implementation of the legal aspects of the Convention</p> <p>3.1 Biennial and quadrennial reports</p> <p>4. Accession of Belarus to the Bern Convention</p> <p>4.1 Report of the visit of representatives of the Secretariat to Republic of Belarus and Round Table dedicated to the accession of the country to the Convention</p> <p>4.2 Courtesy introductory report by the Government of Belarus</p> <p>5. Monitoring of Species and Habitats</p> <p>5.1 Invasive Alien Species (draft recommendations)</p> <p>5.4 Conservation of Fungi – Final draft European Charter on gathering Fungi and Biodiversity (draft recommendation)</p> <p>5.3 10th Meeting of the Group of Experts on Invertebrates</p>	<p>5. Monitoring of Species and Habitats</p> <p>5.2 Conservation of Birds – Draft Action Plan and draft recommendations</p> <p>a. 2nd Conference on Illegal killing of birds</p> <p>b. 4th Meeting of the Group of Experts on the conservation of Birds</p> <p>c. Wind-farms and birds – updated guidelines</p> <p>d. International Workshop on Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)</p> <p>5.5 Habitats:</p> <p>a. Protected Areas and Ecological Networks - Progress report, draft revised Standard Data Form of Annex 1 to resolution No. 5 (1998), and draft revised Criteria for the evaluation of proposed ASCIs - Progress on the establishment of the Emerald Network</p> <p>b. European Diploma of Protected Areas – Adopted resolutions on the award and renewal of the European Diploma of protected areas</p> <p>6 p.m. – 7 p.m. Side event: progress towards the eradication of the Ruddy Duck</p>
WEDNESDAY 4 December	
<p>6. Specific sites and populations</p> <p>6.1 Files opened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ukraine: Proposed navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary (Danube delta) ➤ Cyprus: Akamas peninsula ➤ Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica ➤ France: Habitats for the survival of the common hamster (<i>Cricetus cricetus</i>) in Alsace ➤ Italy: Eradication and trade of the American grey squirrel (<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>) ➤ Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias <p>6.2 Possible files</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ France: Protection of the European green toad (<i>Bufo viridis</i>) in Alsace ➤ Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey) ➤ Turkey: threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (<i>Monachus monachus</i>) ➤ Possible spread of the American mink (<i>Neovison vison</i>) in Poland 	<p>6.3 On-the-spot appraisal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ France / Switzerland: threats to the Rhone streber (<i>Zingel asper</i>) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland) – Draft recommendation <p>6.4 Follow-up of previous Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendation No. 162 (2012) on the conservation of large carnivores populations in Europe requesting special conservation action; ➤ Recommendation No. 154 (2011) on the European Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species; ➤ Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach (Turkey) <p>7. Strategic development of the Convention</p> <p>7.3 (Introduction to) Financing the Bern Convention</p> <p>Side event: INTERPOL' action on Illegal killing of birds</p>
THURSDAY 5 December	
<p>7. Strategic development of the Convention</p> <p>7.1 International coordination with other MEAs and organisations</p> <p>7.2 Harmonising international reporting: possible migration to the CMS Family Online Reporting System</p> <p>7.3 Financing the Bern Convention (continuation of unfinished work)</p> <p>7.4 Draft Programme of Activities for 2014-2015</p> <p>7.5 States to be invited as observers to the 34th meeting</p>	Continuation of unfinished work
FRIDAY 6 December	
<p>8. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair, and Bureau members</p> <p>9. Date and place of the 34th meeting</p> <p>10. Adoption of the main decisions of the meeting</p> <p>11. Other business</p>	

Note: Room 6 will be free for EU co-ordination meetings (without interpretation).