

Strasbourg, 4 November 2015
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T-PVS (2015) 27

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

35th meeting

Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015

Opening of the meeting: 9:30 am Tuesday 1st December 2015, Room 5

DRAFT
ANNOTATED AGENDA

Updated on 27 November

*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 (2015) 1 - Draft agenda
T-PVS (2015) 27 - Annotated draft agenda

The 35th meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention will be opened by the Chair, Mr Øystein Størkersen, at the Council of Europe (Strasbourg), on Tuesday 1st December 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

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 documents: T-PVS (2015) 6 and 26 - Reports of the Bureau meetings in March and September 2015
T-PVS (2014) 15 – Abridged report of the 34th Standing Committee meeting

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 may 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 2015, presenting at the same time the reports of the meetings of the Bureau of the Committee.

DECISION: No decisions are expected from the Committee under this item.
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PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS

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

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

3.1 Biennial reports 2009-2010, 2011-2012, 2013-2014 concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 and quadrennial reports 2009-2012

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2015) 6 – Summary tables of reporting under the Bern Convention
Biennial Reports 2009-2010
Biennial Reports 2011-2012
Biennial Reports 2013-2014

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.

Parties who wish to share their experience during the testing phase of the Online Reporting System may do so by requesting the floor under this agenda item.

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

3.2 Report on the implementation of the Convention in Greece

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2015) 22 – Expert's report on the implementation of the Convention in Greece

Ms Virginia Murray will present a legal report on the implementation of the Bern Convention in Greece. The delegate of Greece will have the possibility of presenting the comments from the government.

DECISION: The Committee is invited to take note of the conclusions of the report.

PART III - MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

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

4. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

Contracting Parties have the opportunity to report on specific conservation actions, upon previous request.

*Documents for information only:

- T-PVS (2015) 2 – National Focal Points for Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of Wild Birds
- T-PVS/Inf (2015) 9 – Analysis of Responses by 12 Countries to Questionnaire on Gravity Factors applicable under the Tunis Action Plan 2013 – 2020
- T-PVS/Inf (2015) 10 – Ongoing initiatives to tackle illegal killing of birds
- T-PVS/Inf (2015) 19 – European Code of Conduct on Recreational Boating and Invasive Alien Species (Second draft)
- T-PVS/Inf (2015) 24 – Guidance for governments concerning invasive alien species pathways action plans (First draft)
- T-PVS/Inf (2015) 21 – The small Indian mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus* in the Balkans
- T-PVS/Inf (2015) 16 - Climate change and biodiversity conservation: information document

4.1 Conservation of birds

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2015) 4 – Report of the 2nd meeting of the Special Focal Points for illegal killing of birds
 TPVS/Inf (2015) 7 – Compilation of National reports on the questionnaire on the standardisation of Gravity factors
 T-PVS/Inf (2015) 9 – Analysis of the replies of Parties on the list of gravity factors
 T-PVS (2015) 25 – Report of the 5th meeting of the Group of Experts on the conservation of birds
 T-PVS/Inf (2015) 12 – Draft list of Gravity Factors
 T-PVS (2015) 3 – Sentencing Principles
 T-PVS (2015) 19 – Draft Recommendation on gravity factors and sentencing principles
 T-PVS/Inf (2015) 3 – Methodology document for the identification of black-spots of illegal killing of birds

a. Group of Experts on the conservation of birds

The Chair of the Group of Experts on the conservation of birds, Mr Rastislav Rybanič, will present the conclusions of the 5th meeting of the Group, held in Strasbourg, on 12-13 October 2015.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds;
- Convene, in 2016, an ad hoc Working Group made up of a restricted pool of experts on the osprey, in order to improve and complete the second draft Action Plan in view of the submission of a final draft to the 36th Standing Committee meeting; encourage contracting parties to volunteer for participating in this work;
- Invite the authorities of the countries with pending complaints on stand-by to continue the fruitful cooperation with the Bureau in view of finding the appropriate solutions;

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

- Take note of the strong worries of the Group of Experts in relation to the situation of migratory birds in the Northern-East coast of Bulgaria and invite the authorities to carry out a comprehensive, independent and quality assessment of the impact of windfarms' developments on both breeding and migratory bird species;
- Invite the authorities of Iceland to facilitate the organisation of a joint AEWA / Bern Convention mission to the country in relation with the afforestation policy, during the first semester of 2016.

b. Eradication of illegal killing, trapping, and trade of wild birds

The Chair of the Group of Experts on the conservation of birds, Mr Rastislav Rybanič, will present the outcomes of the 2nd meeting of the Special Focal Points for illegal killing of birds, held in Madrid (Spain) on 24-25 February 2015.

The Secretariat will update on progress of Parties in the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020, and remind next steps.

Besides, the consultant, Mr Nicholas Crampton, will present the draft Sentencing principles for assisting prosecutors and judges in their work towards prosecuting illegal killing of birds. A list of commonly agreed gravity factors will also be presented, together with a draft Recommendation which will be introduced by the Secretariat.

In addition, the representative of BirdLife International will present the revised Methodology document to identify black-spots of illegal killing of birds.

DECISIONS: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report and decisions of the meeting of the Special Focal Points for illegal killing of birds, as well as of progress in the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2020;
- Thank SEO/BirdLife and the authorities of Spain for the excellent hosting of the meeting of the Special Focal Points;
- Welcome the coming setting-up of the Mediterranean Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds under the CMS, as a strong contribution to the goals set by the Tunis Action Plan;
- Thank the EU for the implementation of a EU Roadmap for the eradication of illegal killing of birds in view of enhancing synergies and coordinated action in this field;
- Thank the AEWA, the Interpol, BirdLife International and the FACE for the efforts towards the enforcement and dissemination of the Bern Convention's recommendations in this field;
- Invite Contracting Parties to communicate, at next Standing Committee meeting, a list of national priorities for the eradication of illegal killing of birds, and to report on the mid-term progress towards the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan;
- Invite Contracting Parties to strengthen efforts aimed at enhancing inter-sector cooperation at national level, particularly between the authorities in charge of biodiversity-related matters and the Ministries of Interior or Home Affairs, and of Justice;
- Convene a third meeting of the Network of Special Focal Points in the first six months of 2016, and invite the CMS to consider the possibility of organising the first meeting of its Task Force back-to-back;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft Recommendation:
 - Draft Recommendation No. ... (2015) on the gravity factors and sentencing principles for the evaluation of offences against birds, and in particular the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds.

4.2 Biodiversity and Climate Change

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2015) 8 – Report of the meeting of the ad hoc Select Group on Climate Change and Biodiversity
T-PVS/Inf (2015) 25 – Draft work-plan on Climate change and biodiversity

The Chair of the Group of Experts, Ms Hasmik Ghalachyan, will present the report of the meeting of the ad hoc Select Group of Experts on biodiversity and climate change.

The consultant, Prof. Brian Huntley, will present the draft work-plan on climate change and biodiversity, prepared following the decisions of the ad hoc Select Group of Experts and its proposals for future work.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the meeting and of the proposals of the ad hoc Select Group of Experts for future work on climate change and biodiversity under the Convention;
- Thank the Contracting parties who volunteered for participating in the ad hoc Select Group, and the authorities of Italy for their warm hospitality;
- Invite Parties to urgently implement the already adopted guidance and recommendations, and to share best practices in the appropriate fora;
- Invite managers of European Diploma holding areas, as well as managers of Emerald Network's candidate sites, to take climate change into account in their management plans, and to regularly assess its impact;
- Examine and, if appropriate, endorse the following document:
 - Draft work-plan on Climate change and biodiversity.

4.3 Invasive Alien Species

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2015) 10 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Experts
T-PVS/Inf (2015) 17 - Compilation of National Reports on IAS
TPVS (2015) 7 – Report of the Workshop on the “Feral ungulates and their impact on Island Biodiversity in the Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions”, La Gomera (Spain), 23-24.03.2015)
TPVS (2015) 5 - Draft recommendation on the control of feral ungulates in islands of the Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions
T-PVS/Inf (2015) 1 – Draft European Code of conduct on plantation forestry and invasive alien trees
T-PVS (2015) 12 – Draft recommendation on the European Code of conduct on plantation forestry and invasive alien trees
TPVS/Inf (2015) 14 - The Bern Convention and the EU Regulation 1143/2014 on the Prevention and management of the introduction and spread of Invasive Alien Species
T-PVS (2015) 11 - Draft recommendation on action to promote and complement the implementation of EU Regulation 1143/2014 on IAS
T-PVS (2015) 23 – Draft agenda of the workshop on the eradication of the Ruddy duck

a. Meeting of the Group of Experts on IAS

The Secretariat will present the conclusions of the 11th Meeting of the Group of Experts on IAS, held in Triglav National Park (Slovenia) on 4-5 June 2015.

The consultant, Mr Giuseppe Brundu, will present the Code of conduct on plantation forestry and invasive alien trees, while the Secretariat will present the relevant draft Recommendation.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on IAS and of the proposals of the Group for further action on this topic;

- Thank Slovenian conservation authorities for their warm welcome and excellent organisation of the meeting;
- Welcome the translation of the Code of conduct for botanic gardens on IAS into Russian language ;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft Recommendation:
 - Draft Recommendation No. ... (2015) on the European Code of conduct on plantation forestry and invasive alien trees.

b. Workshop on the feral ungulates and their impact on Island Biodiversity in the Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions

The Secretariat will present the outcomes of the workshop on “Feral ungulates and their impact on Island Biodiversity in the Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions”, held in La Gomera (Canary Islands, Spain), on 23-24 March 2015.

Besides, the Secretariat will present the relevant draft Recommendation.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Thank the Canarian Conservation authorities for their warm welcome and the excellent preparation of the meeting;
- Take note of the report of the meeting and of its conclusions;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft Recommendation:
 - Draft Recommendation No. ... (2015) on the control of feral ungulates in islands of the Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions.

c. The Bern Convention and EU Regulation 1143/2014 on the Prevention and Management of the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Alien Species

The consultant, Mr Arie Trouwborst, will present via Skype a report on the role that the Bern Convention could play in extending beyond the EU the actions provided for in the EU’s Regulation 1143/2014 on the Prevention and Management of the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Alien Species (IAS Regulation).

The Secretariat will present the relevant draft Recommendation.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report on the Bern Convention and the EU Regulation 1143/2014;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft Recommendation:
 - Draft Recommendation No. ... (2015) on actions to promote and complement the implementation of EU Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species.

d. Monitoring of the European Strategy for the eradication of the ruddy duck

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.

The Secretariat will inform about a workshop scheduled to take place in Saint Aignan de Grand Lieu (Nantes, France) on 14 December 2015, to check the progress made by Contracting Parties in the implementation of their commitments.

4.4 Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2015) 13 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Experts
 T-PVS/Inf (2015) 15 - Demography of marine turtles nesting in the Mediterranean Sea
 T-PVS/Inf (2015) 18 – Compilation of National Reports on the conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles
 T-PVS/Inf (2015) 20 - Priorities for conservation of amphibians and reptiles in Europe
 T-PVS (2015) 9 – Draft recommendation on the prevention and control of the *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* chytrid fungus

The Chair of the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles, Mr Richard Podloucky, will present the report and conclusions of the 8th meeting of the Group, held in Bern (Switzerland), on 1-2 July 2015.

Prof. An Martel will present the state of knowledge on the *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* and its impact on Europe's salamanders.

The Secretariat will present the relevant draft Recommendation.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report and conclusions of the 8th meeting of the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles;
- Thank Swiss conservation authorities and the KARCH for their warm welcome and excellent organisation of the meeting;
- Take note of the proposals of the Group for its future work, and convene its meetings on a more regular basis;
- Invite the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro to address, as a matter of urgency, the actions recommended under Recommendation No.140 (2009) on the control of the small Indian mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctatus*) in Southeast Europe;
- Invite Parties concerned by the spread of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (BD) to urgently implement monitoring programmes of populations' trends and BD infections at national level;
- Acknowledge the Gap analysis and research priorities on the demography of marine turtles nesting in the Mediterranean Sea, and express its strong support to the work carried out under the Mediterranean Marine Turtle Conferences;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft Recommendation:
 - Draft Recommendation No. ... (2015) on the prevention and control of the *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (BS) chytrid fungus;
- Invite Contracting Parties to urgently implement the (adopted) Recommendation.

4.5 Conservation of other threatened Species

The Secretariat will present the outcomes of a number of meetings and initiatives organised with the contribution of the Bern Convention in favour of threatened species.

a. European Red List workshop

The Secretariat will inform about the conclusions of the European Red List workshop, organised in co-operation with the IUCN and held in Paris, France, on 20-22 October 2015.

b. Caucasus leopard and wildlife conference

Relevant document: TPVS/Inf (2015) 13 – International Experts Workshop “Conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus”: Findings and recommendations

The Secretariat will report on the findings and recommendations resulted from the workshop on the contemporary status of Leopards and prey in the Caucasus ecoregion, held in Tbilisi, Georgia, in October 2014.

c. New approaches towards biodiversity conservation (European bison)

The Secretariat will report on the outcomes of the session on the European bison which took place within the international conference on “New approaches towards biodiversity conservation”, held in Minsk (Belarus) on 21-22 May 2015.

d. International Balkan Lynx symposium

Relevant document: TPVS/Inf (2015) 28 – Report of the International Balkan Lynx symposium

The Secretariat will present a short report on the conclusions of the International Balkan Lynx symposium, held in Dajti National Park (Albania), on 21-22 October 2015.

DECISIONS: No decisions are expected on these items.

4.6 Habitats

4.6.1 Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

Relevant documents: T-PVS/PA (2015) 6 - Mid-term review of progress achieved in the implementation of the Emerald Network Calendar (2011-2020)
T-PVS/PA (2015) 13 – Report of the 7th meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

a. Report of the 7th meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks and mid-term review of implementation of the Emerald Network Calendar 2011-2020

Mr Jacques Stein, Chair of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, will present the report of the 7th meeting of the Group, held in Strasbourg, on 16-17 September 2015.

The Secretariat will inform on the findings of the mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Emerald Network’s Calendar 2011-2020.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the meeting of Group of Experts, as well as of the mid-term progress in the implementation of the Emerald Network Calendar (2011-2020);
- Thank the European Environment Agency and the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity for the crucial technical and scientific support provided throughout 2015;
- 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 2016 – 2017.

b. Draft revised Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network (2011-2020)

Relevant document: T-PVS/PA (2015) 16 – Draft revised Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network (2011-2020)

The Secretariat will present the draft revised Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network 2011-2020, as amended to be in conformity with the reporting requirements of Resolution No. 8 (2012).

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following document:
 - Draft revised Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network (2011-2020).

c. Draft updated lists of candidate Emerald sites and Emerald sites

Relevant documents: T-PVS/PA (2015) 14 – Draft updated list of officially nominated candidate Emerald sites
[T-PVS/PA (2015) 15 – Draft updated list of officially adopted Emerald sites]

The Secretariat will present the draft updated list of officially nominated candidate Emerald sites, including new proposed sites from Georgia, the Russian Federation and Norway, [as well as the draft updated list of officially adopted Emerald sites, which includes new sites from Montenegro].

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following document:
 - Draft updated list of officially nominated candidate Emerald sites;
 - [Draft updated list of officially adopted Emerald sites].

d. Follow-up of Recommendation No. 25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper

Relevant documents: T-PVS/PA (2015) 08 – Report on the follow-up of Recommendation No. 25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper
T-PVS (2015) 18 – Draft Recommendation on improving the conservation of nature outside protected areas proper

Mr Rob Jongman, consultant, will present his report on the follow-up of Recommendation No. 25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper.

The Secretariat will present the draft Recommendation on improving the conservation of nature outside protected areas proper.

DECISIONS: The Committee is invited to:

- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following documents:
 - Draft Recommendation No. ... (2015) on improving the conservation of nature outside protected areas proper.

4.6.2. European Diploma for Protected Areas

a. Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas, follow-up of decisions, and adopted Resolutions

Relevant documents: T-PVS/DE (2015) 9 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on European Diploma for Protected Areas
T-PVS/DE (2015) 13 - 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 (2015) 14 – Report of the visit of the Independent Expert to Poloniny National Park
T-PVS/DE (2015) 11 – Adopted resolutions concerning the European Diploma for Protected Areas in 2015

The Chair of the Group of Specialists, Mr Peter Skoberne, will present the report of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 13 March 2015. The Secretariat will further inform on the events organised to mark the 50th Anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

As a follow-up to the decisions of the Group of Specialists, Mr Robert Brunner, independent expert, will present a report on his visit to Poloniny National Park (Slovak Republic), organised in the frame of a wider advisory mission to the Slovak component sites of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany World Heritage Site.

DECISIONS: The Committee is invited to:

- Greet the Chair of the Group of Specialists, as well as the outgoing members for their excellent work and dedication to the European Diploma for Protected Areas;
- Take note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists, including the proposals for its future work;
- Thank the countries that organised national events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas;
- Take note of the resolutions adopted by the Committee of Ministers for the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Vashlovani Protected Areas (Georgia), and the renewal of the European Diploma to the National Park Weerribben-Wieden (Netherlands);
- Take note of the Opinions of the Group of Specialists adopted following the exceptional on-the-spot appraisals to Podyji National Park (Czech Republic) and Thayatal National Park (Austria), and to the Bayerischer Wald National Park (Germany), and urge the national authorities of the Parties concerned to consider the recommendations included in the concerned opinions;
- Consider the follow-up to be given to the draft Resolution proposing the withdrawal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to Poloniny National Park (Slovak Republic), in light of the information submitted by the national authorities as well as of the report of the independent expert.

b. Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

c. Workshop Protected Areas in Europe: the next 50 years: Pisa Declaration and draft recommendation

Relevant documents: Pisa Declaration
T-PVS (2015) 15 - Draft recommendation on the Future of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

The Secretariat will inform on outcomes of the workshop on “Protected Areas in Europe: the next 50 years” and present the Pisa Declaration and the relevant draft Recommendation.

DECISIONS: The Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the workshop;
- Thank the Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli, the Tuscany Region and Italian conservation authorities for the excellent organisation of the workshop;
- Welcome and endorse the Pisa Declaration;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft Recommendation:
 - Draft Recommendation No. ... (2015) on the future of the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

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

5. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2015) 28 – Summary of case files and complaints
T-PVS/Inf (2015) 4 – Register of Bern Convention's case-files

(Note: a detailed summary of each case-file is available in document T-PVS (2015) 28 – Summary of Case files)

5.1 Files opened

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

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2015) 12 – Government report Ukraine

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.

Two meetings of the Joint Commission took place in 2015. The concerned Parties submitted the conclusions of the first meeting to the Bureau. At its meeting in September, the Bureau congratulated the Parties and the Joint Commission for the excellent cooperation. The Bureau declared itself aware that the case is not solved, but welcomed the coordination work carried out by the Joint Commission, noting with satisfaction the numerous issues where the three concerned Parties reached agreement.

In light of the latest information received, the Bureau would suggest to keep the case-file open as a way to ensure the continuation of a positive dynamic of cooperation and dialogue, and to entrust the Joint Commission with the task of acting as a supervisory and coordination body with a view of reinforcing the spirit of compromise and address still pending matters like for instance the evaluation of the EIA if needed.

The joint Commission could regularly report to the Standing Committee on progress towards a solution to this case.

DECISION: The Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2015) 25 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2015) 26 – NGO report
T-PVS/Files (2015) 28 - 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.

After screening this case twice in 2015 without receiving substantial information on compliance with the recommended actions and, more generally, on progress on this case that is on the table since twenty years now, the Bureau decided to keep the case file open and to invite the authorities of Cyprus to attend the Standing Committee meeting and to present a comprehensive report informing on the specific measures taken for the implementation of relevant recommendations, including a timeline for the actions that are still only planned, where appropriate.

DECISION: The Committee is invited to discuss this case file and decide on its possible follow-up.

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2015) 22 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2015) 35 – NGO report
T-PVS/Files (2015) 28 – EU report

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

In 2015, the Bureau acknowledged the information submitted by the authorities in their first report, but regretted the lack of a broader and comprehensive vision of the issues at stake, as well as the lack of specific planning for ensuring that the measures recommended by the Standing Committee are duly implemented. The Bureau emphasised on the fact that this complaint is pending since 11 years, and that little has been achieved in terms of progress. It also took note of the developments of the court case pending before the European Court of Justice and invited the authorities of Bulgaria to report to the Group of Experts on the conservation of birds, ahead of the Standing Committee meeting.

The Bureau requested the Group of Experts to provide its views on the pending case.

The Group of Experts expressed strong worries for the situation of migratory birds in the Northern-East coast of Bulgaria and invited the authorities to carry out a comprehensive, independent and quality assessment of the impact of windfarms' developments on both breeding and migratory bird species.

DECISION: The Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

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

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2015) 31 – 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 invasive alien species in the country.

The Bureau assessed this complaint at its second meeting, in September, and acknowledged the good progress achieved by the Italian authorities, also thanks to the grants allocated by the European Union. In the views of the Bureau, the increase focus on concrete actions brings this case-file near to its end. However, the Bureau requested more specific information on the measures planned for the post-Life project and, more concretely, on how these are going to be sustained both in terms of human and financial resources. Moreover, the Bureau invited Italy to provide more detailed information on the results (numbers and figures) achieved for the eradication of the species in Piedmont and Lombardy.

The Bureau decided to leave the case-file open and invited the authorities of Italy to attend the next Standing Committee meeting and report on the requested information.

DECISION: The Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2015) 30 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2015) 29 – Complainant report (MEDASSET)
T-PVS/Files (2015) 53 – Report of the NGO (ARCHELON)
T-PVS/Files (2015) 28 – EU report

This complaint was lodged in August 2010 to denounce uncontrolled development on a NATURA 2000 site (THINES KYPARISSIAS - GR2550005), with potential impacts on *Caretta caretta*. The complaint was discussed as an open case-file at the 33rd Standing Committee meeting, following the persistent lack of concrete information on the conservation and management of the area, as well as the enforcement of relevant legislation. On that occasion, the Standing Committee advised to conduct an on-the-spot appraisal to assess the situation in Thines Kiparissias.

The appraisal was carried out in July 2014, and led the Standing Committee to the adoption of Recommendation No. 174 (2014) on the conservation of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and of sand dunes and other coastal habitats in Southern Kyparissia bay (NATURA 2000 – GR 2550005 “Thines Kyparissias”, Peloponnesos, Greece). The Committee asked the Party to report on the implementation of the Recommendation at its next meeting.

The Bureau examined this complaint in September and appreciated the response of the authorities, informing about some legal provisions put in place for the implementation of the relevant Recommendation. However, the Bureau stressed that the efficiency of any legal framework is undermined if it is not followed by proper enforcement. Moreover, in situations like the Kyparissia’s one, the setting-up of efficient control’s mechanisms is indeed as crucial as the adoption of legal provisions. Therefore the Bureau decided to keep the file open in light of the still insufficient implementation of the recommended measures, and encouraged Greek authorities to continue their efforts with an additional focus on enforcement and control. The Bureau concluded by noting that Kyparissias is among the most important sites for turtle nesting in the Mediterranean and expressed its wish to see the matters object of this complaint adequately addressed at the shortest delays. The authorities of Greece were invited to attend the Standing Committee meeting and to report to Parties on that occasion.

DECISION: The Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

5.2 Possible files

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

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2015) 10 – Government report

This complaint, lodged in 2012, was brought by the Bureau to the attention of the Committee as a possible file because of the importance of the Mediterranean monk seal and the serious threats that the species was facing in the area object of the complaint. The threats resulted from construction works affecting the Balikli cave, i.e. the only suitable habitat for whelping in the area.

After some good feedback from the authorities on the way they were handling this complaint, last year the Standing Committee was informed that the construction of the marine terminal was finally completed, despite this having an obvious impact on the species. However, the authorities informed about the finalisation of an Action Plan targeting the monk seal in Mersin area, to be implemented in the next five years. The Committee emphasised on the grave situation of the Mediterranean monk seal, in Turkey as well as in the whole East Mediterranean, and decided to keep this complaint as a possible file, requesting a timely and complete report from the national authorities to the Bureau's attention. In particular, the authorities were asked to submit information on the content of the Action Plan, on its implementation, on any other measures undertaken for the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal, as well as the conclusions of the pending Court case which should be delivered soon.

The Bureau should follow the issue in close cooperation with the Barcelona Convention, in light of the information received, and prepare proposals and recommendations for the next Standing Committee meeting.

This year the Bureau assessed this complaint twice. At its first meeting, it welcomed the submission of a timely report by Turkish authorities, while noting that the critical situation of the species requires a very strong commitment and immediate and urgent action in order to avoid further degradation of its conservation status. The Bureau asked a copy of the Action Plan in order to share it with the Barcelona Convention for a joint follow-up. The latter would be requested to highlight the main gaps and suggest a set of measures that the national authorities could include in their current Action Plan for stronger and more focussed results.

Unfortunately, Turkish authorities didn't reply to the information request and, at its second meeting, the Bureau emphasised once more on the critical conservation status of the monk seal, while expressing disappointment for the lack of reply also from the Barcelona Convention on an issue which is surely of common concern.

The Bureau decided to keep the case as a possible file, and invited the Turkish authorities to attend the Standing Committee meeting and to submit a detailed report, answering the questions of the Secretariat.

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

➤ 2012/3 - Possible spread of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in Poland

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2015) 55 – Government 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.

Last year the Standing Committee took note of the information provided by Polish authorities on the measures undertaken to secure native species and to improve the legal provisions on American mink's farms in respect to EIA procedures. The Committee also noted that Poland was looking forward to the possible inclusion of the American mink in the list of Invasive Alien Species of EU

concern. It thus asked Poland to keep it informed about the delivery of the list of IAS of EU concern at its next meeting.

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

5.3 On-the-spot appraisals

➤ File open 2012/9 - Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey)

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2015) 40 – Expert’s report of the on-the-spot appraisal
 T-PVS/Files (2015) 42 – Observer’s report of the on-the-spot appraisal
 T-PVS/Files (2015) 43 – Observer’s report of the on-the-spot appraisal
 T-PVS/Files (2015) 18 – Government report
 T-PVS/Files (2015) 34 – NGO report
 T-PVS (2015) 22 – Draft Recommendation on the conservation of *Caretta caretta* and its habitat at Patara nesting beach (Turkey)
 T-PVS (2015) 29 – Draft Recommendation on the conservation, management, and restoration of Fethiye nesting beaches (Turkey)
 T-PVS (2015) 57 - Comments of the complainant on the on-the-spot appraisal’s report and proposals for amendments to the draft Recommendations

This complaint concerns the severe threats posed to marine turtles by the lack of adequate management of Fethiye and Patara nesting beaches.

The file was opened after the presentation by MEDASSET of a detailed report alerting the Committee on the lack of adequate management of Fethiye and Patara SPAs. Last year the Standing Committee took note of the information presented orally by the representative of Turkey and emphasised again on the need for a positive response to the reporting requests of the Bureau and the Secretariat. The Committee took further note of the report presented by the complainant, showing that the management of the beaches was still inadequate, and informing about new and other planned construction projects.

At the proposal of the Chair, and following the agreement of the concerned Party, the Standing Committee decided to keep this case-file open and to conduct an on-the-spot appraisal to the relevant sites in view of identifying a set of recommended actions to be submitted for consideration of the Committee at its next meeting.

The on-the-spot appraisal took place in August and included day and night assessments of both Specially Protected Areas, as well as separate meetings with the authorities and with the stakeholders of both provinces. The mission was observed by scientists of the IUCN and the WWF. As confirmed by the report of Mr Paolo Casale, independent expert in charge of the appraisal, the problems identified by the NGO were almost all confirmed on-the-spot, with a particularly severe situation at Fethiye SPA.

Mr Casale will intervene via Skype to present the findings of his report.

The Secretariat will present the draft Recommendations.

DECISION: The Committee is invited to take note of the report of the on-the-spot appraisal, decide on the possible follow-up to be given to the complaint, and examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft Recommendations:

- Draft Recommendation No. ... (2015) on the conservation of *Caretta caretta* and its habitat at Patara nesting beach (Turkey);
- Draft Recommendation No. ... (2015) on the conservation, management, and restoration of Fethiye nesting beaches (Turkey).

➤ **File open 2013/1: Hydropower development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2015) 37 – Complainant’s report
T-PVS/Files (2015) 36 – On-the-spot appraisal’s report
T-PVS/Files (2015) 41 – Observers’ report following the on-the-spot appraisal
T-PVS/Files (2015) 54 – Government’s report following the on-the-spot appraisal
T-PVS(2015) 21 - Draft recommendation on the planned hydropower plants on the territory of the Mavrovo National Park ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia")
T-PVS/Files (2015) 52 – Opinion of the complainant on the on-the-spot appraisal and the draft Recommendation

This complaint was submitted in March 2013 to denounce the possible breach of the Convention by “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” with regards to the development of two big hydro-power projects (HPP) within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park.

Last year, noting that the area is a key biodiversity hotspot in Europe and a candidate Emerald site, the Standing Committee decided to open a case file and conduct an on-the-spot appraisal.

The visit took place on 24-25 June 2015, and revealed that the two planned big hydro-power plants, also in combination with the many other smaller projects, would pose major threats to the ecological values of the area. The visit further concluded that these development projects may not be compatible with the protection status the National Park, and that their impact on the candidate Emerald site has not been sufficiently assessed.

The independent expert in charge of the on-the-spot appraisal, Mr Pierre Galland, will present his report. The Secretariat will present the draft Recommendation.

DECISION: The Committee is invited to take note of the report of the on-the-spot appraisal, decide on the possible follow-up to be given to the complaint, and examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft Recommendation:

- Draft Recommendation No. (2015) on the planned hydropower plants on the territory of the Mavrovo National Park (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”).

5.4 Mediation

➤ **Possible file 2013/5: Presumed impact of the construction of an Overhead Power Line in an environmentally sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish border**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2015) 51 – Report of the Mediator
T-PVS/Files (2015) 58 – Comments of Lithuania on the mediation procedure
T-PVS/Files (2015) 56 – Complainant’s statement on the mediation procedure
T-PVS (2015) 24 – Draft Recommendation on the monitoring of the agreement concluded in the frame of complaint n° 2013/5

This complaint was lodged in May 2013, to denounce a possible breach of the Convention by Lithuania with regards to permissions issued for the construction of a 400 kV, 1000 MW Overhead Power Line (OHL) in an environmentally sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish borderland offering habitats for many species protected under the Convention, including the European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*).

Last year the Committee acknowledged the strategic importance of the project for the security of the country, and took note of the fact that the construction of the project had already started. In this respect, the Committee recalled the importance of robust, comprehensive, and scientifically sound EIAs prior to any development of infrastructures, and invited Parties to always look at alternative solutions which, even when more expensive, may be better able to preserve Europe’s natural heritage.

In this specific case, the Committee decided to keep the complaint as a possible file and, with the agreement of the authorities, to initiate a mediation procedure, in accordance with the Rules applicable to mediation.

The mediation visit to Lithuania, took place on 6-9 October 2015, and was carried out by Prof. Michael Usher in his capacity of Mediator, with the assistance of the Secretariat.

The visit included bilateral meetings with each side, on-the-spot visits of the areas concerned by the OHL, including the Zuvintas Lake Biosphere Reserve, meetings with other concerned stakeholders, including the local authorities of Rudamina and Alytus districts, and a two-days proper mediation with both sides.

Prof. Usher will present his report on the mediation, including the agreement reached during the mediation process.

The Secretariat will present the draft Recommendation.

DECISION: The Committee is invited to take note of the report of the mediation procedure, decide on the possible follow-up to be given to the complaint, and examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft Recommendation:

- Draft Recommendation No. (2015) on the monitoring of the agreement concluded in the frame of complaint n° 2013/5.

Finally, the Committee is invited to thank Prof. Usher for the excellent work carried out during this pioneering process.

5.5 Follow-up of previous Recommendations

NB Unless otherwise specified below, this agenda item is for information. 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.

- **File closed n° 1998/3: France: Habitats for the survival of the common hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*) in Alsace**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2015) 46 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2015) 50 – NGO report

Two years ago the Standing Committee decided to close a complaint submitted against France in 1998, concerning the preservation of habitats needed for the survival of the common hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*) in Alsace (France). The Committee recognised that a tangible increase of the distribution of the species and of the number of individuals is still to be achieved, and that progress should be subject to monitoring. However, the Committee also acknowledged the numerous actions carried out by French authorities in the last years, and stressed that France continues to deploy efforts to inverse the decline of the species in Alsace.

Therefore the Committee decided to close the case file and invited French authorities to report to the Standing Committee at its meeting in 2015 on progress achieved in the biennium.

DECISION: Depending on the information submitted by the Party and the NGO, the Committee may wish to decide on follow-up to give to the above issue.

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2015) 49 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2015) 45 – NGO report

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 green turtles' nesting.

Last year the Committee welcomed the positive although still slow developments communicated by Turkey, and invited the authorities to continue their efforts, in particular for urgently addressing the issues of pollution and erosion. The Committee asked Turkey to report back to the next Standing Committee meeting. The possibility of a future on-the-spot appraisal could also be discussed.

DECISION: Depending on the information submitted by the Party and the NGO, the Committee may wish to decide on follow-up to give to the above mentioned Recommendation.

➤ **Recommendation No. 169 (2013) on the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2015) 3 - Government report - Switzerland
T-PVS/Files (2015) 47 - Government report - France
T-PVS/Files (2015) 6 – NGO report - Switzerland
T-PVS/Files (2015) 4 – NGO report - France

This Recommendation was adopted by the Standing Committee as a follow-up to a complaint which is still on stand-by.

In 2015, the Bureau assessed the complaint at its first meeting in light of the reports submitted by the two concerned parties and the two relevant NGOs.

The Bureau congratulated the French and Swiss authorities for their work and further appreciated their cross-border cooperation, as well as their good collaboration with the NGOs. In conclusion, the Bureau decided to keep this complaint on stand-by, but invited both the Parties and the NGOs to present the results so far obtained through their work at the next Standing Committee meeting, as an example of good practices.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the progress achieved in the framework of this complaint.

➤ **Recommendation No. 98 (2002) on the project to build a motorway through the Kresna Gorge (Bulgaria)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2015) 59 - Government report
T-PVS/Files (2015) 39 – Report by the NGOs

This Recommendation was adopted by the Standing Committee in 2002, as a follow-up to a complaint lodged by several NGOs from Bulgaria.

In September 2015 the Secretariat informed the Bureau about an alert received from eight national NGOs, about governmental plans for the construction of the last section of the Struma motorway through the Kresna Gorge, thus rejecting the alternative solution chosen in 2008 as a follow-up to the Standing Committee Recommendation.

The Bureau noted that the Kresna Gorge motorway could threaten herpetofauna, as well as a number of less mobile vertebrates, some of which are already threatened at both the EU and the Convention's level. For these reasons, the Bureau decided to place the issue on the agenda of the Standing Committee meeting, and to request Bulgarian authorities to report on the measures put in place for complying with the provisions of Recommendation No. 98 (2002), and to inform on any changes to the agreed plans.

DECISION: Depending on the information submitted by the Party and the NGO, the Committee may wish to decide on the follow-up to give to the above mentioned Recommendation.

PART V – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

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

6. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

6.1 International coordination with other MEAs and organisations

The Secretariat will inform the Committee on progress in the international coordination with other MEAs and organisations (including the EU, EEA, CBD, CMS, AEW, IUCN, WCMC).

6.2 Implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan for biodiversity: the contribution of the Bern Convention

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (205) 31 - Contribution of the Bern Convention to the CBD Aichi Targets

The Secretariat will highlight the contribution of the Bern Convention to the CBD Strategic Plan for biodiversity.

DECISION: No decision is expected under this item.

6.3 Awareness and visibility

The Secretariat will inform on the activities carried out to promote knowledge and understanding of the Bern Convention's action for biodiversity conservation, as well as on the plans for the implementation of the new communication strategy.

DECISION: The Committee is invited to take note of the information presented.

6.4 Draft Programme of Activities for 2016-2017

Relevant document: T-PVS (2015) 14 – Draft Programme of Activities and budget for 2016 - 2017

The Secretariat will present the proposal of activities and budget for the years 2016 - 2017, prepared in agreement with the Bureau. The figures regarding the budgetary allocation of the Council of Europe are to be still considered as forecasts. Parties in need of financial support for the attendance of their experts to the meetings organised under the Convention are invited to indicate the events for which they would need such a support in 2016.

DECISION: The Committee is invited to examine and, if appropriate, adopt its Programme of Activities for the year 2016 and pre-validate the PoA for 2017.

6.5 States to be invited as observers to the 36th meeting

The Secretariat will remind the Committee that the following States have been invited to attend this 35th 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.

DECISION: The Committee is requested to decide unanimously which States, not members of the Council of Europe, are to be invited to attend its 36th meeting.

PART VI - OTHER ITEMS

7. 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”.

DECISION: 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.

8. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 36TH MEETING

DECISION: In accordance with article 1 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee is invited to decide on the date of its 36th meeting.

The Secretariat will make a proposal (15-18 November 2016, in Strasbourg).

9. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

DECISION: 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 for information.

10. OTHER BUSINESS (ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2015) 38 – Communication by the NGO

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.

The Secretariat will provide information on the follow-up to complaint N° 2010/4 on the Increase in the number of sea turtle deaths recorded at Episkopi area under the control of the British Sovereign Base Area Administration (SBAA).

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DRAFT PLAN FOR DISCUSSION OF THE AGENDA

MORNINGS 9.30 am - 12.45 pm	AFTERNOONS 2.30 - 6.00 pm
TUESDAY 1 December	
<p>1. OPENING, ADOPTION OF AGENDA 2. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN & COMMUNICATIONS 3. MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION 3.1 Biennial and quadrennial reports 3.2 Report on the implementation of the Convention in Greece 5. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS 5.4. Mediation procedure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Possible file 2013/5: Presumed impact of the construction of an Overhead Power Line in an environmentally sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish border – Draft recommendation <p>4. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS 4.2 Biodiversity and climate change</p> <p>a. Meeting of the ad hoc Select Group of Experts - Report b. Draft work plan</p> <p>4.4 Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles</p> <p>a. Meeting of the Group of Experts – Report b. Prevention and control of the <i>Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans</i> (BS) chytrid fungus – Draft recommendation</p> <p>4. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS 4.1 Conservation of birds</p> <p>4.1.1 Conservation of birds a. 5th meeting of Group of Experts - Report</p>	<p>4. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS 4.1 Conservation of birds</p> <p>4.1.2 Eradication of Illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Special Focal Points for illegal killing of birds c. Follow-up to the Tunis Action Plan 2020 - Draft recommendation <p>4.3 Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>a. Meeting of the Group of Experts – Report of the meeting b. Workshop on the Feral ungulates in the Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions – Draft recommendation c. The Bern Convention and EU Regulation 1143/2014 – Draft recommendation d. Progress towards the eradication of the ruddy duck</p> <p>4.6 Habitats</p> <p>4.6.1 Protected Areas and Ecological Networks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 7th meeting of the Group of Experts and mid-term review of progress b. Draft revised Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald network Calendar 2011-2020 c. Draft updated lists of candidate sites and Emerald sites d. Conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper – Draft recommendation
WEDNESDAY 2 December	
<p>4.4 Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>a. Cont. – Code of conduct and draft recommendation</p> <p>4.6 Habitats</p> <p>4.6.2. European Diploma for Protected Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Group of Specialists on the European Diploma – Report, follow-up of decisions, and adopted resolutions b. Celebration of the 50th Anniversary c. Workshop “Protected Areas in Europe: the next 50 years” – Pisa Declaration and Draft recommendation <p>5. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS 5.3 On-the-spot appraisal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2012/9: Turkey: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs – Report and draft recommendation ➤ 2013/1: “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”: Hydropower development within the territory of Mavrovo National Park – Report and draft recommendation <p>5.1 Files opened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2004/1: Ukraine: Proposed navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary (Danube delta) ➤ 1995/6: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula ➤ 2004/2: Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica ➤ 2007/1: Italy: Eradication and trade of the American grey squirrel (<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>) ➤ 2010/5: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias 	<p>5.2 Possible files</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2011/4: Turkey: threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (<i>Monachus monachus</i>) ➤ 2012/3: Possible spread of the American mink (<i>Neovison vison</i>) in Poland <p>5.5 Follow-up of previous complaints and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ File close n° 1998/3: France: Habitats for the survival of the common hamster in Alsace ➤ Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach (Turkey) ➤ Recommendation No. 169 (2013) on the Rhone streber (<i>Zingel asper</i>) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland) ➤ Recommendation No. 98 (2002) on the project to build a motorway through the Kresna Gorge (Bulgaria) <p>4. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS Sturgeon monitoring on the Lower Danube</p> <p>4.5 Conservation of other threatened Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. European Red List workshop b. Caucasus leopard and wildlife conference c. New approaches towards biodiversity conservation (European bison) d. International Balkan Lynx symposium

THURSDAY 3 December	
6. Strategic development of the Convention 6.1 International coordination with other MEAs and organisations 6.2 Implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan 6.3 Awareness and visibility 6.4 Draft Programme of Activities and budget for 2016 – 2017 6.5 States to be invited as observers to the 36 th meeting	Continuation of unfinished work
FRIDAY 5 December	
4. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS (presentation of national initiatives, Romania) 7. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair, and Bureau members 8. Date and place of the 36th meeting 9. Adoption of the main decisions of the meeting 10. Other business	

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

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