

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats



Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 128 (2007) of the Standing Committee on the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity

(adopted by the Standing Committee on 29 November 2007)

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Noting that integrated ecosystem management and habitat protection have great advantages for the preservation of biodiversity and should go hand in hand with species protection efforts;

Aware that the identification of processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (as stated in Article 7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD) are also of utmost importance for the preservation of threatened species;

Recalling Decision V/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD on the Ecosystem Approach, adopted in 2000, and including the 12 principles of the Ecosystem Approach;

Recalling the 2003 Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity, which includes the commitment to “halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010”, as adopted by Environment Ministers and Heads of delegation from 51 countries in the Pan-European region;

Recalling the 2004 Strasbourg Declaration on the role of the Bern Convention in the preservation of biological diversity, and the need to reinforce the implementation and coherence of global and European biodiversity instruments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the European Community’s Birds and Habitats Directives;

Recalling Decision VII/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD on Sustainable Use, adopted in 2004, and including the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity;

Recalling the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its finding that “unprecedented increased efforts” are needed to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target at national, regional and global levels;

Desirous to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe;

Having regard to the EC’s Sustainable Hunting Initiative;

Recalling Recommendation 1689 (2004) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, regarding Hunting and Europe’s environmental balance;

Desirous to ensure that hunting and hunting tourism in Europe are practiced in a sustainable manner, avoiding negative impacts on biodiversity and making a positive contribution to the conservation of species and habitats;

Referring to the principles and guidelines included in the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity [document T-PVS (2007) 7 revised];

Considering this Charter as guidelines for competent national authorities and relevant stakeholders;

RECOMMENDS Contracting Parties to the Convention, and INVITES Observer States and Organisations, to take into consideration the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity and apply its principles in the elaboration and implementation of their hunting policies so as to ensure that hunting is carried out in a sustainable way.