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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

35th meeting
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015

Complaint on stand-by

**Possible impact of haying performed in the
steppe and forest-steppe reserves
of Ukraine**

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE

*Document prepared by
The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine*



**MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF
UKRAINE**

DEPARTMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS

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05.03.2015 No 9-01/236-15

To: Ms Ivana D'Alessandro
Head of the Biodiversity Unit
Democratic Governance Directorate
Council of Europe

Subject: Complaint No. 2014/9: Possible impact of haying performed in the steppe reserves of Ukraine

Dear Ms D'Alessandro,

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine confirms its compliments to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and has the honor to inform on the following.

The Kyiv Ecological and Cultural Center repeatedly appealed to the Ministry of Environment with complaints about the dangers of haying for conservation of separate species of flora and fauna in zones of strict protection. The Center cited the list of species from the annexes of the Bern Convention, which may disappear from protected areas in the Steppe Zone. However, this Center did not provide any specific facts of deaths of some plants and animals in the protected area. But if we do not make regulatory haying to prevent fires it can cause significant loss of steppe biodiversity during a fire.

Today haymaking in protected areas of Ukraine is carried out on the basis of the projects of territorial planning (management plans) of relevant protected areas. First of all mowing is permitted to prevent fires, to forage for wild ungulates and for conservation of plant communities that have historically emerged.

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine on the results of the consultations and in agreement with director of the Kyiv Ecological and Cultural Center Mr Volodymyr Boreiko prepared and sent to the authorities of Ukrainian protected areas circulation letter of 20.10.2014 № 5/3-9/12780-14 (it was added to the Center's complaint). The Ministry by this letter recommended to carry out haying only with scientifically-based approaches and after detailed surveys of steppe areas, after flowering of native plant species and breeding of animal species that are included into the Red Data Book of Ukraine and the annexes of the Bern Convention, do not use heavy machinery and so on.

We continue to cooperate with the Kyiv Ecological and Cultural Center for improvement of steppe biodiversity conservation, creation of new protected areas.

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine takes this opportunity to once again express its sincere respect and hopes for further cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Igor Ivanenko,
National Focal Point - Director of the Department of Protected Areas
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine