

Strasbourg, 29 June 2015
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T-PVS/Files (2015) 25

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

35th meeting
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015

Specific Site - File open

**Akamas Peninsula
(Cyprus)**

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT

*Document prepared by
The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Cyprus*

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REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

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29 June, 2015

COMPLAINT NO. 1995/6: CASE-FILE OPEN ON “CYPRUS: AKAMAS PENINSULA”

I am referring to your letter dated 21.1.2015 regarding the aforementioned subject and would like to update you, following our letter dated 17.11.2014:

As far as the “Polis-Yialia” area, please be informed that the procedure for its declaration to SAC, according to the Habitats Directive, has not been completed as foreseen, due to unforeseen circumstances. The relevant Ministerial decree, regarding the restrictions and permitted actions within the site, is expected to be ready by the end of 2015.

The Akamas Management Plan is at its final stages of completion. Two public consultation sessions took place on the 14th of January 2015, in Neo Chorio and on the 15th of January, 2015, in Nicosia. There were also consultations in affected communities, where the proposals of the management plan were presented and discussed. At the same time, the preliminary draft was posted on the website of the Department of the Environment from 8.1.2015 until 16.3.2015. Stakeholders have submitted written opinions, which are being processed by the Department to finalize the Management Plan.

As you were formerly informed, the Government of Cyprus has designated a wider residential and rural area, around the Akamas Natura site, which will be managed via development regulations and restrictions, to ensure the highest possible protection of the peninsula. The Manager that has been hired since 2012 is working towards this goal and as you were formerly informed the main part of her obligations has to do with preparing an action plan for sustainable and alternative projects in an effort to economically promote the communities of the Akamas area. Some examples of this is the establishment of cycling routes, restoration of cultural sites within the communities, camping areas, environmental awareness centers, small scale museums etc.

We take this opportunity to assure you of the tireless efforts undertaken by the Government of Cyprus to protect these areas and their habitats and species.

Sincerely,

Elena Stylianopoulou
for Director

ΔΖ-04.05.003.001.001 To Bern Convention for Akamas&Polis-Gialia via email 29/06/2015

