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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

**Wind energy: Possible threats to an endangered
natural habitat in Izmir (Turkey)**

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey*

GOVERNMENT REPORT ON COMPLAINT NO. 2014/6 “WIND ENERGY: POSSIBLE THREATS TO AN ENDANGERED NATURAL HABITAT IN İZMİR (TURKEY)”

In the complaint submitted in July 2014, it is claimed that increase of wind energy installations in Çeşme Peninsula will have a negative impact on protected habitats and species. It is also claimed by the complainant that the wind turbines were built without EIA.

As it was noted in Secretariat’s letter, one of the aspects of wind turbine construction is on the communities populating the area close to wind turbines. This issue is in National Court and according to Court’s decision, some of the windfarms in the area were stopped because they were too close to human settlements.

The second aspect, where Bern Convention can be involved in solution, is the effect of constructions on wildlife habitats and endangered species. Although Turkey is not subject to the obligations of Aarhus Convention, an environmental impact assesment process is conducted in all large scale projects. The legislation concerning the environmental impact assessments is the Regulation on Environmental Impact Assessments. According to this regulation, those projects which are greater than 50 MW are subject to Appendix I of the regulation, those projects that are less than 50 MW are subject to Appendix II of the regulation.

Appendix I projects are evaluated in the central organization of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, with the participation of all the stakeholders, and Appendix II projects are evaluated in the appropriate local unit of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization. After the evaluation period, projects that are allowed to be done are conducted only within the conditions specified in EIA reports.

Environmental Impact Assesments processes take into account the critical wildlife habitats and endangered species. All the necessary precautions are taken during the projects.