

Strasbourg, 23 November 2015
[files58e_2015.docx]

T-PVS/Files (2015) 58

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

35th meeting
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015

Possible file

**Presumed impact of a construction of an
overhead power line (OHL) in an
environmentally sensitive area in the
Lithuanian-Polish borderland**

**COMMENTS OF LITHUANIAN AUTHORITIES
ON THE MEDIATION PROCEDURE**

Vilnius and Rudamina (Lazdijai district)
(6-9 October 2015)

*Document prepared by
Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania*



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS APLINKOS MINISTERIJA
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

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November 2015

No. (45-1)-D8-

REGARDING THE MEDIATION PROCEDURE

**COMPLAINT NO. 2013/5: PRESUMED IMPACT OF A CONSTRUCTION OF
OVERHEAD POWER LINE (OHL) IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA IN
THE LITHUANIAN – POLISH BORDERLAND**

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – the Ministry of Environment) is thankful for the efforts and the excellent work done by the acting mediator Professor Michael Usher and the Bern Convention Secretariat in the mediation procedure held on 6-9 October 2015 in Lithuania in order to facilitate discussions and propose possible solutions with respect to the construction of the overhead power line “LitPol Link” in the Lithuanian – Polish borderland (hereinafter – OHL) and its possible impact on species and habitats protected under the Bern Convention.

The Ministry of Environment highly appreciates the transparent, clear and objective manner, in which the preparation for the mediation and the procedure itself was accomplished.

Having a long-standing communication difficulties with the Association Rudamina Community (hereinafter – the Complainant), the Ministry of Environment finds the mediation instrument very beneficial. It provided an opportunity for Lithuanian authorities and the Complainant to identify and clarify wide range of issues in question and to seek compromises.

The Ministry of Environment highly values the agreement reached with the Complainant as an outcome of the mediation, where points of consensus regarding possible impact of the OHL on the list of species protected under the Bern Convention and mitigation measures were included.

The Ministry of Environment considers the outcome of the mediation and the draft recommendations as a good basis for further actions in order to protect species in accordance with the provisions of the Bern Convention. Counting on the good will and support of interested parties, the Ministry of Environment will seek to ensure that the provisions of the agreement reached during mediation procedure are implemented and believes that the actions taken will mitigate possible effects on species protected under the Bern Convention and will ensure long term conservation of the species.

Viceminister

Linus Jonauskas