



Strasbourg, 29 June 2010
[pa04e_2010.doc]

T-PVS/PA (2010) 4

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Group of Experts on
Protected Areas and Ecological Networks**

2nd meeting
14 – 15 September 2010
Council of Europe, Strasbourg,
Room 8

**EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE 29TH MEETING
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE BERN CONVENTION
OF 23-26 NOVEMBER 2009**

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Culture and of Cultural and Natural Heritage*

*This document will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring this copy.
Ce document ne sera plus distribué en réunion. Prière de vous munir de cet exemplaire*

[...]

5.5 Habitats:

- **Setting up of ecological networks: Progress on the Emerald Network**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/PA (2009) 15 Report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

T-PVS/PA (2009) 14 First progress report of the CoE/ EU joint programme: "Support for the implementation of the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine"

The Secretariat informed the Committee about the work undertaken in 2009, including progress on the EU-funded project "Support for the implementation of the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas in seven countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus"; a national workshop for the setting-up of the Emerald Network in Morocco, held in November 2009; and ongoing discussions with the European Environment Agency on further co-operation.

The former Chair of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, Mr. Jan Plesnik (Czech Republic), presented the results of the first meeting of this Group held in Strasbourg in September 2009.

The Secretariat informed the Standing Committee about Switzerland's delivery of a complete file concerning 37 proposed Emerald sites, identified through a participative procedure. The follow-up of this issue is included in the current discussions with the European Environment Agency for future work. The Secretariat brought to the attention of delegates the request by Morocco to be associated to other neighbouring countries in the Maghreb region, in order to follow-up the pilot project's achievements and foster the setting-up of the Emerald Network by using a common biogeographical region's map. Finally, the delegates were informed that among the conclusions of the first implementation phase of the ongoing programme to develop the Emerald Network in Central and Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, there is a need to update the Bern Convention Resolutions n° 4 and 6 to include a number of species of high conservation interest for the countries targeted by this project, as well as for other Contracting Parties like Morocco and Norway.

The delegate of The Netherlands expressed its appreciation for the progress accomplished in the development of the Emerald Network, as one of the cornerstones of the Bern Convention.

The delegate of Monaco praised the interim results achieved through the pilot project launched in Morocco, and confirmed Monaco's readiness to continue supporting this type of actions, with a view to the possible extension of the Bern Convention to other North-African States.

The Standing Committee:

- Recognised the positive results achieved in 2009 for the development of the Emerald Network;
- Took note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts;
- Took note of the final report of the CARDS/Emerald Programme, implemented in six South-Eastern European countries, in co-operation and with the financial support of the European Environment Agency;
- Took note of the progress made in the implementation of the joint CoE/EU programme "Support for the implementation of the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas", targeting seven countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus;
- Welcomed the offer of co-operation made by the EEA, on the basis of a 5-year implementation plan and in a mid-term perspective;
- Endorsed the programme of activities of the Group of Experts for 2010.