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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

34th meeting
Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2014

**BERN CONVENTION
PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND
BUDGET
FOR 2015**

- FINAL -

*Memorandum of the Secretariat
prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE BIENNIAL BUDGETARY CYCLE

The background

The Biennial budgetary cycle has been introduced at the Council of Europe following the reform of the Organisation initiated by the Secretary General in 2011. The adoption of a biennial budget and Programme of Activities is one of the measures aimed at revitalising the Organisation as a political body by concentrating its work on fewer programmes, selected because of their highest added value and comparative advantages.

Overview of the procedure for the adoption of the Council of Europe “Programme and Budget”

Since 2011 there are two consecutive financial years, called the “biennium”. The Council of Europe “Programme and Budget” presents for each financial year of the biennium the General Budget (including the “Ordinary Budget¹”), and the budgets of the Partial and Enlarged Agreements.

The Committee of Ministers examines the proposal of activities submitted by the Secretary General, including a progress review of the previous and on-going years, as well as the strategic priorities identified for the two forthcoming years (Y1-Y2), together with their budgetary implications.

During the whole process, the proposal is also screened by the Committee of Ministers’ Budget Committee, as well as by an Internal Auditor responsible for evaluating and contributing to the improvement of risk management, control, and governance processes, and by an External Auditor appointed by the Committee of Ministers with the task of, inter alia, certifying the annual financial statements and budgetary management accounts of the Organisation, and making observations with respect to the economy efficiency and effectiveness of the financial procedures. The adoption of the “Programme and Budget” by the Committee of Ministers is generally expected by the end of November.

The “Programme and Budget” includes:

- ⇒ the programme of activities for the biennium,
- ⇒ the budget for year N,
- ⇒ the provisional budget for year N+1.

During year N, until 1st November, the member states and the Secretary General may request the re-opening of the debate on the budget for year N+1 so to adjust its programme when necessary in response to political priorities.

If no such request is made, the Committee of Ministers takes the decision to approve the budget.

It should be noticed that the draft Programme of Activities for the Bern Convention is prepared and examined by the Bureau before the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe Programme and Budget. The amounts presented to the Committee are therefore estimates and takes into account both the expected provision allocated to the Bern Convention via the Ordinary Budget as well as the estimated voluntary contributions to be received from countries.

¹ The Ordinary budget derives from the contributions of Contracting Parties. The calculation of the scales of Member States’ contributions is effected using the average of the data on annual population and GDP (Gross Domestic Product, converted to US dollars) of each MS in respect of the three-year period ending 24 months before the date of entry into force of the scale. In the calculation, the weighting to be given to data on GDP shall be 5 times the weighting to be given to the data on population. In 2013, the Committee of Ministers further adopted CM Resolution (2013)7 concerning “Financial arrangements for the participation of non-member States in Council of Europe conventions”, according to which non-member states should contribute to the costs related to the functioning and operation of Council of Europe’s Convention with monitoring mechanism to which they are Party.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET OF THE BERN CONVENTION FOR THE YEAR 2015

The Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, at its 33rd meeting, adopted its second biennial Programme of Activities (PoA). The Committee formally adopted its PoA for 2014, and pre-validated its PoA for 2015. The PoA presented below is therefore based on the programme pre-validated by the Standing Committee in 2013, as amended to take account of the needs expressed by the Group of Experts meeting in 2014, as well as of new issues raised under the Convention in the current year.

1. Meetings of the Statutory bodies (Standing Committee and Bureau)

The Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, whose existence is foreseen in Article 13 of the Convention for enabling parties to meet regularly to develop common and co-ordinated programmes, is the body composed of the representatives of the parties. It has much of the responsibility for the functioning and monitoring of the Convention and meets once a year.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee takes administrative and organisational decisions in between meetings of the Standing Committee. It includes the Chair of the Standing Committee, the Vice-chair, the previous Chair, and two additional Bureau members, and is assisted by the Secretariat.

2. Monitoring and assistance to Parties in species conservation

The activities planned under this heading aim at assessing and recording the conservation status of the populations of species listed in the appendices to the Convention, identifying species at risk, devising processes affecting loss of wild biological diversity, setting-up models to monitor change in wildlife outside protected areas. Common management standards may be proposed through action plans. Monitoring of the implementation of Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention, as well as of the pertinent recommendations should also be carried out by the relevant Group of Experts.

These activities may directly contribute to the following CBD Aichi Targets: 1, 9, 12, 15.

3. Conservation of natural habitats

The activities planned under this heading aim at ensuring the conservation of natural habitats and the implementation of Article 4 of the Convention, as well as of Resolutions (89) 1, (96) 3, (96) 4, (98) 5, (98) 6 and Recommendations (89) 14, (89) 15 and (89) 16 of the Standing Committee. The setting-up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI) in Europe, and the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network are the two main medium-term objectives of the Convention's work in this field.

These activities may directly contribute to the following CBD Aichi Targets: 1, 11, 12.

4. Implementation of Article 3

Article 3 of the Convention sets out the general obligation for each Contracting party to take action individually, with respect to the conservation of wild flora and fauna and all natural habitats in general, by for instance promoting national conservation policies as well as education and information. Through the activity planned under this heading, the Secretariat seeks to provide assistance to parties in building capacities for communicating on the biodiversity advantage.

5. Monitoring of sites at risk

The activities to be implemented under this heading concern the monitoring of the implementation of the obligations of the Convention by parties by examination of case-file complaints or in the framework of the mediation procedure. They may also concern emergencies in the eventuality of a grave ecological damage as a result of a catastrophe, an accident or a conflict situation.

Bern Convention Programme of Activities for 2015					Euros
	Ordinary Budget available				406 413
	Total Programme costs				677 057
	Total Funds needed				270 644
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
1. Statutory bodies			48 349	31 395	16 954
Meeting of the Standing Committee (4 days)			35 024	18 070	16 954
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (average: 16 experts*5 per diem)</i>	80	175	14 000	5 250	8 750
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	16	470	7 520	2 820	3 943
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	8	1 688	13 504	10 000	3 504
1st Meeting of the Bureau (1 day)			5 200	5 200	0
<i>Travel and subsistence of Bureau Members (5 experts*1,5 per diem)</i>	8	650	5 200	5 200	0
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	pm	pm	pm		
2nd Meeting of the Bureau (1,5 days)			8 125	8 125	0
<i>Travel and subsistence of Bureau Members (5 experts*2 per diem)</i>	12,5	650	8 125	8 125	0
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	pm	pm	pm		

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
2. Monitoring and assistance to Parties			102 740	29 588	73 153
<i>Implementation of Article 6</i>					
2nd Meeting of the Special Focal Points for Illegal killing of birds (1,5 days)			13 260	6 538	6 723
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	8	470	3 760	2 350	1 410
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (8 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	20	175	3 500	2 187,50	1 313
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	6 000	6 000	2 000	4 000
Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles (1,5 days)			11 260	3 630	7 630
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	8	470	3 760	1 880	1 880
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (8 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	20	175	3 500	1 750	1 750
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4 000	0	4 000
Group of Experts on IAS (2 days)			17 950	8 975	8 975
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	10	470	4 700	2 350	2 350
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (10 experts*3 per diem)</i>	30	175	5 250	2 625	2 625
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	2	4 000	8 000	4 000	4 000
Select Group of Experts for the preparation of a Work-Plan on Biodiversity and Climate Change (1 day)			15 380	0	15 380
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	9	470	4 230	0	4 230
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (9 experts*2 per diem)</i>	18	175	3 150	0	3 150
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	2	4 000	8 000	0	8 000

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
Group of Experts on the conservation of birds (1,5 days)			14 890	5 445	9 445
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	12	470	5 640	2 820	2 820
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (12 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	30	175	5 250	2 625	2 625
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4 000	0	4 000
Technical support on the conservation of Large Herbivores in Belarus (2 days)			5 000	5 000	0
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	0	5 000	5 000	0
Capacity building on Large Carnivores (Poland, Slovak Republic, Ukraine)			10 000	0	10 000
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	0	10 000	0	10000
European Red List Initiative: Technical workshop (with IUCN)			15 000	0	15 000
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	0	15 000	0	15000
3. Conservation of Natural Habitats			102 518	47 981	54 538
Group of experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks (1,5 days)			23 190	14 653	8 538
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	12	470	5 640	3 290	2 350
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (12 experts*2,5)</i>	30	175	5 250	3 063	2 188
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4 000	0	4 000
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	4	2 075	8 300	8 300	0

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
Emerald Pilot project in Tunisia			20 000	0	20 000
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	20 000	20 000	0	20 000
2nd Emerald Pilot project in Morocco			30 000	20 000	10 000
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	30 000	30 000	20 000	10 000
Group of Specialists on the EDPA			29 328	13 328	16 000
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	6	470	2 820	2 820	0
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (6 experts*2 per diem)</i>	12	175	2 100	2 100	0
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	2	2 204	4 408	4 408	0
<i>50th Anniversary of the Diploma (lumpsum)</i>	1	20 000	20 000	4 000	16 000
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
4. Implementation of Article 3			22 000	3 000	19 000
Capacity building and/or awareness on the biodiversity advantage			22 000	3 000	19 000
<i>Lumpsum (training and consultancy)</i>	1	15 000	15 000	3 000	12 000
<i>Management of website (lumpsum)</i>	1	3 000	3 000	0	3 000
<i>electronic publications (lumpsum)</i>	1	4 000	4 000	0	4 000
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
5. Monitoring of and advise on sites at risk			33 950	33 950	0
<i>Travels Experts</i>	10	470	4 700	4 700	0
<i>Subsistence Experts</i>	30	175	5 250	5 250	0
<i>Consultancy/AA</i>	12	2 000	24 000	24 000	0
					0

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
6. Official Journeys of staff			24 000	24 000	0
<i>Travel and subsistence</i>	16	1 500	24 000		0
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
7. Provision for the Chair			3 000	3 000	0
<i>Travel and subsistence expenses (lumpsum)</i>	1	3 000	3 000		0
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
8. Overheads			35 500	35 500	0
<i>Printing Internal</i>	110 000	0,03	3 300	3 300	0
<i>Postage (Lumpsum)</i>	1	400	400	400	0
<i>Prepress (lumpsum)</i>	1	2 500	2 500	2 500	0
<i>Translation Services</i>	892	32,85	29 300	29 300	0
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
9. Staff costs			305 000	198 000	107 000
Permanent staff and office costs	lumpsum		198 000	198 000	0
Temporary staff and office costs	lumpsum		107 000	0	107 000

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2015**Bern Convention
Draft calendar of meetings for 2015**

	Meeting	Date	Place
1	Select Group on Illegal Killing of Birds	24-25 February	Madrid, Spain
2	Group of Specialists on the European Diploma	13 March	Strasbourg
3	50 th Anniversary of the EDPA	13 March	Strasbourg
4	1 st meeting of the Bureau	31 March	Strasbourg
5	Select Group of Experts on Climate Change	20 or 21 April	Rome, Italy
6	50 th Anniversary of the EDPA (Italy)	21-22 May	San Rossore (Italy)
7	Emerald biogeographical evaluation Seminar for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia for all habitats and species (except birds) and all biogeographical regions, including Black Sea and Caspian Sea	27-29 May (tentative)	Tbilisi, Georgia
8	Group of Experts on IAS	4-6 June	Slovenia
9	Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles	1-2 July	Switzerland
10	2 nd meeting of the Bureau	14-15 September	Strasbourg
11	Group of Experts on Protected areas	16-17 September	Strasbourg
12	Emerald biogeographical evaluation Seminar for the Arctic and Boreal biogeographical regions, Alpine region for the Urals, for all habitats and species (except birds)	28-30 September (tentative)	Russian Federation
13	Group of Experts on Birds	12-13 October (tentative)	?
14	Emerald biogeographical Seminar for bird species for Belarus, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine	End of November, 2 days	Minsk, Belarus
15	35 th Standing Committee meeting	1-4 December	Strasbourg