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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

33rd meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2013

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON THE EUROPEAN
CHARTER OF FUNGI-GATHERING AND BIODIVERSITY**

*Document
prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*



Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

**Draft Recommendation No. ... (2013) of the Standing Committee, adopted on ... December 2013,
on the European Charter of Fungi-gathering and biodiversity**

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Noting that integrated ecosystem management and habitat protection have great advantages for the preservation of biodiversity and should go hand in hand with species protection efforts;

Aware that the identification of processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (as stated in Article 7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD) are also of utmost importance for the preservation of threatened species;

Conscious that the Fungi of Europe face an ever increasing range of threats, due to the fragmentation of their habitats, changing climate, and changes in land use;

Stressing that Fungi have high species richness, are involved in many biological interactions, and are crucial to several ecosystem processes;

Welcoming the recent advance in knowledge of the taxonomy, distribution, ecology, and conservation status of European macro-Fungi, which now enables this large component of biodiversity to start being appreciated, considered and incorporated into conservation actions;

Regretting, however, the lack of adequate representation of Fungi in national and European conservation legislation, and noting that their importance in providing ecosystems services is not recognised adequately;

Noting that no fungal species are represented in the Appendices of the Convention or in the European Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive);

Noting that commercial and non-commercial Fungi-gathering in Europe benefit people as a resource for food as well as other consumptive uses, as a source of income, through providing many cultural ecosystem services and motivating maintenance of the supporting and regulating services of ecosystems;

Stressing that sustainably managed Fungi-gathering contributes to the conservation of biodiversity, the preservation of rural lifestyles and local economies;

Desirous to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe;

Recalling Decision VII/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD on Sustainable Use, adopted in 2004, and including the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity;

Further recalling Decision IX/3 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD on the “Global strategy for plant conservation”;

Referring to the joint Planta Europa/Council of Europe “European Strategy for Plant Conservation 2008-2014: A sustainable future for Europe” (document T-PVS/Inf(2008)14);

Recalling IUCN Resolutions 2.29 “IUCN Policy Statement on Sustainable Use of Wild Living Resources”, 4.26 on “Trust Building for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in line with the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity” and 5.40 on “Increasing the attention given to the conservation of fungi”;

Recalling the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, as updated in 2006, which aims “to identify and develop actions to enable the EU to achieve continuous improvement of quality of life both for current and for future generations, through the creation of sustainable communities able to manage and use resources efficiently and to tap the ecological and social innovation potential of the economy, ensuring prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion”;

Recalling the 2010 Bern Declaration on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Europe: 2010 and beyond;

Recalling recommendation No. 132 (2007) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, on the conservation of Fungi in Europe, recommending Parties to address habitat management as a priority within different sectors, for the conservation of Fungi species in Europe; to take into consideration the Guidance for the Conservation of Mushrooms in Europe (document T-PVS(2007)13) and apply it in the elaboration and implementation of their national conservation policies for larger Fungi; to seek to engage all who benefit from Fungi in efforts to conserve their habitats;

Further recalling the Standing Committee recommendations No. 153 (2011) on the Charter on the Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological Diversity on European Islands; No. 150 (2010) of on the European Charter on Recreational fishing and Biodiversity; and N°128 (2007) on the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity;°

Acknowledging the complementarities of these different instruments;

Desirous to ensure that Fungi-gathering in Europe is practiced in a sustainable manner, making a positive contribution to the conservation of species and habitats;

Referring to the principles and guidelines included in the European Charter of Fungi-gathering and biodiversity (document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 26);

Considering this Charter as guidelines for competent national authorities and relevant stakeholders as appropriate;

RECOMMENDS Contracting Parties to the Convention, and INVITES Observer States and Organisations, to:

1. devote special attention to Fungi and micro-Fungi in the implementation of their international obligations and also in the achievements of the 2020 targets adopted in the framework of the Convention of Biological Diversity;
2. take into consideration the European Charter on Fungi-gathering and Biodiversity and apply its principles in the elaboration and implementation of their policies related to the sustainable use of biodiversity;
3. inform the Standing Committee on the measures taken for the implementation of this recommendation.