

Strasbourg, 10 September 2015  
[files38e\_2015.docx]

**T-PVS/Files (2015) 38**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

35<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015

---

**Other complaint**

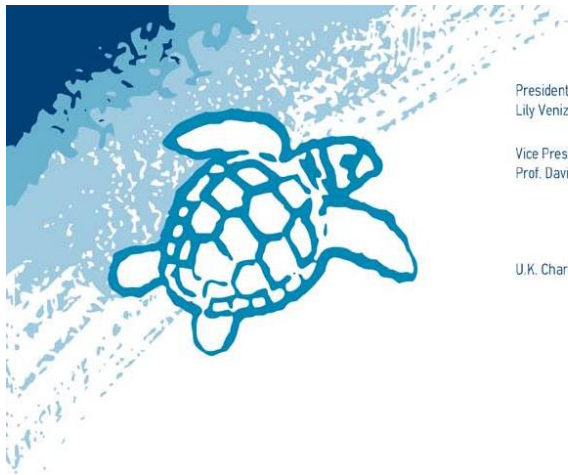
**Increase in the number of sea turtle deaths recorded  
at Episkopi area under the control of the British  
Sovereign Base Area Administration (SBAA)  
(Cyprus)**

**COMMUNICATION BY THE NGO**

*Document prepared by  
MEDASSET - Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles*

---

*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.*



President  
Lily Venizelos

Vice President  
Prof. David Bellamy

U.K. Charity Reg. No. 1077669

**MEDASSET**

Mediterranean Association  
to Save the Sea Turtles

c/o 4, Hillside Close, London NW8 0EF, UK  
Tel.: +44 (203) 2866189  
E-mail: medasset@medasset.org  
www.medasset.org  
www.euroturtle.org

Bern Convention Secretariat  
Council of Europe  
Biological Diversity Unit  
Avenue de l'Europe F - 67075 Strasbourg Cedex

**RE: Bern Convention Bureau Meeting (14-15 September 2015) - Follow-up to complaint No. 2010/4**

Thursday, 10 September 2015

*Our Ref: 24455*

Honourable Delegates,

In continuation to complaint No. 2010/4, submitted by MEDASSET in relation to sea turtle mortality in Episkopi/Akrotiri SBA (United Kingdom Sovereign Base Area) on the island of Cyprus, we wish to reiterate our request for information and for a mediation meeting on the matter.

The Bureau meeting in April 2012 decided not to keep the complaint-in-standby for discussion at future Standing Committee meetings, on the basis of the SBA's and Defra's commitments to future conservation measures (T-PVS/Files/2012/2; "SBA Marine-turtle survey at Akrotiri-Episkopi, January 2012", sections 'Recommendations' & 'Proposed action plan'). So far, MEDASSET has not received a report from the authorities on the implementation of the measures and the action plan described in these documents. Therefore, we urge the Bureau to follow-up on the UK's commitments and to request an update report from the authorities on progress made since January 2012.

Following the 2012 Bureau's decision, MEDASSET requested a mediation meeting with UK (Defra, SBA) and Cypriot authorities. Proactive collaboration and constructive discussion between authorities, researchers and involved NGOs, such as MEDASSET and Terra Cypria, is crucial in order to ensure and further advance sea turtle conservation in the area. At the 32<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee meeting (Dec. 2012), we welcomed the UK Delegate's agreement to lead the organisation of the mediation meeting. However, at the 2013 and 2014 Standing Committee meetings, in the absence of a UK delegate, we noted the lack of a response by Defra and reiterated the request for a mediation meeting. Since three years have passed and the mediation mechanism has yet to be launched despite the proactive approach of the NGOs, we urge the Bureau to reiterate the request for cooperation of the UK for the organisation of the mediation meeting and request that there is discussion on this item at the next Standing Committee meeting.

We ask the Bureau to consider re-contacting the UK authorities in relation to the above two matters. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important issue. MEDASSET remains at the Bureau's disposal for any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Lily Venizelos  
MEDASSET President  
Member of IUCN-Species Survival Commission: Marine Turtle Specialist Group