



COUNCIL OF EUROPE      CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

32<sup>nd</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2012

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**JOINT STATEMENT OF  
THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
AND  
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE IUCN**

**on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conclusion  
of an agreement between both organisations (1962 – 2012)**

*Document prepared by  
the Directorate of Democratic Governance, Culture and Diversity*

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## JOINT STATEMENT OF

**Mr Thorbjorn Jagland,  
Secretary General of the Council of Europe,**

**and**

**Ms Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General of the International Union for Conservation of  
Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)**

**on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conclusion  
of an agreement between both organisations (1962 – 2012)**

On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1962 agreement between the Council of Europe and IUCN, we want to celebrate the very fruitful collaboration between both organisations in the past 50 years. This has led to a streamlining of efforts to protect and enhance the biological diversity of Europe, showing, on the part of the Council of Europe, a sustained interest to preserve Europe's natural heritage and, on the part of IUCN, a firm commitment to work with governments providing expertise and guidance to improve the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the maintenance of the ecosystem services they provide to citizens.

Through the Council of Europe's Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern 1979), a binding international treaty in the field of nature conservation with fifty Contracting Parties, the Council of Europe embarked on a fundamental project to harmonise and promote biodiversity policies in Europe, with valuable results concerning the preservation of wildlife and natural habitats in Europe.

The input of the IUCN, the world's oldest and largest global environmental network, which has more than 1,000 government and NGO members and over 11,000 volunteer experts, has been fundamental, in Europe and elsewhere, to improve environmental knowledge and expertise in the fields of biodiversity, climate change, energy, human livelihoods and greening the world economy, helping governments meet their environmental targets.

The Council of Europe and IUCN have worked together over the past half century in fields such as protected areas and ecological networks, threatened species, biological invasion, adaptation of biodiversity to climate change and the promotion of sustainable development through the integration of biodiversity considerations into sectorial policies.

Both organisations decided to renew their commitment for collaboration in 2010 by signing a new Memorandum of Co-operation pointing to the emerging environmental challenges of the new millennium.

Both our organisations are committed to continue to work together to support governments in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parties of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and endorsed by the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, so as to avoid further loss of biological diversity in Europe and the world and promote the necessary policies to maintain ecosystems and their services.

The last 50 years of co-operation will certainly inspire our organisations to continue common efforts to promote these ambitious goals.

*Signed in Strasbourg and Gland, 1st September 2012*

Thorbjorn Jagland,

Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Julia Marton-Lefèvre,

Director General of the International Union for  
Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)