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**T-PVS (2017) 28**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

37<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 5-8 December 2017

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**9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS  
ON THE CONSERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES**

9-10 October 2017  
Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim (Norway)

**- MEETING REPORT -**

*Secretariat Memorandum  
the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation*

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The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles which took place on 9-10 October 2017 in Trondheim (Norway);
- Thank the Norwegian Environment Agency for the excellent hosting of the meeting;
- Take note of the proposals by the Group for its future work priorities and working methods, including the date of its next meeting;

## 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

**Mr Benedikt Schmidt**, Chair of the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles opened the meeting by greeting the participants and wishing all smooth and fruitful deliberations.

**Mr Øystein Størkersen**, Senior Advisor at the Norwegian Environment Agency and Chair of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention welcomed the participants on behalf of the hosting country and institution. He thanked delegates from Contracting Parties and experts for their support to the work of the Convention in the field of herpetofauna conservation and expressed a satisfaction about the fact that the Group is meeting for a second time in two years, after a long discontinuity since the beginning of the years 2000.

He further informed about a very recent worrying development, namely the discovery of traces of the BSaI fungus in water samples in Norway by the national Food and Health Authority. The discovery dates back to August 2017 and was made using DNA techniques. He therefore welcomed the plan of the Group to look into the possibility to develop new general standards on biosafety measures and wished the Group fruitful discussions around the draft Recommendation on biosafety measures tabled for discussion.

## 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

After a tour de table allowing participants to introduce themselves, the meeting agenda was adopted (appendix 1). The participant's list is available in appendix 2.

## 3. UPDATES ON AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES' WORK IN OTHER FORA

**Ms Iva Obretenova**, Secretary of the Bern Convention, presented the past work of the Convention in the field of herpetofauna conservation and stressed that the main focus of work of the Group since the reinitialiation of its work in 2015 is amphibian and reptile species' diseases.

**Mr Tony Gent**, Chair of the Conservation Committee of Societas Europaea Herpetologica (SEH) presented the outcomes of the 19<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Herpetology which took place in Salzburg, (Austria) on 18-23 September 2017, just three weeks ahead of the meeting of the Group of Experts.

He informed in particular on the outcomes of the discussions at the Congress, pointing out key messages that have a bearing on conservation. Various issues, such as pesticide impact on herpetofauna as well as the implications of fish predation and fish stocks on amphibian population's management, were debated at the Congress. Other issues such as developments in taxonomy, genetics or phylogeography and their possible contribution to the identification of geographic areas of particular significance for the species group were equally debated.

In addition, Mr Gent informed on the results of the recent implementation of species distribution mapping methods and models and on SEH conviction that there are a wide range of potential applications of these methods. Therefore, distribution modelling appears to be an area worthy of investing more effort, with a view to further developing the conservation potential of this approach.

Eventually, Mr Gent stressed that in terms of successful management of conservation action, it is of outmost importance that there is a shared understanding of desired conservation outcomes. The clear defining of Favourable Conservation Status and Favourable Reference Values are extremely important and the European Union is developing guidance in this respect. Mr Gent thus called upon the aligning of processes at the level of the EU and the Bern Convention, not only for an additional clarification on the requirements of the Convention's Article 2 on "ecological criteria and scientific criteria" but equally for all policy development and target setting.

Last but not least, Mr Gent informed that in July 2017 five herpetological NGOs from Europe (RAVON, ACR-UK, NABU, KARCH and SHF) founded the **Reptile & Amphibian Conservation Europe foundation (RACE)** which will act as an umbrella organisation to promote joint work, knowledge exchange and proposing and implementing projects. Mr Gent's full presentation is available [here](#).

**Mr Jon Kristian Skei** from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology gave a detailed speech about the 6 amphibian and 5 reptile species present in Norway and about the monitoring and research activities currently implemented in the country for their conservation. Mr Skei's full presentation is available [here](#).

#### **4. REPORTS BY PARTIES ON NATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES ON THE CONSERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES**

Delegates from ten Contracting Parties to the Convention present at the meeting gave presentations on actions and initiatives implemented at national level on herpetofauna conservation.

In **Ukraine**, efforts or conservation measures are not implemented specifically for herpetofauna. Scientific research is however conducted on the species group in protected areas, whose total percentage has significantly increased in the past years. However, habitat destruction remains a main problem for the country, including in nature reserves.

In **the Netherlands**, scientists are seeking for opportunities, including international cooperation, to enhance the monitoring of the crested newt and the Sand lizard, as there is an important decrease in the local trends in the Netherlands. Another interesting project currently being implemented is focussing on the impact of wildlife ecoducts. The project aims to assess if the ecoducts are helping to genetically connect populations of amphibians and reptiles.

In **Malta**, only 14 species of Herpetofuna are found and their conservation status is favourable, based on EU reporting under Art. 17 of the Habitats Directive. The country is in the process of developing individual management plans for all Natura 2000 sites and these include conservation measures for amphibian and reptile species. Recently, an EU LIFE+ MIGRATE project identified areas important for the conservation of *Caretta caretta* and the bottlenose dolphin and a conservation plan for the species in Maltese waters.

In **Estonia**, a study to ascertain the presence of BD and BSaI was conducted in 2014-2016. Altogether 315 skin swab samples taken from different localities all over Estonia were analysed and six species of amphibians tested positive for BD from different locations in the country. BSaI was not detected in any of the samples. Although BD is present in many locations in mainland Estonia and on at least six Amphibian species, the characteristic mass mortality events of acute infection have not been detected so far. The full report by Estonia, providing various details on the herpetofauna species present in the country, their conservation status and current projects implemented in the country, can be read [here](#).

In **Switzerland**, officially there are 900 breeding sites of national importance in the country. The Swiss government recently added 60 new ones to the list. As far as the Swiss Amphibians and Reptiles Red List is concerned, a new status report is due in 2020 and the country is going to work on the preparation of a status report in the next two years. A major problem in Switzerland seems to be the status of green frogs. 3-4 invasive species were introduced and they are now hybridising and replacing native species

**Austria** reported on the implementation of various measures of conservation (through the Natura 2000 network), mapping and monitoring of herpetofauna species in all Austrian federal states, including the implementation of various conservation projects, mainly funded via LIFE. As far as BSaI is concerned, screening for its presence takes place in Tyrol and Vienna since 2016, additionally in Vorarlberg, Carinthia and Salzburg since 2017. Field work is currently based mainly on a voluntary level and PCR assessment has been elaborated by the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna since 2016. So far the results are negative - no records of outbreaks are concluded. Further actions for the implementation of Recommendation No. 176 are under discussion. The full Austrian report can be read [here](#).

In the **Czech Republic**, the most important news is probably the change in the conservation status of 21 amphibian species, localised in their distribution. Some of these species were put in critically endangered category and programmes for their conservation are under preparation. Other species, like the Italian crested newt have now been moved from critically endangered to endangered category, thanks to the habitat conservation efforts. The national University of veterinary sciences is

studying amphibian and reptile species diseases for more than 10 years and no mass mortality was detected so far. Results of ample testing continue to show negative results for both BD and BSaI. A snake fungal disease was detected through a single sample, but the situation is still unclear and more testing is necessary.

Aside of habitat changes or loss, as a main threat for herpetofauna conservation, there are growing fears today that low intensity fish farming becomes high intensity fish farming and thus have a very negative impact on herpetofauna. There are cases of unofficial fish stocking even in ponds not meant to be fish breeding sites.

The representative of the **Slovak Republic** presented a [conservation programme for the European pond turtle](#) (*Emys orbicularis*) implemented in the country, in the Tajba PAs, established specifically for the conservation of this particular species. For a long time this site was the only site hosting a big population of the species represented all year round. However, current difficulties are met as nesting sites of the species are not within the Tajba protected area and another population reproducing quite well in the Danube River basin. Currently activities are implemented to clearly identify the reproducing populations of the species and plan management and protection of nesting sites, especially in the Tajba and Pohrebište protected areas.

The representative of « **the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** » presented a detailed report clarifying the legal framework for the conservation of amphibian and reptile species and an overview of the main activities implemented for the conservation of important habitats for herpetofauna, including the relevant institutions involved. In addition, a new National Biodiversity Strategy is being elaborated and will cover the period 2018-2023. The full report presented at the meeting can be read [here](#).

For **Italy**, the representative of the national Herpetological Society explained that in 2016 started a national monitoring project started in order to support the obligations of the country in relation to the Natura 2000 Network and the reporting requirements under Art. 17 of the Habitats Directives. In 2018 it is expected to work on the identification of areas of relevance for herpetofauna. Regarding diseases, it was reported that BD is present and already spread throughout the whole country, including in the islands and including Sardinia. The testing and samples are handled together by the Society and the national authorities, in cooperation with a Genoa based laboratory.

Representatives from Herpetological Societies from Germany and the UK have also presented unofficial reports on the situation of amphibian and reptile species conservation in their countries. In **the United Kingdom**, a main issue encountered at the moment is linked to biosecurity for amphibian species but also and increasingly for reptiles. The monitoring of species seems to rely greatly on NGO funding and coordination. Currently research is also looking into amphibian's tunnels, trying to identify reasons why many don't work, while others used at different times of year. It was also reported on a large 'lottery, NGO & Government' funded project - Back from the Brink - looking at many different species at landscape level: three of the sub-projects have a strong focus on herpetofauna.

In **Germany**, the responsibility for conservation relies on the 16 federal states and although there are guidelines from the Federal agency, each state in Germany has different reporting systems. So generally the frequency of reporting in the Habitats Directive directs the frequency of monitoring. While monitoring of species included in the habitats directives is taking place, for those species which do not require monitoring by the Directive there is no proper monitoring at federal or state level. This is the case for *Salamandra salamandra* for example. It is overall extremely challenging to set up good monitoring approach for all species.

## 5. ANALYSIS OF PARTIES' REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 176 (2015) ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF THE *BATRACHOCHYTRIUM SALAMANDRIVORANS* CHYTRID FUNGUS AND DISCUSSION

The Secretariat presented the results of an analysis of measures put in place at national level in response to Recommendation No. 176 (2015) of the Standing Committee. The analysis was based on the [reporting provided by Parties to the Convention in both 2016 and 2017, which was a questionnaire based reporting](#). The results of the analysis can be consulted in the [presentation](#) made by the Secretariat.

In a discussion on the efforts put by authorities to cope with the urgent issue of the spread of amphibian and reptile species' diseases, in particular BSaI which was the subject of the Recommendation, the Group agreed that while policy response is indeed building up, this does not happen fast enough, taking into account the urgency of the problems. Some participants pointed out that very simple things such as biosafety measures are still not mandatory and that more efforts should be put in informing, explaining and recommending to relevant sectors what actions should be implemented and how.

The Group further agreed that while some Parties report on investing and supporting research, representatives at the meeting pointed out that for those actually involved in research, securing sufficient and long-term support for monitoring programmes for example is extremely difficult to obtain and very rare.

As a result of the discussions, the Group agreed to recommend:

- That a European (possibly EU) solution is the best way forward when dealing with the issue of the spread of BSaI, but also other pathogens;
- To open the scope of discussions on possible solutions and not focus only on one pathogen;
- A temporary ban is put in place until holistic and coherent guidance on biosafety, including screening, is agreed upon;
- For all exotic species to consider proper quarantine and sanitary measures, in a similar fashion than measures put in place for livestock.

Eventually, the Group highlighted that invasive and alien pathogens are not only a problem for amphibian species, but also for reptile species and even for agriculture.

## 6. NEW CHALLENGES AND THREATS FOR AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE SPECIES

**Mr Frank Pasmans** and **Ms An Martel** from Ghent University in Belgium, some of Europe's most well-known specialists in the field, presented an overview of the situation facing the species group in terms of emerging and known pathogens. Their complete presentation can be consulted [here](#).

They stressed in particular that as far as BD is concerned, it is clear that the introduction of the pathogen is linked to trade and that although the spread seem to be stabilised, there are local variations that can't be explained for the time being.

As far as BSaI is concerned, the experts stressed that the spread of the fungus is trade related too, although there are still many uncertainties linked to the fungus in aquatic environment, to the role of carriers or what the spread of the fungus disease could possibly be in Europe. Recently an [EU funded project](#) has been launched by a consortium, aimed at mitigating the impact of BSaI on salamanders to counteract the loss of European biodiversity. The project aims at establishing a network of diagnostics centres in the EU, hotlines working on passive surveillance collecting suspected cases of BSaI, as well as a Network of stakeholders.

The experts further talked about different Ranaviruses and its other diseases with poorly or unknown impact, which could locally be serious and could lead to extinctions.

In a conclusion, they underlined that prevention is key and preventive measures such as quarantine and entry control, hygiene measures and monitoring of the populations in Europe, are the most vital actions to be undertaken at the moment as mitigation in the wild appears to be extremely difficult.

**Ms Annemarieke Spitzen** from RAVON (Reptile, Amphibian and Fish Conservation in the Netherlands), another well-know expert in the field, gave a talk about the practical solutions for detecting and responding to various pathogens' outbreaks, in particular in the Netherlands. The complete presentation can be found [here](#).

She described in details how the outbreak of the various pathogens unfolded in the Netherlands, the long-term consequences and the solutions found at the time. Eventually, she stressed that the efficiency of the practical solutions implemented around Europe today depends on the presence of long-term monitoring and surveillance. Furthermore, strong interaction with the scientific world and work is also integral to efficient implementation. Awareness-raising among the public and local actors appears to be of vital importance as well.

**Mr Benedikt Schmidt** from KARCH (Switzerland) and Chair of the Group presented the results and methodology of an interesting collaboration workshop, which took place to attempt to answer the question "Can we manage BSal?" and to help find evidence-based amphibian conservation strategies in an emergency. The idea of the Workshop was to discuss a model with best available information, recognising what is known and what is unknown regarding the pathogen and epidemics in general and thus brainstorming about possible management ideas. The Workshop's main conclusion was that the management of a Bsal epidemic in a susceptible species is very unlikely due to various reasons, also linked to the important level of uncertainties and lack of knowledge on the pathogens, their spread, vectors, Transmission, Pathogen growth, Clearance, etc. A complete list of the Workshop conclusions is available in the full version of the presentation available [here](#). A scientific paper will soon be published and available via the [Journal of Applied Ecology](#).

## **7. DISCUSSION ON THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW STANDARDS (RECOMMENDATIONS) UNDER THE BERN CONVENTION**

In a discussion after the presentations, the Group agreed that given all presentations from both Parties and experts, a new general Recommendation on biosafety measures should be prepared and sent to the Standing Committee for adoption. The recommendation should however be expanded to reptile species' diseases.

The Secretariat presented the draft text of a proposed Recommendation on biosafety measures for the prevention of amphibian and reptile species' diseases.

The Group discussed it in details and a series of additions and improvements were proposed for the final draft text. These concerned various aspects, such as (1) the inclusion of mitigation translocations in the preamble, (2) explicit reference to the prevention and early warning surveillance work, (3) more explicit mention of herpetological and nature conservation societies and researches' role in the spread of the pathogens, (4) the need for more pro-active approach by authorities in field, (5) the need for long-term support to research and monitoring schemes, (6) the need for authorities to look at the whole regulatory system and the need to encourage best practice and collaboration between all relevant actors.

The Group agreed that the Secretariat should send a revised version of the draft Recommendation to all participants before the 17<sup>th</sup> of October and comments will be expected by 24<sup>th</sup> October. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair will then finalise the draft Recommendation text and will send it for consideration to the Committee.

## **8. UPDATE ON THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF SPECIFIC SPECIES AND POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP ACTION**

**Ms Panagiota Theodorou**, Conservation Coordinator at ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece, presented an overview of the conservation of marine turtles in Europe, 30 years



after the adoption of the Bern Convention Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of *Caretta caretta* in Laganas bay in Zakynthos in Greece. She presented her organisation and pointed out the monitoring and conservation activities ARCHELON implements in the Mediterranean region for more than 30 years, including in the Zakynthos region. She stressed in particular the many challenges still facing the area and the protected species, ranging from illegal road construction, illegal landfill site, insufficient beach protection and management, etc. It was also reminded that the follow-up of the implementation of the Recommendation will be debated at the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee, taking place in Strasbourg on 5-8 December 2017. The full presentation is available [here](#).

#### **9. DISCUSSION ON WORK PRIORITIES, METHODS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES BY THE GROUP**

The Secretariat provided the participants with [examples of modus operandi, mandates and adopted Programmes of Work](#) by other Groups of Experts active in the frame of the Convention.

In a subsequent discussion, participants debated on possible ways to organise the future work of the Group, including most adapted working methods and priorities of work. The Group agreed that the following proposals should be submitted to the attention of the Standing Committee at its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting in Strasbourg:

- The establishment of a smaller select Working Group on pathogens, which is an undisputed priority for action in herpetofauna conservation;
- Collecting and disseminating information on best practices on habitat management, including from LIFE or other projects;
- Seeking collaboration with other Groups of Experts, in particular on climate change, in view of discussing the effects of climate change on the taxa group;
- Looking into the effects of river regulations and HPPs on the taxa group;
- Consider establishing a European Day for the conservation of amphibians and reptiles, including seeking cooperation on this with other relevant partners;
- Continue following-up the implementation of relevant Bern Convention Recommendations.

Eventually, the Group also agreed that meeting every two years is a good timeframe, allowing for the collection of new data and for the development of proper reporting and analysis of the implementation of relevant Recommendations by Parties.

#### **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was raised.



## Appendix 1



## 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles

9-10 October 2017  
Trondheim, Norway

### AGENDA

**DAY 1 - MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**  
**09H00 – 18H00**

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS
9H00- 9H15	<b>1. OPENING OF THE MEETING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome by Mr Benedikt Schmidt, Chair of the Group of Experts and Mr Øystein Størkersen, Chair of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention</li> </ul>	
9H15- 9H20	<b>2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</b>	<b>Expected results:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants are informed of the objectives of the meeting</li> <li>- The meeting agenda is adopted</li> </ul>
9H20- 10H10	<b>3. UPDATES ON AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES' WORK IN OTHER FORA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quick reminder on past Bern Convention work on amphibians and reptiles, by Ms Iva Obretenova, Secretary of the Bern Convention</li> <li>Outcomes of the 19<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Herpetology and OGM (Salzburg, Austria, 18-23 September), by Mr Tony Gent, Chair of the Conservation Committee of Societas Europaea Herpetologica</li> <li>Reptiles in Norway - monitoring and research, by Mr Jon Kristian Skei, Norwegian University of Science and Technology</li> </ul>	<b>Expected results:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants receive information on relevant initiatives and projects on herpetofaunal conservation in Europe</li> </ul>

10H10-10H40	<p><b>4. REPORTS BY PARTIES ON NATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES ON THE CONSERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral presentations by Parties to the Bern Convention and NGOs present at the meeting on actions and initiatives at national level on herpetofaunal conservation (max. 4 minutes each)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants are informed on recent initiatives and actions implemented at national level in other Bern Convention Contracting Parties</li> </ul>
10H40-11H00	<p><b>5. ANALYSIS OF PARTIES' REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 176 (2015) ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF THE <i>BATRACHOCHYTRIUM SALAMANDRIVORANS</i> CHYTRID FUNGUS AND DISCUSSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of an analysis of measures put in place at national level in response to Recommendation No. 176 (2015) of the Standing Committee, by the Secretariat</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	<p><b>Relevant document:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T-PVS/Inf (2017) 18: Compilation of Parties' replies to the 2017 Questionnaire for the reporting by Parties on the implementation of Recommendation No. 176 (2015)</li> <li>- T-PVS/Files (2016) 30: Compilation of 2016 reports by Parties on the follow-up of Recommendation No. 176 (2015)</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants are informed of the measures put in place at national level by Parties to control the spread of BSal and</li> <li>- The Group of Experts is expected to advise the Standing Committee on ways to address any gaps and insufficiencies in the implementation of the Recommendation</li> </ul>
11H00-11H20	COFFEE BREAK	
11H20-12H30	<p><b>6. NEW CHALLENGES AND THREATS FOR AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE SPECIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on newest knowledge on BSal fungus and other known and emerging pathogens for amphibian species (Ranavirus, Bd, etc.), by Mr Frank Pasmans and Ms An Martel, Ghent University</li> <li>• Practical solutions for detecting and responding various pathogens' outbreaks, by Ms Annemarieke Spitzen, Reptile, Amphibian and Fish Conservation in the Netherlands (RAVON)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants are updated on newest knowledge on the development of chytrid fungi and other pathogens in Europe</li> <li>- Participants are informed on recent initiatives and possible management actions to be implemented at national level</li> </ul>
12H30-14H00	LUNCH BREAK	

<p><b>14H00-14H30</b></p>	<p><b>6. NEW CHALLENGES AND THREATS FOR AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE SPECIES (CONT.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management options for amphibian species conservation, by Mr Benedikt Schmidt, Centre Suisse de Coordination pour la Protection des Amphibiens et Reptiles de Suisse (KARCH)</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	<p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants are informed on recent initiatives and possible management actions to be implemented at national level</li> </ul>
<p><b>14H30-15H30</b></p>	<p><b>7. DISCUSSION ON THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW STANDARDS (RECOMMENDATIONS) UNDER THE BERN CONVENTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on the need for developing new standards under the Bern Convention to support action at national level on herpetofaunal conservation, taking into account the presentations under agenda items 4, 5 and 6</li> <li>• Presentation of the text of a draft new Recommendation on biosafety measures for the prevention of amphibian and reptile species' diseases, by the Secretariat and the Chair of the Group of Experts</li> <li>• Discussion on the text of the draft Recommendation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Relevant document:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T-PVS (2017) 26: Draft Recommendation</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Needs for the development of new Bern Convention standards are identified</li> <li>- The proposed text of the draft Recommendation is discussed, amended as appropriate and if agreed on by the Group, sent to the Standing Committee for possible adoption</li> </ul>
<p><b>15H30-15H50 COFFEE BREAK</b></p>		
<p><b>15H50-16H10</b></p>	<p><b>8. UPDATE ON THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF SPECIFIC SPECIES AND POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP ACTION (TBC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation of marine turtles in Europe: state of play and need for further action, by Mrs Panagiota Theodorou, Conservation Coordinator at ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece</li> </ul>	<p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants are informed on the state of conservation of marine turtles in Europe</li> </ul>
<p><b>16H10-17H30</b></p>	<p><b>9. DISCUSSION ON WORK PRIORITIES, METHODS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES BY THE GROUP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of examples of mandates and work programmes of other Groups of Experts under the Convention and proposals for possible new working methods, by the Secretariat</li> <li>• Discussion on the ways and means to organise the future work of the Group of Experts, including working methods and priorities and identification of the added value of the Bern Convention on herpetofaunal conservation in Europe</li> </ul>	<p><b>Relevant document:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T-PVS (2017) 18: Mandate of the Restricted Group of Experts on Climate Change and Biodiversity</li> <li>- T-PVS/Inf (2015) 20: Proposed priorities for conservation of amphibians and reptiles in Europe</li> <li>- T-PVS (2015)13: Meeting of the 8th meeting of the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The working methods, future work priorities and mandate of the Group of Experts is agreed on by the Group</li> </ul>

<b>17H30-17H40</b>	<b>10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
<b>17H40-18H00</b>	<b>11. NEXT STEPS BEFORE THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Summary of main messages by the Group of Experts and documents for action, to be sent to the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee to the Convention, Strasbourg, 5-8 December 2017</b></li> </ul>	<b>Expected results:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>The main messages and documents for adoption, to be sent to the 37<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee to the Convention, are agreed on by the Group of Experts</b></li> </ul>
<b>18H00</b>	<b>CLOSURE OF THE MEETING</b>	

**DAY 2 – TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**  
**8H00 – 15H00**

<b>8H00-13H00</b>	<b>12. FIELD STUDY TRIP, ORGANISED BY THE NORWEGIAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY</b>	<b>Relevant document:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Practical information document for participants</b></li> </ul>
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## Appendix 2



### 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles

9-10 October 2017  
Trondheim, Norway

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### I. CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES CONTRACTANTES

#### ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Ms Edit VARDHAMI, Expert of the Biodiversity Unit, Ministry of the Environment, Forests & Water Administration, Rruga Norbert Jokl, Blvd Zhan d'Ark. No. 26, TIRANA.

Tel: +355 674460374. E-mail: [Edit.Vardhami@moe.gov.al](mailto:Edit.Vardhami@moe.gov.al)

*[Apologised for absence / Excusé]*

#### AUSTRIA/ AUTRICHEE

Mag. Dr Werner KAMMEL, Technisches Büro für Biologie, Gartengestaltung und –planung, Im Erlengrund 6, A-8410 WILDON

Tel: +43 664 2220941. E-Mail: [office@wernerkammel.at](mailto:office@wernerkammel.at)

#### CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

Mr Vojtěch BALÁŽ, Assistant professor, University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno, Palackého tř. 1946/1, PSČ, CZ-612 42 BRNO.

Tel: +420 773 606 512. E-mail: [balazv@vfu.cz](mailto:balazv@vfu.cz)

#### ESTONIA / ESTONIE

Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI, Senior Officer of the Nature Conservation Department, Ministry of the Environment, Narva Mnt 7a, EE-15172 TALLINN.

Tel: +372 6262900. Fax: +372 6262 802. E-mail: [merike.linnamagi@envir.ee](mailto:merike.linnamagi@envir.ee)

Ms Riinu RANNAP, Advisor of the Nature Conservation Department, Ministry of the Environment, Narva mnt 7a, EE-15172 TALLINN.

Tel: +372 5232732. Fax: +372 6262901. E-mail: [Riinu.rannap@ut.ee](mailto:Riinu.rannap@ut.ee)

#### FRANCE / FRANCE

Mr Jean-Christophe de MASSARY, Responsable Amphibiens-Reptiles, UMS 2006 – Patrimoine Naturel, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, CP41, 36 rue Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, F-75005 PARIS Cedex 5.

Tél : +33 140 79 36 81. Fax : +33 140 79 48 10. E-mail : [massary@mnhn.fr](mailto:massary@mnhn.fr)

*[Apologised for absence / Excusé]*

#### ITALY / ITALIE

Ms Giulia TESSA, Società Erpetologica Italiana, c via Boero n° 8, IT-10050 COAZZE (Turin)

Tel: +39 3381948583. E-mail: [tessagiu@libero.it](mailto:tessagiu@libero.it)

**MALTA / MALTE**

Mr Robert BAJADA, Assistant Environment Protection Officer, Environment and Resources Authority, Hexagon House, Spencer Hill, MARSA MRS 1441.

Tel: +356 2292 3768. E-mail: [Robert.a.bajada@era.org.mt](mailto:Robert.a.bajada@era.org.mt)

**THE NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS**

Ms Annemarieke SPITZEN – VAN DER SLUIJS, Senior Project Manager, Reptile, Amphibian and Fish Conservation the Netherlands, PO Box 1413; 6501 BK; Nijmegen.

Tel: +31 (0)24 7410600. E-mail: [a.spitzen@ravon.nl](mailto:a.spitzen@ravon.nl)

**NORWAY / NORVÈGE**

Mr Øystein STØRKERSEN, Principal Advisor, Norwegian Environment Agency, P.O. Box 5672, Sluppen, N-7485 TRONDHEIM

Tel: +47 7358 0500. Fax: +47 7358 0501 or 7358 0505. E-mail: [oystein.storkersen@miljodir.no](mailto:oystein.storkersen@miljodir.no)

Mr Jon Kristian SKEI, Skei Biomangfold Konsult, Skeisvegen 16, NO-7510 SKATVAL.

Tel: +47 92494252. E-mail: [triturus@hotmail.no](mailto:triturus@hotmail.no)

**SLOVAK REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE**

Mr Viliam VONGREJ, State Nature Conservancy, Tajovského 28/B, 974 01 BANSKÁ BYSTRICA.

Tel: +421 33 640 05 49. Fax : +421 33 647 40 02. E-mail: [viliam.vongrej@sopsr.sk](mailto:viliam.vongrej@sopsr.sk)

**SWITZERLAND / SUISSE**

Mr Benedikt SCHMIDT, Koordinationsstelle fuer Amphibien- und Reptilienschutz in der Schweiz (KARCH), Passage Maximilien-de-Meuron 6, CH-2000 NEUCHATEL.

Tel: +41 032 725 72 07. E-mail: [benedikt.schmidt@unine.ch](mailto:benedikt.schmidt@unine.ch)

**”THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA” / L’« EX-RÉPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACÉDOINE »**

Mr Aleksandar NASTOV, Head of Biodiversity Unit, Department of Nature, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Bul. Goce Delčev bb No. 18, MTV XI, MK-1000 SKOPJE.

Tel: +389 (2) 3251 471. Fax: +389 (2) 3220 165. E-mail: [a.nastov@moepp.gov.mk](mailto:a.nastov@moepp.gov.mk) or [anastov@gmail.com](mailto:anastov@gmail.com)

**UKRAINE / UKRAINE**

Mr Viktor GASSO, Dr, Associate Professor, Oles Honchar Dnipropetrovsk National University, 72, Gagarin Ave., UA-49089 DNIPRO.

Tel: + 38 095 5746151. Fax: + 38 056 3749841. E-mail: [vgasso@ua.fm](mailto:vgasso@ua.fm) or [viktor.gasso@gmail.com](mailto:viktor.gasso@gmail.com)

**II. OBERSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS****Societas Europaea Herpetologica (SEH)**

Mr Tom KIRSCHHEY, Member of Conservation Committee, Fürstenberger Str. 6, D-16775 MENZ, Germany.

Tel: +49 1723863968. Fax: +49 302849843172. E-mail: [Tom.Kirschhey@nabu.de](mailto:Tom.Kirschhey@nabu.de)

Mr Tony GENT, Chief Executive Officer, Societas Europaea Herpetologica Conservation Committee, c/o Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust, 655a Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 4AP, United Kingdom.

Tel: +44 1202 391319. Fax: +44 1202 392785. E-mail: [tony.gent@arc-trust.org](mailto:tony.gent@arc-trust.org)

### **III. EXPERTS / EXPERTS**

Ms An MARTEL, Professor, Ghent University, Salisburylaan 133, B9820 MERELBEKE, Belgium.  
Tel: +32 92647441. Fax: +32 92647490. E-mail: [An.Martel@UGent.be](mailto:An.Martel@UGent.be)

Ms Panagiota THEODOROU, Conservation Coordinator, ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece, Solomou 57 str., GR-104 32 AtHens, Greece.  
Tel: +30 6940470194. E-mail: [conservation@archelon.gr](mailto:conservation@archelon.gr)

Mr Frank PASMANS, DVM MSc PhD DipECZM (herpetology), Laboratory of Veterinary Bacteriology and Mycology, Clinic for Exotic Animals, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Salisburylaan 133, B9820 MERELBEKE, Belgium.  
Tel: +32 92647436. Fax: +32 92647494. E-mail: [Frank.Pasmans@UGent.be](mailto:Frank.Pasmans@UGent.be)

### **IV. SECRETARIAT / SECRETARIAT**

**Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation / Direction de la Citoyenneté démocratique et de la Participation FR-67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX, France**  
Tel: +33 388 41 20 00. Fax: +33 388 41 37 51

Ms Iva OBRETENOVA, Secretary of the Bern Convention, Biodiversity Unit / Secrétaire de la Convention de Berne, Unité de la Biodiversité  
Tel: +33 3 90 90 21 58 81. Fax: +33 3 88 41 37 51. E-mail: [iva.obretenova@coe.int](mailto:iva.obretenova@coe.int)

Ms Véronique de CUSSAC, Administrative assistant, Biodiversity Unit / Assistante administrative, Unité de la Biodiversité  
Tel: +33 3 88 41 34 76 Fax: +33 3 88 41 37 51. E-mail: [veronique.decusac@coe.int](mailto:veronique.decusac@coe.int)

Ms Tania BRAULIO, Administrative assistant, Biodiversity Unit / Assistante administrative, Unité de la Biodiversité  
Tel: +33 388 41 23 02. Fax: +33 388 41 37 51. E-mail: [tania.braulio@coe.int](mailto:tania.braulio@coe.int)