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EU/CoE Joint Programme
“Emerald Network of Nature Protection Sites, Phase II”

Final project Conference
**“Reaching concerted site conservation at pan-European level: progress,
challenges and future of the Emerald Network”**

4-5 October 2016
Minsk, Belarus

AGENDA

Tuesday, 4 October 2016

- 08.30 – 09.00** **Registration**
- 09.00 – 09.30** **Welcome and opening of the Conference**
Opening address, Jan Plesnik, Adviser to the Director, Nature Conservation Agency (NCA CR) and Member of the bureau of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention (*Chair*)
Welcoming address, Igar Kachanovsky, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
Welcoming address, Philippe Bernhard, EU Delegation to Belarus
- 09.30 – 09.50** **Establishing a coherent pan-European network of protected areas - the contribution of the Emerald network under the Bern Convention**
Iva Obretenova, Secretary of Bern Convention, Council of Europe
- 09.50 – 10.30** **The Emerald Network biogeographical evaluation: qualitative and quantitative results**
Otar Opermanis, Scientific expert to the Council of Europe
- 10.30 – 10.50** **Discussion**
- 10.50 – 11.10** **Coffee break**
- 11.10 – 11.50** **From Emerald data to information (viewer, mapper, data downloading, EUNIS, etc.)**
Marc Roekaerts, Scientific expert to the Council of Europe
- 11.50 – 12.10** **Discussion**
- 12.10 – 12.30** **Shaping the Emerald future: next steps**
Iva Obretenova, Secretary of Bern Convention, Council of Europe
- 12.30 – 14.00** **Lunch**
- 14.00 – 14.10** **Presenting guidelines for the parallel working groups (WG) and introducing WG moderators and presenters**
Jan Plesnik, Chair
- 14.10 – 15.40** **Parallel working groups (WG)**

WG1: Designation of new sites: towards a fully sufficient Emerald Network
Introduction: Ilona Mendziņa, Deputy Director of Department of Nature Protection, Head of Division of Species and Habitats Protection, Ministry of Environment, Latvia
Moderator WG1: Jan Plesnik, Chair

WG2: Managing species and habitats at the site level

Introduction: Roberts Šiliņš, manager of Engure Conservation Area (Natura 2000), Latvia

Moderator WG 2: Sandra Jen, Consultant Environmental Policy and Law

WG3: Communicating about Emerald at national and international levels

Introduction: Michael Hosek, vice President, EUROPARC Federation

Moderator WG3: Kaja Lotman, Manager of Hiiu-Lääne-Saare region Environmental Board, Estonia

15.40 – 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 16.50	Presentations of the WG discussion results at the plenary
16.50 – 17.30	Discussion and presentation of a draft road map on the establishment of a functioning Emerald Network in the target countries by 2020 Rapporteur General: Dave Pritchard, independent consultant
17.30 – 18.00	Conclusions and further steps Jan Plesnik, Chair
18.00	Closure

Wednesday, 5 October 2016

Field trip to Berezinski State Reserve

Departure: 9.00 by bus from the Hotel Minsk lobby / Return: 18.00

Lunch: 13.00 – 14.00

Berezinski State Reserve (<http://www.berezinsky.by/ru/>) is located in the marginal zone of the last Viurms Glacier and is characterized by a young glacier relief with rare combination of moraine heights, lake-glacier plains and abundant deep hollows. The stages of the present surface natural evolution are observed in the reserve. The uniqueness of the reserve's territory is also determined by the fact, that it is situated on the plane watershed between the Black and the Baltic Seas and occupies a vast limno- and fluvioglacial plain.

In 1995, the Berezinski State Reserve was awarded the European Diploma of Protected Areas by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

During the visit, the participants will have an opportunity to interact with the management team of the reserve and learn from their good practices in area management and cooperation with local stakeholders.