



Strasbourg, 18 June 2019

T-PVS/Agenda(2019)6

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the  
Bern Convention Group of Experts  
on Invasive Alien Species**

13<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Batumi (Georgia), 24-25 June 2019

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**- DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA -**

*Secretariat Memorandum  
prepared by the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

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## Background

The Bern Convention has pioneered inter-governmental cooperation towards controlling the spread of and eradicating Invasive Alien Species in Europe through the creation of a dedicated group of experts, already back in 1992.

Over time, the Group collected and analysed different national laws dealing with invasive species and proposed work aimed at the harmonisation of national regulations on introduced species, particularly on the fields of definitions, territorial scope of regulation, listing of species whose introduction is undesirable, identification of authorities responsible for permits, conditions for issuing such permits and control involved.

The Convention adopted the European Strategy on the eradication of Invasive Alien Species and regularly monitors its implementation. Since 2009, to support the Strategy, the Group has focused its work on the identification and prioritisation of pathways and started preparing targeted Codes of Conduct to address these pathways. These codes of conduct are a tool for increasing awareness on the impact of IAS and federating the efforts of a wide range of stakeholders (including the business sector) through voluntary, sound and specific measures.

## Meeting objectives

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on IAS will have several objectives:

- Review progress in implementation of the European Strategy on the eradication of Invasive Alien Species
- Assess the level of implementation of Bern Convention guidance (Codes on Conduct) focussing on different pathways for the spread of the species
- Allow for the exchange of good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Codes of conduct and the implementation of IAS control measures at national level
- Discussing and, if appropriate, agreeing on a Bern Convention Guidance document on IAS and e-commerce and on a guidance on communicating on IAS and send these for possible adoption by the Standing Committee at its upcoming 39<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Identify new areas of work by the Convention in the future

## Format

The meeting will consist of 1.5 working days and 0.5 days field visit kindly organised by the Georgian authorities. Working language will be English.

A reporting request will be sent to Bern Convention Contracting Parties and observers, ahead of the meeting, to collect information on the state of implementation of the Strategy and identify good practices in the use of the Codes of Conduct. Country representatives will be invited to report orally at the meeting (5 min max. each), to provide baseline information for the subsequent discussions.

## Participants

Participants are government designated experts on IAS, representatives of partners institutions/organisations and NGOs to the Convention.

## **Draft Agenda**

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIR AND WELCOME BY THE GEORGIAN AUTHORITIES**
  - 1.1 Welcome speech by Mr Wojciech Solarz, Chair of the Group of Experts
  - 1.2 Welcome words by Mr. Iuri Nozadze, Deputy Minister for Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
  - 1.3 Welcome words by Mr. Merab Khalvashi, Principal of the Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University
  - 1.4 Welcome words by Mr Carl Amirgulashvili, Ministry Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**
- 3. INTRODUCTION BY THE SECRETARIAT: MEETING OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS**
- 4. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN GEORGIA**
- 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: NATIONAL REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM PARTNERS**
  - 5.1 Progress in the implementation of the EU Regulation 1143/2014 on invasive alien species
  - 5.2 Progress in the application of the IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT)
  - 5.3 Progress in the implementation of the Bern Convention Code of Conduct on IAS and hunting, by FACE
- 6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN IAS STRATEGY AND THE BERN CONVENTION CODES OF CONDUCT AT NATIONAL LEVEL: NATIONAL REPORTS AND SHARING OF GOOD PRACTICES**
- 7. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VOLUNTARY TOOLS:**
  - 7.1 Draft guidance on e-commerce and IAS
  - 7.2 Draft guidance on communication and IAS
- 8. DRAFT STUDY ON STUDY ON ALIEN PATHOGENS AND WILDLIFE IN EUROPE**
- 9. PROPOSALS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO THE BERN CONVENTION: WORK AHEAD**
- 10. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**
- 11. NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON IAS**
- 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 13. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

## Draft Annotated Agenda

**Monday, 24 June 2019**

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS
<b>9H30-9H55</b>	<p><b>1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIR AND WELCOME BY THE GEORGIAN AUTHORITIES</b></p> <p>Welcome words by the Chair of the Group of Experts, the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University</p>	
<b>9H55-10H00</b>	<p><b>2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</b></p>	<p><b>Relevant document:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting agenda: T-PVS/Agenda(2019)6</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The meeting agenda is adopted</li> </ul>
<b>10H00-10H10</b>	<p><b>3. INTRODUCTION BY THE SECRETARIAT: MEETING OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS</b></p> <p>Presentation by Iva Obretenova, Secretary of the Bern Convention</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>	<p><b>Relevant document:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting agenda: T-PVS/Agenda(2019)6</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants are informed about the expected results of the meeting</li> </ul>
<b>10H10-10H40</b>	<p><b>4. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN GEORGIA</b></p> <p>Presentation by Dr. Irakli Shavgulidze, Director, NACRES</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>	<p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants are informed about the state of play of IAS issues in Georgia</li> </ul>
<b>10H40-11H00</b>	<p><b>5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: REPORTS FROM PARTNERS</b></p> <p>5.1 Progress in the implementation of the EU Regulation 1143/2014 on invasive alien species, by Spyridon Flevaris, Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Environment</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>	<p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants are informed about progress achieved by partners to the Convention, with relevance for the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species</li> </ul>
<b>11H00-11H20</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b>11H20-12H30</b>	<p><b>5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: REPORTS FROM PARTNERS (CONTINUATION)</b></p> <p>5.2 Progress in the application of the IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT), by Kevin Smith, IUCN Invasive Species Programme Officer</p> <p>5.3 Progress in the implementation of the Bern Convention Code of Conduct on IAS and hunting, by Mr Tom Van De Maele, Legal</p>	<p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants are informed about progress achieved by partners to the Convention, with relevance for the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species</li> </ul>

	Affairs Officer, Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE) Questions and answers	
<b>12H30-14H00</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
<b>14H00-15H10</b>	<p><b>6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON IAS AND THE BERN CONVENTION CODES OF CONDUCT AT NATIONAL LEVEL: NATIONAL REPORTS</b></p> <p>Oral presentations by Parties to the Bern Convention</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>	<p><b>Relevant document:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Template for reporting by Parties - T-PVS/Inf(2019)9</li> <li>- Compilation of national reports – T-PVS/Inf (2019)11</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants are informed on initiatives and actions implemented at national level in other Bern Convention Contracting Parties, relevant for the European IAS Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>15H10- 15H40</b>	<p><b>6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON IAS AND THE BERN CONVENTION CODES OF CONDUCT AT NATIONAL LEVEL: NATIONAL REPORTS (CONTINUATION)</b></p> <p>6.1 Management of IAS in the marine environment and terrestrial and inland waters in Turkey, by Dr. İrfan UYSAL, Responsible for IAS issues and Head of MPAs Division, Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Forestry</p> <p>6.2 Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy (ARIAS) and film on Arctic Aliens, by Johnna Niemivuo-Lahti, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland and Melanie Josefsson, Swedish Environmental Agency, EU Unit</p>	<p><b>Relevant document:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Template for reporting by Parties - T-PVS/Inf(2019)9</li> <li>- Compilation of national reports – T-PVS/Inf (2019)11</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants are informed about the state of play of IAS issues in Turkey and of initiatives in the frame of the Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>15H40-16H00</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b>16H00-17H00</b>	<p><b>7. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VOLUNTARY TOOLS</b></p> <p>7.1 Draft guidance on e-commerce and IAS, presentation by Andrea Monaco, consultant to the Bern Convention</p> <p>Examination of the draft Guidance document by the Group and questions and answers</p>	<p><b>Relevant document:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft Guidance on IAS and e-commerce : T-PVS/Inf(2019)2</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The draft guidance document is discussed and comments and suggestions are provided to the author for further improvement</li> </ul>
<b>17H00-17H30</b>	<p><b>7. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VOLUNTARY TOOLS (CONTINUATION)</b></p> <p>7.2 Draft guidance on communication and IAS, by Camilla Orlandi, consultant to the Bern Convention</p> <p>Examination of the draft Guidance document by the Group and questions and answers</p>	<p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The draft guidance document is discussed and comments and suggestions are provided to the author for further improvement</li> </ul>

**Tuesday, 25 June 2019**

<b>9H00-9H30</b>	<b>7. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VOLUNTARY TOOLS (CONTINUATION)</b>  7.3 Discussion on the two draft Guidance documents	<b>Expected results:</b>  - The Group of Experts decides if the Guidance documents should reach the Standing Committee for possible adoption, through a Recommendation
<b>9H30-10H10</b>	<b>8. STUDY ON ALIEN PATHOGENS AND WILDLIFE IN EUROPE</b>  Presentation by Ricardo Scalera, consultant to the Bern Convention, of an advanced draft of the study, its objectives and first results  Questions and answers	<b>Expected results:</b>  - The Group of Experts is informed of the study and its objectives and provides comments and suggestions to the author
<b>10H10-10H30</b>	<b>9. PROPOSALS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO THE BERN CONVENTION: WORK AHEAD</b>  Discussion on issues on which Conventions' Group of Experts can focus its efforts on in the future	<b>Expected results:</b>  - The Group of Experts produces a list of issues to be dealt with by the Group of Experts in the future
<b>11H00-11H30</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b>11H30-11H40</b>	<b>10. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR</b>	<b>Expected results:</b>  - The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Group are elected
<b>11H40-11H50</b>	<b>11. NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON IAS, DATE AND PLACE</b>	<b>Expected results:</b>  - The date and venue for the next meeting of the Group of Experts, in 2021, is agreed on
<b>11H50-12H00</b>	<b>12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
<b>12H00-12H30</b>	<b>13. CLOSING OF THE MEETING</b>  The Chair of the Group presents his closing remarks and conclusions of the meeting	<b>Expected results:</b>  - The meeting of the Group of Experts in closed and
<b>12H30-14H00</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
<b>14H00-19H00</b>	<b>DEPARTURE FOR THE FIELD TRIP TO MTIRALA NATIONAL PARK</b>	