



Strasbourg, 7th November 2023

T-PVS/Agenda(2023)16Ann

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

43rd meeting
Strasbourg, 27 November - 1 December 2023
Strasbourg

Opening of the meeting: 2.00 pm CET on Monday, 27th November 2023¹

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

PART I – OPENING

NB *Delegations are kindly reminded that only written statements will be included in the meeting report. If you would like your viva voce statement to be included in the report, please use the [statement template](#) and send it to bern.convention@coe.int.*

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Relevant document: T-PVS/Agenda(2023)16– draft agenda of 43rd Standing Committee

The 43rd meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention will be opened by the Chair of the Committee, Ms Merike Linnamägi, at 2:00 pm on Monday, 27th November 2023. She will present the agenda of the meeting and request its adoption.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to adopt the agenda.

2. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DELEGATIONS AND FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2022)31 - 42nd Standing Committee meeting report
T-PVS(2023)07 - Report of the April Bureau meeting
T-PVS(2023)16 - Report of the June extraordinary Bureau meeting
T-PVS(2023)25 - Report of the September Bureau meeting

¹ Draft plan for the discussion of the agenda is available at the end of this document. Meeting documents shall be available one month before the meeting at this link: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/-/43rd-standing-committee-meeting>

The Chair will report on the various achievements and issues at stake for the Bern Convention since the last meeting of the Standing Committee, the implementation of the Programme of Work for 2023 and the work of the Bureau in 2023.

Contracting Parties are invited to report in writing on the implementation of the Bern Convention in their States.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the Bureau meeting reports and the information presented.

2.1. Notification of denunciation by Belarus of the Bern Convention

The Director of Democratic Participation, Mr Matjaž Gruden, will inform the Standing Committee that the Secretary General of the Council of Europe had received on 5th September 2023 an electronic notification of denunciation by Belarus of the Bern Convention and will recall that, in application of Article 23§2 of the Bern Convention, the denunciation will become effective as of 1st April 2024.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the denunciation by Belarus of the Bern Convention.

2.2. Reykjavík Summit and Council of Europe's work on biodiversity

Relevant document: [Reykjavík Declaration](#)

The Director of Democratic Participation, Mr Matjaž Gruden, will inform the Standing Committee about the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe held on 16-17 May 2023 in Reykjavík, Iceland, and on its follow-up, in particular on the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and its budget. He will invite the Standing Committee to reflect on the follow-up it intends to give to the Reykjavík process.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the information provided by the Director of Democratic Participation, Mr Matjaž Gruden, on the Reykjavík Summit and its follow-up, and to consider the follow-up it intends to give to the Reykjavík process.

3. FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION

3.1. Financing of the Bern Convention

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2023)01 - Report of the 1st meeting of the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group of an Amending Protocol
 T-PVS(2023)06 - Report of the 2nd meeting of the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group of an Amending Protocol
 T-PVS(2023)11 - Report of the 3rd meeting of the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group of an Amending Protocol
 T-PVS(2023)12 - Report of the 4th meeting of the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group of an Amending Protocol
 T-PVS(2023)23 - Report of the 5th meeting of the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group of an Amending Protocol
 T-PVS(2023)29 - Report of the 6th meeting of the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group of an Amending Protocol
 T-PVS(2023)13 - Draft protocol to amend the Convention
 T-PVS(2023)19 - Explanatory Report to the Amending Protocol
 T-PVS/Inf(2023)14 - Considerations of the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group
 T-PVS(2023)28 - Updated terms of reference of the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group
 Financial scenarios
 T-PVS/Inf(2023)11rev - Voluntary Contributions 2023
 Resolution No. 9 (2019) on the financing of the Bern Convention

The Chair will take stock of the voluntary contributions received during 2023.

The Chair will invite the Contracting Parties to consider the same scale of voluntary contributions as set by Resolution No. 9 (2019) for 2024.

3.1.1. State of elaboration of the Protocol amending the Bern Convention

The Chair of the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group of an Amending Protocol, Mr Charles-Henri de Barsac, will report to the Standing Committee on the state of play of the Protocol amending the Bern Convention.

3.1.2. Procedure which led to the drafting of the Protocol

The Secretariat will remind the Contracting Parties of the legal options which were available to set up a financial mechanism for the Bern Convention and of what they entailed.

3.1.3. Procedure to be followed for the adoption of the Protocol

The Secretariat will remind Contracting Parties of the procedure to be followed for the adoption of the Protocol.

3.1.4. Next steps

The Secretariat will inform the Standing Committee of the proposed next steps for finalising the Protocol amending the Bern Convention and its related documents.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the information presented;
- agree on the suggested scale of voluntary contributions for 2024 as set in Resolution No. 9 (2019);
- take note of the meeting reports of the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group of an Amending Protocol;
- welcome the state of preparation of the Protocol amending the Bern Convention;
- welcome the state of preparation of the Explanatory Report to the Protocol;
- welcome the suggested criteria for the scale of contributions;
- examine and, if appropriate, adopt the revised Terms of Reference of the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group of an Amending Protocol extending its mandate to 2024;
- mandate the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group of an Amending Protocol to finalise the draft Protocol and its accompanying documentation for the 44th Standing Committee.

Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention are invited to:

- confirm their agreement with the development of the Protocol amending the Bern Convention;
- confirm their agreement with the procedure to be followed for adoption of the Protocol.

3.2. Vision and Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 and contribution to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Relevant document: T-PVS(2023)09 - Report of the 6th meeting of the Working Group
T-PVS(2023)18 - 9th draft of the Strategic Plan
T-PVS(2023)20 - Draft Recommendation on the implementation of the Strategic Plan
T-PVS(2023)31 - Draft Terms of reference for a Working Group on overseeing implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Following the decision of the 42nd Standing Committee that the Working Group on developing a Vision and Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 should continue during 2023 with the goal of submitting a final draft to the Standing Committee for adoption, the Chair of the Group, Mr Jan Plesnik, and the consultant Mr David E. Pritchard, will inform the Standing Committee about the work of the Group and present the 9th draft of the Strategic Plan for adoption. They will also present a draft Recommendation to accompany the Strategic Plan for adoption.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the meeting report of the Working Group on developing a Vision and Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 and the information presented;
- examine and, if appropriate, adopt the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030;
- examine and, if appropriate, adopt Recommendation No. ... (2023) on the implementation of the Strategic Plan;
- if appropriate, approve the mandate of a Working Group on overseeing implementation of the Strategic Plan.

3.3. Case-file reflection: Assessment of incoming complaints

The Chair will inform the Standing Committee of progress in the reflection on assessing new complaints received in light of the unsustainable number of case-files managed by the Secretariat, Bureau and Standing Committee.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the information.

3.4. Rules of Procedure - Possible future modifications

Recalling that the [Rules of Procedure](#) have been revised at the 42nd meeting, the Chair will inform that due to complexities in the use of the written procedure as well as possible consequences of the Amending Protocol on the Rules, it would be advisable to consider further revisions to the Rules during 2024.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to instruct the Secretariat, supported by the Bureau, to assess possible revisions to the Rules of Procedure in relation to the written procedure and any consequences of the Amending Protocol, as well as any other possible changes, and to bring proposals to the 44th Standing Committee.

PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS

4. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION

4.1. Biennial reports 2021-2022 concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8

Relevant document: Online table of reporting under the Bern Convention
Joint Note from the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and DG Environment on further instructions on reporting under Article 9 of the Bern Convention by EU MS

Article 9.2 of the Bern Convention requests Parties to report on the exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. The Secretariat will also recall the reporting procedure on exceptions granted under Article 9 of the Bern Convention for EU Member States, using the EU Habides + tool for reporting.

The Secretariat will provide an update on the development of a new Online Reporting System.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the biennial reports and the information presented.

PART III – MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

5.1. Conservation of Birds & Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (IKB)

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2023)26 – 3rd IKB Scoreboard Analysis
T-PVS/Inf(2023)09 – Suggested methodology and guidance for conducting socio-economic research into IKB

The Secretariat and consultant, Ms Claire Papazoglou, will inform the Standing Committee of the results of the 3rd IKB Scoreboard and its analysis report. The document on Suggested methodology and guidance for conducting socio-economic research into IKB prepared by Birdlife shall also be presented.

The Secretariat will inform about the planned next joint-meeting in 2024 of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on IKB and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on IKB of Migratory Birds (MIKT) in the Mediterranean.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- endorse the report prepared by Birdlife and already endorsed by CMS, on suggested methodology and guidance for conducting socio-economic research into IKB;

- welcome the findings of the analysis report of the 3rd IKB Scoreboard, thanking those countries which have participated and urging those which have not to do so;
- welcome the preparations for the next joint-meeting in 2024 of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on IKB and the CMS MIKT.

5.2. Amphibians and Reptiles: Group of Experts meeting & Conservation of Marine Turtles

Relevant document: T-PVS(2023)27 – Report of the 11th meeting of the Group of Experts
T-PVS(2023)30 – Conservation of sea turtles nesting sites: a guidance tool

The Chair of the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles, Ms Eliška Rolfova, will inform the Standing Committee of the results of the 11th meeting of the Group of Experts, highlighting in particular national activities and initiatives on the conservation of amphibians and reptiles, national measures to control the spread of *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* chytrid fungus (Bsal) and collaboration with the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species.

The Guidance tool on the conservation of sea turtle nesting sites, which was finalised during the year by the consultants, Mr Paolo Casale and Mr Ivica Trumbic, together with the Secretariat and in consultation with the Contracting Parties concerned, will be presented to the Standing Committee.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

As for the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles:

- take note of the report of the 11th meeting of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles which took place on 26th September 2023;
- take note of the information provided by Parties on national activities and initiatives on the conservation of amphibians and reptiles;
- take note of the information provided by Parties on national measures to control the spread of *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* chytrid fungus (Bsal) and the need to strengthen international pressure against Bsal as well as communication, and that all Parties to the Bern Convention should be made aware of the EU Animal Health Law and how it is implemented in practice;
- take note of the proposals by the Group to reinforce its collaboration with the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species for a better fight against alien pathogens and pathogens spread by IAS and e-commerce and IAS.

As for the Guidance tool on the conservation of sea turtle nesting sites:

- discuss the report and possibly endorse it.

5.3. Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2023)17 – Report of the Ruddy Duck Expert Meeting
T-PVS(2023)24 – Eradication of the Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* in the Western Palaearctic: 2023 progress report on implementation of the 2021–25 action plan: Draft analytical report

Mr Peter Cranswick, technical expert of Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), will report on the outcomes of the progress review of the implementation of the Action Plan for the eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the Western Palaearctic, 2021-2025 (adopted at the 40th Standing Committee), and inform the Standing Committee of the expert meeting on the implementation of the Action Plan, held online on 28th June 2023.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the report of the expert meeting on the implementation of the Action Plan for the eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the Western Palaearctic 2021-2025;
- take note of the outcomes of the progress review of the implementation of the Action Plan for the eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the Western Palaearctic 2021-2025.

5.4. Conservation of Large Carnivores

Mr Jochen Krebuehl, Nature Environment Foundation (Germany) shall inform the Standing Committee about the results of the Expert Conference and Workshop on Conservation of the Carpathian lynx in west-central Europe which had taken place in the Harz Mountains in Germany on 10-12 May, and which had been part-financed by the Bern Convention.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- welcome the results of the Expert Conference and Workshop on Conservation of the Carpathian lynx in west-central Europe;

5.5. Conservation of Habitats:

5.5.1. Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Agenda(2024)01 Preliminary agenda of the 2024 meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks
T-PVS/PA(2023)07 - draft list of candidate Emerald Network Sites
T-PVS/PA(2023)08 - draft list of adopted Emerald Network Sites

The Secretariat will remind the Standing Committee of the outcomes of the written consultation of the Standing Committee regarding the suspension of the Emerald Network areas of special conservation interest located on the territory of Belarus and of the Russian Federation until further notice and its consequences on the Emerald Network tools. The Standing Committee will also be informed of the state of preparation of the 2024 meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks.

The Secretariat will further present to the Standing Committee the draft updated lists of officially nominated candidate and adopted Emerald Network sites.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the outcomes of the written consultation of the Standing Committee regarding the suspension of the Emerald Network areas of special conservation interest located on the territory of Belarus and of the Russian Federation until further notice;
- welcome the invitation of the authorities of Liechtenstein to host the meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks in Vaduz on 17 and 18 April 2024;
- encourage Contracting Parties to swiftly nominate representatives to the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks;
- examine and, if appropriate, adopt the draft updated list of officially nominated candidate Emerald Network sites;
- examine and, if appropriate, adopt the draft updated list of officially adopted Emerald Network sites.

5.5.2. European Diploma for Protected Areas

Relevant documents: T-PVS/DE(2023)11 – Meeting report of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma
T-PVS/DE(2023)12 – List of the 2023 on-the-spot appraisal visits
T-PVS/DE(2023)13 – List of areas which could benefit from an on-the-spot appraisal visit in 2024

The Chair of the Group of Specialists, Mr Jan Plesnik, will present the outcomes of the annual meeting of the Group which took place on 2-3 March 2023. The Secretariat will further inform on the on-the-spot appraisals which were foreseen for 2023.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists;
- welcome the Resolutions adopted by the Committee of Ministers renewing the European Diploma of 7 areas;
- take note of the on-the-spot appraisal visits which could take place in 2024.

5.6. Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the conservation status of species and habitats

Relevant documents: T-PVS/PA(2023)03 - Report of the 3rd meeting *ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting
T-PVS/PA(2023)06 - Report of the 4th meeting *ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting

The Chair of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting, Mr James Williams, will report to the Standing Committee on the state of preparation of the second reporting cycle on the conservation status of species and habitats.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- welcome the progress in the preparation of the second reporting cycle;
- support the recommendation of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting to proceed with a full reporting format aligned with the EU reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive but to report on a reduced number of features;
- support the recommendation of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting to exclude from the reporting bird species and habitats which do not have a 1:1 relationship with Annex I of the Habitats Directive;
- encourage non-EU Contracting Parties to validate their checklists of species and habitats;
- encourage non-EU Contracting Parties to fully engage in the work of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting;
- take note of the information provided and encourage non-EU Contracting Parties to fully engage in the work of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting;
- mandate the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting to finalise the reporting format and update the resources available from the Reporting Reference Portal;
- thank the European Environment Agency for their support.

PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Notes(2023)07 – Summary of open and possible case files
T-PVS/Notes(2023)08– Summary of follow-up Recommendations
T-PVS/Inf(2023)02 – Register of Bern Convention’s case-files

6.1. Open Files

- 2017/2: North Macedonia: Alleged negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructure developments - *on-the-spot appraisal (OSA)*

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2023)45 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)27 - Complainant Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)31 – Report of the on-the-spot appraisal
T-PVS(2023)22 - Draft Recommendation on the negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Network sites due to infrastructure and urbanisation developments

The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report.

Further to the decision of the 42nd Standing Committee to organise an OSA, the expert Mr Andrej Sovinc will present the findings from the OSA held on 25-27 April 2023.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up;
- welcome the OSA mission report;
- examine and, if appropriate, adopt Recommendation No. ... (2023) on the negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Network sites due to infrastructure and urbanisation developments.

- 2013/1: North Macedonia: Hydro power development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2023)45 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)57 - Complainant Report

The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

- 2016/4: Montenegro: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2023)44 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)59 - Complainant Report

The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

- 2016/5: Albania: Presumed negative impact of developments on the Vjosa river including hydro-power plant development and Vlora International Airport – *written procedure*

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2023)19 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)20 - Complainant Report
T-PVS/Files(2022)67 - Report of the on-the-spot appraisal
[Recommendation 219 \(2023\)](#) on the possible impacts of infrastructure and urbanisation developments particularly Vlora International Airport, on the Vjosa-Narta Protected Area
T-PVS(2023)08rev2 – Draft Revised Recommendation

The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report.

Further to the OSA organised jointly with AEWA and CMS on 29 August – 2 September 2022, and following the adoption by written procedure of Recommendation 219 (2023) on 5th September 2023, the expert Mr Lazaros Georgiadis will recall the findings of the mission and present the remaining operational elements of the draft Revised Recommendation for consideration of the Standing Committee.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to:

- discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up;
- welcome the OSA mission report;
- examine and, if appropriate, adopt the *revised* Recommendation No. 219 (2023) on the possible impacts of infrastructure and urbanisation developments particularly Vlora International Airport, on the Vjosa-Narta Protected Area.

- 2020/9: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva River

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2023)23 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)16 - Complainant Report

The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

➤ 1995/6: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2023)58 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)41 - Complainant Report

The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

➤ 2010/5: Greece: Threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2023)35 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)46 - Complainant Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)60 - Archelon Report

The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

➤ 2012/9: Türkiye: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2023)43 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)39 - Complainant Report

The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

➤ 1986/8: Greece: Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of Caretta Caretta in Laganas bay, Zakynthos

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2023)36 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)47 - Complainant Report

The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

➤ 2019/5: Türkiye: Habitat destruction in Mersin Anamur Beach

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2023)56 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)42 - Complainant Report

The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

6.2. Possible Files

➤ 2001/4: Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2023)21 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)22 - Complainant Report

The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

➤ 2020/4: Armenia: The Amulsar gold mine project and its impacts on Emerald Network sites

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2023)15 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)07 - Complainant Report

The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

6.3. Follow-up of Recommendations

➤ [Recommendation No. 95 \(2002\)](#) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach, Türkiye

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2023)55 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2023)40 - Complainant Report

The bi-annual follow-up to this Recommendation was decided by the Standing Committee at its 39th meeting when the file was closed. The parties to the complaint will be invited to present their progress report.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the progress report presented and, if appropriate, to decide on a possible follow-up.

➤ [Recommendation No.190 \(2016\)](#) on the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, especially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files(2023)54 - Government Report

At its 41st meeting, the Standing Committee recalled that an annual follow-up report on the implementation of the Recommendation No. 190 (2016) is expected to be sent to both AEWA and the Bern Convention. The national authorities of Iceland will be invited to present their progress report.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the progress report presented and, if appropriate, to decide on a possible follow-up.

PART V – COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMME OF WORK 2024

7. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION WITH OTHER MEAs AND ORGANISATIONS

The Secretariat will inform of the coordination activities implemented throughout 2023 with other international MEAs and organisations.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the information presented.

8. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2024

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2023)21– Draft Programme of Activities and budget for 2024
T-PVS/Inf(2023)17 – Calendar of meetings for 2024

The Secretariat will present a proposal for a draft programme of activities and budget for 2024.

Parties interested to volunteer for hosting the organisation of Groups of Experts meetings in 2024 are invited to inform the Standing Committee.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to examine and, if appropriate, adopt the programme of activities and budget for 2024.

9. STATES TO BE INVITED AS OBSERVERS TO THE 44TH MEETING

The Secretariat will recall that the following States were invited to attend the 43rd meeting as Observers:

- A. Council of Europe Member States (invited automatically): San Marino.
- B. Non-member States: Egypt, Holy See, Jordan.

DECISION: The Standing Committee is requested to decide unanimously which non-member States to the Council of Europe shall be invited to attend the 44th meeting of the Standing Committee.

PART VI – OTHER ITEMS

10. ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND BUREAU MEMBERS

Relevant document: T-PVS(2022)29 – Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee

In accordance with Rule 18(e) of the Rules of Procedure “*The Chair, Vice-Chair and two additional Bureau members shall be elected at the end of each meeting. They shall execute their respective terms of office from their election onwards until the end of the meeting following the meeting where they were elected. Their terms of office may be renewed, but the total length of term of office shall not exceed four years or, as appropriate, the end of the first meeting following the expiry of this period of four years*”.

In accordance with Rule 18(f) of the Rules of Procedure “*Whenever the previous Chair is not available to serve in the Bureau, the Committee shall elect three additional Bureau members.*”

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to elect its Chair, Vice-Chair, and two Bureau members. If the previous Chair is not available to serve in the Bureau, the Standing Committee is invited to elect three Bureau members.

11. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 44TH MEETING

The Secretariat will make a proposal for the date and place of the 44th meeting of the Standing Committee (during the week of 2nd December 2024 in Strasbourg).

DECISION: In accordance with Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure, the Standing Committee is invited to decide on the date of its 44th meeting.

12. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

DECISION: The Standing Committee is invited to adopt the main decisions of the meeting which, in accordance with Article 15 of the Bern Convention, will be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for information.

13. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

DRAFT PLAN FOR DISCUSSION OF THE AGENDA²

| MORNINGS 9.00 am - 12.30 pm (CET) | AFTERNOONS 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm (CET) |
|---|--|
| MONDAY 27th November | |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OPENING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA 2. REPORT FROM CHAIRPERSON & COMMUNICATIONS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Notification of denunciation by Belarus of the Bern Convention 2.2 Reykjavík Summit and Council of Europe’s work on biodiversity 3. FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Financing of the Bern Convention <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>3.1.1 State of elaboration of the Protocol amending the Bern Convention</i> <i>3.1.2. Procedure which led to the drafting of the Protocol</i> <i>3.1.3 Procedure to be followed for the adoption of the Protocol</i> <i>3.1.4 Next steps</i> 3.3 Case-file reflection: Assessment of incoming complaints 3.4 Rules of Procedure: Possible future modifications |
| TUESDAY 28th November | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.2 Vision and Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention 4. MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Biennial reports 2021/2022 5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Conservation of Birds & IKB 5.2 Amphibians and Reptiles: Group of Experts & Conservation of Marine Turtles 5.3 Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck 5.4 Conservation of Large Carnivores | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.5 Conservation of Habitats <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>5.5.1 Emerald Network of ASCIs</i> <i>5.5.2 European Diploma for Protected Areas</i> 5.6 Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the conservation status of species and habitats 6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1 Open Files <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2017/2: North Macedonia: Alleged negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructure developments - OSA ➤ 2013/1: North Macedonia: Hydro power development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park |

² Time slots are indicative only- certain agenda items may be reshuffled during the meeting when necessary.

| MORNINGS 9.00 am - 12.30 pm (CET) | AFTERNOONS 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm (CET) |
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| WEDNESDAY 29th November | |
| <p>6.1 Open Files (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2016/4: Montenegro: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site ➤ 2016/5: Albania: Presumed negative impact of developments on the Vjosa river including hydro-power plant development and Vlora International Airport – <i>written procedure</i> ➤ 2020/9: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva river ➤ 1995/6: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula ➤ 2010/5: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias | <p>Open Files (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2012/9: Türkiye: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs ➤ 1986/8: Greece: Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of <i>Caretta Caretta</i> in Laganas bay, Zakynthos ➤ 2019/5: Türkiye: Habitat destruction in Mersin Anamur Beach <p>6.2 Possible files</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2001/4: Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge ➤ 2020/4: Armenia: The Amulsar gold mine project and its impacts on Emerald Network sites |
| THURSDAY 30th November | |
| <p>6.3 Follow-up of previous complaints and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach, Türkiye ➤ Recommendation No.190 (2016) on the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, especially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland <p>7. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION WITH OTHER MEAS AND ORGANISATIONS</p> <p>8. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2024</p> <p>9. STATES TO BE INVITED AS OBSERVERS TO THE 44TH MEETING</p> | <p><i>Possible continuation of unfinished business</i></p> |
| FRIDAY 1st December | |
| <p>10. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR, AND BUREAU MEMBERS</p> <p>11. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 44TH MEETING</p> <p>12. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING</p> <p>13. CLOSING OF THE MEETING</p> | |