



Strasbourg, 22 November 2021  
[agenda24e\_2021.docx]

T-PVS/Agenda(2021)24

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

41<sup>st</sup> meeting (*online*)  
Strasbourg, 29 November- 3 December 2021

---

Opening of the meeting: 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 29 November 2021<sup>1</sup>

**DRAFT**  
**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

*Document prepared by  
the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

---

<sup>1</sup> Plan for the discussion of the agenda is available at the end of this document.

## 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](#).*

### 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Agenda(2021)20– Draft agenda of 41st Standing Committee

The 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention will be opened by the Chair of the Committee, Ms Jana Durkošová, at 2:00 pm on Monday, 29 November 2021. She will present the agenda of the meeting and request its adoption. The draft agenda was drawn up by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Standing Committee.

The Director of Democratic Participation, Mr Matjaž Gruden, will also welcome and address the participants.

**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(2020)10 – 40<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting report  
T-PVS(2021)04, T-PVS(2021)08 and T-PVS(2021)12 – Reports of the three Bureau meetings in 2021

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 2021 and the work of the Bureau in 2021.

The Secretariat will inform about developments within the Council of Europe and the Secretariat of the Bern Convention.

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.

### 3. FINANCING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION

#### 3.1 Financing of the Bern Convention

Relevant documents: Resolution No. 9 (2019) on the financing of the Bern Convention  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)07 – Voluntary Contributions received in 2021  
T-PVS(2021)01, T-PVS(2021)03, T-PVS(2021)06 and T-PVS(2021)22 – Four meeting reports of the Intersessional Working Group on Finances  
TPVS/Inf (2021)06rev – Draft Resolution establishing an Enlarged Partial Agreement for the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats, as amended by the GR-C  
TPVS/Inf (2021)62 – Amendment of the Bern Convention – State of play

The Chair will take stock of the voluntary contributions received in 2021.

The Chair will invite the Contracting Parties to consider the same scale of voluntary contributions as set by Resolution No. 9 (2019) for 2022.

The Chair will further invite the Contracting Parties to resume consideration of the options for setting up a sustainable funding mechanism for the Bern Convention, agreed upon by the Standing Committee, namely the establishment of an Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) and the amendment of the Convention.

#### 3.1.1 Enlarged Partial Agreement

Mr Matjaž Gruden, Director of Democratic Participation, Directorate General of Democracy at the Council of Europe, will inform the Standing Committee of the outcomes of nine meetings (formal and informal) of the

Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C) held in 2021. The Director will further present the result of the survey carried out by the Secretariat in October/November 2021 and addressed to the Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe and the Standing Committee's Delegates to assess the number of member States interested in joining the EPA.

The Director will also introduce the amended draft Resolution establishing an Enlarged Partial Agreement for the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats as amended by the GR-C.

The Chair of the Intersessional Working Group on Finances, Mr Jan Brojáč, will present a brief summary of the outcomes of the four Working Group meetings organised in 2021.

Delegates will be invited to share their views on the amended draft Resolution by the GR-C and, and in light of the recommendation of the Intersessional Working Group on Finances, to support it in order to progress with the reform process of the Bern Convention.

The Chair will invite Parties that did not participate in the survey circulated in October-November to inform the Committee of their intentions whether or not to join the EPA in order to help the Secretariat evaluate the feasibility of the setting up of the EPA.

### 3.1.2 Amendment of the Bern Convention

The Chair of the Intersessional Working Group on Finances and the Secretariat will present the state of play concerning the amendment of the Bern Convention. Delegates will be invited to share their views on the proposed amendment to the Bern Convention and on the follow up work.

**DECISION:** The Contracting Parties are invited to:

- take note of the information presented;
- agree on the suggested scale of voluntary contributions for 2022 as set in Resolution No. 9 (2019);
- take note of the outcomes of the GR-C meetings presented by the Director of Democratic Participation;
- take note of the meeting reports of the Intersessional Working Group on Finances;
- acknowledge the Contracting Parties that have confirmed their intention to join the EPA, are considering joining the EPA or have expressed their intention not to join the EPA;
- examine and, if appropriate, express support for the “draft Resolution establishing an Enlarged Partial Agreement for the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats” as amended by the GR-C;
- take note of the state of play of the preparation of the amendment to the Bern Convention;
- instruct the Intersessional Working Group on Finances, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to assess the feasibility to establish the EPA in the light of the last survey and to follow up the GR-C instruction to review all options available and explore possible new options for consideration by the 42nd Standing Committee.

## 3.2 Vision for the Bern Convention for the post-2020 decade and contribution to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2020)08rev - Terms of Reference for a Working Group on a Vision for the Bern Convention 2021-2030  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)2 – List of nominated members of the Working Group  
T-PVS(2021)02, T-PVS(2021)07 and T-PVS(2021)13 – Reports of the three meetings of the Working Group in 2021  
T-PVS(2021)14 - Draft Vision for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)50 – Draft Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030

The Chair of the Working Group on developing a Vision and Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030, Mr Simon Mackown, and the consultant Mr David E. Pritchard, who was charged with assisting the Group in elaborating the draft Vision and Strategic Plan, will inform the Standing Committee about the work of the Group, present the final draft of the Vision and the state of play of the draft Strategic Plan. The Committee will be invited to exchange views on the draft Vision and draft Strategic Plan.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the meeting reports 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 draft Vision;
- take note of the state of preparation of the draft Strategic Plan;
- mandate the Working Group to continue its efforts in 2022 for the development of a Bern Convention Strategic Plan for the period to 2030 with a view to its possible adoption by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee.

### 3.3 Rules of Procedure - Possible modifications

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf(2021)44 – Proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)38 – Explanatory table of proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee

The Secretariat will present proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee, which have been developed in consultation with the Bureau and the legal department of the Council of Europe. The main aim of the proposed amendments is to include a more explicit mention of the possibility to use digital technologies for the work of the Standing Committee, taking into account the lessons learnt from the pandemic experience, addressing procedural issues such as working methods, electronic voting, written consultations and remote participation.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to discuss and, if appropriate, adopt the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedures of the 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 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2021)58 – Summary 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.

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

CONTRACTING PARTIES NOT HAVING SENT THEIR BIENNIAL REPORTS ARE KINDLY REQUESTED TO SEND THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THROUGH THE ORS OR HABIDES+ TOOL FOR EU MEMBER STATES.

#### 4.2 Online Reporting System (ORS)

The Secretariat will inform the Committee of the state of play of maintenance for the ORS.

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

## PART III – MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

### 5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

Contracting Parties will have the opportunity to report on specific conservation actions, upon previous request to the Secretariat and the Chair.

## 5.1 Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2021)9 – Report of Group of Experts meeting on IAS  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)51 -2021 Report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species, FACE  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)42 - Brief summary of foreseen updates to study on alien pathogens and pathogens spread by IAS  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)55 – Draft position paper on non-native species and climate change  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)39 - Guidance on e-commerce and IAS  
T-PVS(2021)11 – Draft Recommendation on e-commerce and IAS

The Chair of the Group of Experts on IAS, Mr Pawel Wasowicz, will present the outcomes of the meeting of the Group of Experts held online on 6 July 2021. The Chair and the Secretariat will inform the Committee on the state of play of the three studies initiated in 2019 (Guidance on Communication and IAS, Guidance on e-commerce and IAS and the Study on Alien Pathogens and Pathogens spread by IAS).

The Secretariat will provide information on the state of play of the finalisation of the Guidance on Communication and IAS.

The consultant Mr Andrea Monaco will present the final draft of the Guidance on e-commerce and IAS. The Secretariat will introduce the text of the draft Recommendation on e-commerce and IAS.

The consultant Mr Riccardo Scalera will present a brief summary of foreseen updates to the Study on Alien Pathogens and Pathogens spread by IAS as discussed at the Group of Experts meeting on 6 July 2021.

The Chair will also inform the Committee of the state of play of the elaboration of a position paper on non-native species and climate change.

A brief presentation on the 2021 Report on the implementation of the code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS adopted by the Standing Committee in 2013, will be given by a representative of the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE).

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the meeting report of the Group of Experts on IAS and the information presented;
- take note of the proposals by the Group for its future areas of work;
- take note of the state of play of the elaboration of the Guidance on Communication and IAS;
- take note of the Guidance on e-commerce and IAS;
- take note of the envisaged updates of the Study on Alien Pathogens and Pathogens spread by IAS;
- take note of the draft position paper on non-native species and climate change and, if appropriate, decide on a possible follow-up;
- take note of the 2021 Report on the implementation of the code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS.
- discuss and, if appropriate, adopt the Draft Recommendation No. ... (2021) on e-commerce and IAS.

## 5.2 Conservation of birds: eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2021)10 – Report of joint MIKT meeting  
T-PVS(2021)05 – Updated assessment report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scoreboard reporting  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)33 - Proposal for future periodic assessment and frequency and format of future joint meetings  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)45 - Paper on the baseline and methodology for assessing progress toward achieving the Rome Strategic Plan 2020- 2030  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)25- Considerations for the way forward on preparing a format and guidance for the development and implementation of national IKB action plans

The Secretariat will inform the Standing Committee of the outcomes of the joint meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (IKB) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds (MIKT) in the Mediterranean, which had taken place online on 9-11 June 2021.

The Secretariat will provide information on the state of play of the second Scoreboard reporting.

The Secretariat will inform the Standing Committee of the proposal for future periodic assessment and frequency and format of future joint meetings.

The Secretariat will also provide an update on the state of play of activities undertaken to implement the Rome Strategic Plan.

A representative of the CMS Secretariat will present the paper on the baseline and methodology for assessing progress towards achieving the Rome Strategic Plan.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the report of the joint meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on IKB and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force MIKT and the information provided;
- acknowledge the Contracting Parties that have participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scoreboard Reporting;
- discuss and, if appropriate, endorse the proposal for future periodic assessment and frequency and format of future joint meetings;
- discuss and, if appropriate, endorse the paper on the baseline and methodology for assessing progress toward achieving the Rome Strategic Plan.

### 5.3 Amphibians and Reptiles

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2021)15- report of Group of Experts meeting on Amphibians and Reptiles  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)34 – compilation of Parties' replies to the Questionnaire for the reporting by Parties on the implementation of Recommendation No. 176 (2015)

The Chair of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles, Mr Benedikt Schmidt, will present the outcomes of the meeting of the Group of Experts, held online on 28 September 2021, and report on the implementation by Contracting Parties of Recommendation No. 176 (2015) on the prevention and control of the *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* chytrid fungus.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the meeting report of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles and the information presented
- take note of the proposals by the Group of Experts for its future areas of work;
- take note of the information provided by Parties on the implementation of Recommendation No.176 (2015) on the prevention and control of the *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* chytrid fungus.

### 5.4 Guidance tool for the Conservation of Marine Turtles

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf(2021)40 - terms of reference for *ad hoc* working group for conservation of marine turtles  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)16 – list of members of *ad hoc* working group for conservation of marine turtles  
T-PVS(2021)27 – report of first meeting of the *ad hoc* working group for conservation of marine turtles  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)56- flyer for initiative on conservation of marine turtles

The Chair of the *ad hoc* Working Group on marine turtles' conservation and the Secretariat will inform the Standing Committee about the state of play of the new initiative to develop a guidance tool, such as an Action Plan or Guidelines, for the conservation of marine turtles, agreed upon by the 40<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee.

The two consultants commissioned to assist in the implementation of the initiative and drafting of the guidance tool - Mr Paolo Casale, a marine turtle conservation expert, and Mr Ivica Trumbic, an expert on Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning - will present the outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> round of national online consultations held in Autumn 2021 in Cyprus.

Mr Casale will further present first findings on identifying global good practices in relation to the co-existence of economic development and marine turtles' protection.

Contracting Parties interested in providing financial support for the initiative are invited to inform the Standing Committee.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the information presented and to call on extra voluntary contributions to support the initiative.

## 5.5 Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons

Relevant document: Recommendation No. 199 (2018) on the pan-European Action Plan for the Conservation of the Sturgeon  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)59 - list of nominated National Focal Points for the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons

The Secretariat will inform the Standing Committee of the state of play of the Joint EU/CoE programme aimed at supporting the implementation of the pan-European Action Plan for the Conservation of the Sturgeon.

In light of the information provided, the Standing Committee will be invited to exchange views on how to follow up on Recommendation No. 199 (2018), in particular with a view to the mandate given to the Secretariat.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the information provided;
- call on Contracting Parties to fully implement the measures included in the pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons and to report on progress at the meeting of the national Focal Points planned in 2022;
- call on range countries to appoint a national Focal Point for the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons.

## 5.6 Eradication of the Ruddy Duck

Relevant documents: Recommendation No. 209 (2020) on the eradication of the ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palaearctic by 2025  
T-PVS(2021)18 - 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  
T-PVS(2021)16 – Progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the Western Palaearctic, 2021-2025

The Secretariat will recall 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 21 July 2021. 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 Europe 2021-2025.

**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 and the information presented;
- 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.

## 5.7. Review of the Plant Conservation Strategy

Relevant document: A Review of European progress towards the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020

The Secretariat will inform the Standing Committee of the publication of the review of the European Plant Conservation Strategy elaborated by Planta Europa and Plantlife.

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

## 5.8. Conservation of Habitats:

### 5.8.1 Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest

Relevant documents: T-PVS/PA(2021)08 - Report of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

T-PVS/PA(2020)07 - Obligations of Bern Convention Parties regarding the conservation of candidate and adopted Emerald Network sites: a legal analysis  
 T-PVS/PA(2021)01 - Future work on the legal framework of the Emerald Network – possible next steps  
 T-PVS/PA(2021)09 – Aspects to be considered in the future work on the legal framework of the Emerald Network  
 T-PVS/PA(2021)10 – Draft list of candidate Emerald Network Sites  
 T-PVS/PA(2021)11 – Draft list of adopted Emerald Network Sites

The Chair of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, Mr Tore Opdahl, will present the results of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group, held virtually on 5-6 October 2021.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks.

*a) Legal framework of the Emerald Network*

The consultant, Mr Arie Trouwborst, will present possible options for the development of the legal framework of the Emerald Network based on the insight provided by Contracting Parties on the recommendations of the legal analysis of 2020.

The Secretariat will further inform the Standing Committee of the outcomes of a written consultation of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks on the legal aspects of the Emerald Network to be further considered in the options presented by Mr Arie Trouwborst.

The Standing Committee will be invited to exchange views on the options on the table and on the outcomes of the consultation of the Group of Experts and to provide guidance on the follow-up work.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to agree on which option(s) and which legal aspects should be considered for developing further the legal framework of the Emerald Network.

*b) Emerald Network Barometer and update on the Emerald Network IT tools*

The consultant, Mr Marc Roekaerts, will inform the Standing Committee of the state of development of the Emerald Network Barometer and of the latest improvements of the Emerald Network IT tools

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- welcome the creation of the Emerald Network Barometer and the improvements of the Emerald Network IT tools;
- thank the European Environment Agency for its technical support.

*c) Emerald Network data mobilisation in the Western Balkans*

The Secretariat will inform the Standing Committee of the objectives and expected outcomes of the project “Emerald Network data mobilisation in the Western Balkans” implemented by the European Environment Agency and funded by the European Commission.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the objectives and expected outcomes of the project;
- call on South East European Contracting Parties to take full advantage of the project to demonstrate progress achieved in the implementation of the Emerald Network since 2011;
- thank the European Environment Agency and the European Commission for their support.



*d) Draft updated list of adopted Emerald sites and draft updated list of candidate Emerald sites*

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

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- 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.

### **5.8.2 European Diploma for Protected Areas**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/DE(2021)06 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the EDPA  
T-PVS/DE(2021)04 – Draft Resolution on the extension of the European Diploma  
T-PVS/DE(2020)11rev - Draft resolutions regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the de Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve and to the Weerribben-Wieden National Park  
T-PVS/DE(2020)20- Renewal of the European Diploma in 2022: List of areas which could be visited in 2021

The Chair of the Group of Specialists, Mr Jan Plesnik, will present the outcomes of the annual meeting of the group which took place virtually on 24 February 2021. The Secretariat will further inform of the on-the-spot appraisals which were foreseen for 2021 and the creation of a virtual exhibition.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists;
- welcome the Resolutions of the Committee of Ministers extending the validity of the European Diploma of 11 areas and renewing the European Diploma of the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve and the Weerribben-Wieden National Park;
- welcome the virtual on-the-spot appraisal visits carried out in 2021;
- take note and regret the decision of the managing authorities of the Port-Cros National Park (France) not to apply for the renewal of the European Diploma.

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/PA(2021)04 - Opinions about the reporting under the Resolution No. 8 (2012): assessment of the past reporting exercise and pointers for the future  
T-PVS/PA(2021)06 – Draft Terms of Reference for the Creation of an Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting

The consultant, Mr Otars Opermanis, will present the outcomes of the survey on the experience of the Contracting Parties from the first reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) and their expectations for the next reporting cycle.

The Secretariat will introduce the draft Terms of Reference for the creation of an Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting.

The Consultant, Mr Marc Roekaerts, will inform the Standing Committee of the state of development of national summary dashboards aimed to display a summary of the data reported within the first reporting round grouped in various themes.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the outcomes of the survey and thank the 17 non-EU Contracting Parties which participated in the survey;
- agree on the creation of an Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting;
- examine, and if appropriate, endorse the draft Terms of Reference of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting;
- welcome the creation of national summary dashboards.

## **PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS**

### **6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS**

Relevant documents:

T-PVS/Notes(2021)08 – Summary of open and possible case files  
 T-PVS/Notes(2021)09– Summary of complaints on stand-by  
 T-PVS/Notes(2021)07– Summary of Follow-up Recommendations  
 T-PVS/Inf(2021)05 – Register of Bern Convention’s case-files

#### **6.1 Case-file system reflection and possible improvements**

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2021)17 – Case-file system: Draft Guide of Procedures  
 T-PVS/Inf(2021)30 – Case-file system reflection: Secretariat memorandum

The Secretariat will present a Memorandum on a reflection and possible improvements for the case-file system, prepared in consultation with the Bureau, recalling the need for such an initiative: the overload of case-files for the Secretariat, Bureau and Standing Committee to deal with, the challenging processes, and the relevant timing alongside the vision and financing working groups, and general growing environmental awareness.

The Secretariat will further present an extraction of the key guidelines and proposals from the Memorandum which could possibly act as a framework of case-file system rules and guidelines, and include longer-term proposals for the future efficient functioning of the system.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the information presented;
- examine and, if appropriate, endorse the Memorandum on the case-file system reflection;
- examine and, if appropriate, adopt the Guide of Procedures for the case-file system.

#### **6.2 Files opened**

- 2004/2 - Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2021)73 - Government Report  
 T-PVS/Files(2021)70 - 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.

- 2013/1 - North Macedonia: Hydro power development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park – *on-the-spot-appraisal*

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2020)18 –Terms of Reference of the OSA  
 T-PVS/Files(2021)76 – Advisory Mission Report

T-PVS(2021)23 - Draft Recommendation on Hydro power development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park

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

Further to the decision of the 40<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee to organise an on-the-spot-appraisal (OSA), the experts Mr Andrej Sovinc and Mr Urs Breitenmoser will present their findings from the online advisory mission implemented on 25 and 28 May 2021.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up;
- welcome the advisory mission report;
- consider, when discussing complaint on stand-by no. 2017/02 on alleged negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites, the results and recommendations of the mission relating to these sites;
- discuss and, if appropriate, adopt Draft Recommendation No. ... (2021) on Hydro power development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park.

➤ 2016/5 - Albania: Presumed negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Vjosa river

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2021)68 Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)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(2021)46 – Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)17 – 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(2021)60 – Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)61 – 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(2021)47 – Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)32 – Complainant Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)80 – NGO 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 - Turkey: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2021)28 – Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)62 – 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(2021)48 – Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)19 – Complainant Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)79 – NGO 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 Possible files

➤ 2001/4 - Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge – *on-the-spot-appraisal*

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2021)01 – Terms of Reference of the OSA  
T-PVS/Files(2021)36 – Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)59 – Complainant Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)75 – Advisory Mission Report  
T-PVS(2021)24 - Draft Recommendation on the project to build a motorway through the Kresna Gorge  
T-PVS/Files(2021)82 - Joint Government & Complainant report following OSA

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

Further to the decision of the 40<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee to organise an OSA, the experts Mr Lazaros Georgiadis and Mr Radu Mot will present their findings from the online advisory mission held on 25-27 August 2021.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up;
- welcome the advisory mission report;
- discuss and, if appropriate, adopt the Draft Recommendation No. ... (2021) on the project to build a motorway through the Kresna Gorge.

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

Relevant documents : T-PVS/Files(2021)29 – Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)27 – 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.

- 2020/09: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva river

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2021)06 – Complaint form  
T-PVS/Files(2021)40 – Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)65 – Complainant report

At its September meeting, the Bureau decided to upgrade this file to a possible file. 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.

#### 6.4 Complaints on stand-by

- 2017/6: Iceland: Possible negative impact on Breiðafjörður Nature Reserve’s authentic birch woods from new road infrastructure

Relevant documents : T-PVS/Files(2021)64 – Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)24 – Complainant Report

At its September meeting, the Bureau decided that this complaint on stand-by would again be exceptionally brought to the attention of the Standing Committee.

The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report. The Secretariat will recall the decision of the 40<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee to organise an OSA.

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

- 2018/1: Ukraine: Presumed threat to Emerald site “Polonina Borzhava” (UA0000263) from wind energy development (taking into account the “Other Complaints” concerning Emerald Network sites in Ukraine) – *on-the-spot-appraisal*

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2021)38 – Terms of Reference of the OSA  
T-PVS/Files(2021)41 – Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)18 – Complainant Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)77 – Advisory Mission Report  
T-PVS(2021)25 - Draft Recommendation on the presumed threat to Emerald Network site “Polonina Borzhava” from wind energy development (UA0000263)

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

Further to the decision of the 40<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee, the experts Mr Bernard Fleming and Mr Lawrence Jones-Walters will present their findings from the online advisory mission held on 20, 21 and 23 September 2021.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up;
- welcome the advisory mission report;
- discuss and, if appropriate, adopt the Draft Recommendation No. ... (2021) on the presumed threat to Emerald Network site “Polonina Borzhava” from wind energy development (UA0000263).

- 2017/02: North Macedonia: Alleged negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructure developments

Relevant documents : T-PVS/Files(2021)XX – Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)37 – Complainant Report  
Annex from UNESCO

At its September meeting, the Bureau decided that this complaint on stand-by should be exceptionally brought to the attention of the Standing Committee. The parties to the complaint will be invited to present an update report, and reference is made to the results of the online advisory mission of Mavrovo National Park (Open File no. 2013/1) concerning these sites.

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

## 6.5 Follow-up of previous complaints and Recommendations

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2021)81 – Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)78 - Medasset update report

The bi-annual follow-up to this Recommendation was decided by the Standing Committee at its 39<sup>th</sup> meeting. The national authorities of Turkey 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 documents: T-PVS/Files(2021)74 – Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2021)69 – Complainant report

At its 39<sup>th</sup> 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 2022-2023

### 7. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION WITH OTHER MEAS AND ORGANISATIONS

The Secretariat will inform of the coordination activities implemented throughout 2021 with other international MEAs and organisations.

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

### 8. AWARENESS AND VISIBILITY

The Secretariat will inform of the activities carried out to promote knowledge and understanding of the Bern Convention's actions for biodiversity conservation, as well as on future plans of the Convention in terms of communication and visibility for 2022.

The Secretariat will inform of activities carried out in the framework of the World Forum for Democracy 2021 on the theme "Can Democracy save the Environment?".

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

## 9. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

Relevant document: T-PVS(2021)26 – Draft Programme of Activities for 2022-2023  
T-PVS/Inf(2021)54 – Draft Calendar of meetings for 2022

As a follow up to the Standing Committee decisions of last year, namely for the Secretariat to report on the lessons learned from the pandemic and to provide an assessment of the pros and cons of holding Standing Committee meetings only every two years, the Secretariat will present the findings of its brainstorming and assessment to the Committee.

The Secretariat will further present a proposal for a draft programme of activities and budget breakdown for 2022-2023.

Parties interested to volunteer for hosting the organisation of Groups of Experts meetings in 2022 are invited to inform the Standing Committee. Parties in need of financial support for the attendance of meetings organised under the Bern Convention are invited to indicate the events for which they would need such a support in 2022.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the information presented on the lessons learned from the pandemic and on the pros and cons of holding Standing Committee meetings only every two years and, if appropriate, decide on a possible follow-up;
- examine and, if appropriate, adopt the Programme of Activities and budget breakdown for 2022-2023.

## 10. STATES TO BE INVITED AS OBSERVERS TO THE 42<sup>ND</sup> MEETING

The Secretariat will recall that the following States have been invited to attend the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting as Observers:

- A. Council of Europe Member States (invited automatically): Russian Federation and 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 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee.

## PART VI – OTHER ITEMS

### 11. ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND BUREAU MEMBERS

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf(2013)6 – Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee

In accordance with Article 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 Article 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.

### 12. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 42<sup>ND</sup> MEETING

The Secretariat will make a proposal for the date and place of the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee (29 November - 2 December 2022 in Strasbourg).

**DECISION:** In accordance with Article 1 of the Rules of Procedure, the Standing Committee is invited to decide on the date of its 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

### **13. 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.

### **14. OTHER BUSINESS (ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Any issue which was requested by a Party to be included for information only under “other business” at the adoption of the meeting agenda and which does not concern a preceding agenda item may be raised here.



PLAN FOR DISCUSSION OF THE AGENDA

MORNINGS 9.00 am - 12.30 pm (CET)	AFTERNOONS 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm (CET)
<b>MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	
	<p><b>1. OPENING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA</b></p> <p><b>3. FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Financing of the Bern Convention</b></p> <p><i>3.1.1 Enlarged Partial Agreement</i></p> <p><i>3.1.2 Amendment of the Bern Convention</i></p> <p><b>3.2 Vision and Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 and contribution to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework</b></p> <p><b>3.3 Rules of Procedure- Possible modifications</b></p> <p><b>2. REPORT FROM CHAIRPERSON &amp; COMMUNICATIONS</b></p>
<b>TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	
<p><b>4. MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Biennial reports</b></p> <p><b>4.2 Online Reporting System</b></p> <p><b>5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Invasive Alien Species</b></p> <p><b>5.2 Conservation of Birds: eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds</b></p>	<p><b>5.3 Amphibians and Reptiles</b></p> <p><b>5.4. Guidance tool for the Conservation of Marine Turtles</b></p> <p><b>5.5 Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons</b></p> <p><b>5.6 Eradication of the Ruddy Duck</b></p> <p><b>5.7 Review of the Plant Conservation Strategy</b></p> <p><b>5.8 Conservation of Habitats</b></p> <p><i>5.8.1 Emerald network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest</i></p> <p><i>5.8.2 European Diploma for Protected Areas</i></p> <p><b>5.9 Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the conservation status of species and habitats</b></p>
<b>WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	
<p><b>6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Case-file system reflection and possible improvements</b></p> <p><b>6.2 Files opened</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2004/2: Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica</li> <li>➤ 2013/1: North Macedonia: Hydro power development within the territory of the Mavrovo national Park (OSA)</li> <li>➤ 2016/5: Albania: Presumed negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Vjosa river</li> <li>➤ 2016/4: Montenegro: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site</li> </ul>	<p><b>6.2 Files opened (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 1995/6: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula</li> <li>➤ 2010/5: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias</li> <li>➤ 2012/9: Turkey: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs</li> <li>➤ 1986/8: Greece: Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of Caretta Caretta in Laganas bay, Zakynthos</li> </ul> <p><b>6.3 Possible files</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2001/4: Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge (OSA)</li> <li>➤ 2019/5: Turkey: Habitat destruction in Mersin Anamur Beach</li> <li>➤ 2020/09: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva river</li> </ul>

**THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> December****6.4 Complaints on stand-by**

- 2017/6: Iceland: Possible negative impact on Breiðafjörður Nature Reserve's authentic birch woods from new road infrastructure (OSA)
- 2018/1: Ukraine: Presumed threat to Emerald site "Polonina Borzhava" (UA0000263) from wind energy development (OSA)
- 2017/02: North Macedonia: Alleged negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructure developments

**6.5 Follow-up of previous complaints and Recommendations**

- [Recommendation No. 95 \(2002\)](#) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanli beach, Turkey
- [Recommendation No.190 \(2016\)](#) on the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, specially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland

*Possible continuation of unfinished work*

- 7. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION WITH OTHER MEAS AND ORGANISATIONS**
- 8. AWARENESS AND VISIBILITY**
- 9. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2022-2023**
- 10. STATES TO BE INVITED AS OBSERVERS TO THE 42<sup>ND</sup> MEETING**

**FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> December****11. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR, AND BUREAU MEMBERS****12. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 42<sup>ND</sup> MEETING****13. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING****14. OTHER BUSINESS***Possible continuation of unfinished work**Please note:**The 41st Standing Committee meeting will be held online via KUDO.**The documents for the meeting will be available at the following link:*<https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/-/41st-meeting-of-the-standing-committee>