



Strasbourg, 3 January 2006
[tpvs20e_2005.doc]

T-PVS (2005) 20

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

25th meeting
Strasbourg, 28 November-1 December 2005

REPORT

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

*This document will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring this copy.
Ce document ne sera plus distribué en réunion. Prière de vous munir de cet exemplaire.*

PART I – OPENING

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2005) 1 Draft agenda
T-PVS (2005) 13 Annotated draft agenda

The Chair, Ms Véronique Herrens Schmidt (France), opened the meeting and welcomed the participants (see Appendix 1).

Several delegations made suggestions concerning the agenda; some wished to report on the situation of certain species and others suggested additional items for discussion under "Other business".

The agenda was adopted as set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

The Chair gave the floor to Mr Eladio Fernández-Galiano, who welcomed the participants and announced that 2005 had been a good year for the environment at the Council of Europe. The European Diploma of Protected Areas had celebrated its 40th anniversary. Sustainable development featured prominently in the Action Plan adopted at the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe held in Warsaw on 16 and 17 May 2005. This would lead to more resources being channelled into sustainable development. He also announced that he had been appointed Executive Secretary of the "EUR-OPA Major Hazards" partial agreement and thus would serve the Committee no longer.

The Chair congratulated Mr Fernández-Galiano on his promotion and thanked him for all the work he had done over the years in the Secretariat of the Bern Convention.

2. Chairman's report and communications from the delegations and from the Secretariat

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2005) 5 and 12 Reports of the Bureau meetings of April 2005 and September 2005

The Chair announced that the work programme for 2005 had almost been completed in conformity with the decisions taken the previous year and the co-operation agreements concluded with the other biodiversity instruments.

All these activities were helping to achieve the 2010 target of slowing or stopping the decline in biodiversity.

She thanked all those who had contributed to the activities and in particular those states which contributed financially. She expressed some hopes for the future, particularly that of seeing the convention extended to the 6 Council of Europe member states which were not yet involved in the process.

PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS

3. Monitoring of the implementation of the legal aspects of the Convention

3.1. Swiss proposal to move *Canis lupus* from Appendix II to Appendix III

Relevant document: T-PVS (2004) 9. Proposal of Amendment by Switzerland concerning wolf
T-PVS/Inf (2005) 16. Report on the conservation status and threats for wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Europe
T-PVS/Inf (2005) 18. Legal aspects of amendments to Appendices (C. Shine)
T-PVS/Inf (2005) 4. Opinion of the NGOs concerning the Swiss proposal for amendment of the Appendices for the wolf

The Chairman recalled that Switzerland had sent a proposal to amend the Appendices of the Convention under the terms of Article 17. It concerned the removal of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) from Appendix II and its inclusion in Appendix III.

The delegate from Switzerland noted that the wolf is a species likely to cause important damage to livestock, specially in areas where it had not been present in past years. To obtain a positive

cohabitation between wolves and people, it was important to take into account the attitudes of livestock raisers. A more sound protection of the wolf would be obtained by listing it into Appendix III, permitting regular controls of individuals that may cause damage. The use of exceptions under Article 4 need not be the rule. The wolf was not as threatened as in 1979, when the Convention was adopted, so its inclusion in Appendix III should be seen as a measure of success. He disagreed on some of the arguments in the report on the legal aspects. In his view the report was biased.

The Secretariat presented the report on conservation status and threats of wolf, prepared by Mr Valeria Salvatori. The report showed both a general increase in wolf populations in the past 25 years and a very varied array of methods to manage the species, from full protection with little practical implementation, to hunting of the species through specific regulations. Most of the populations were expanding. The Secretariat noted that Appendix II of the Convention was not a list of threatened species, but a list of protected species.

The legal expert, Mrs Clare Shine, presented her report. In her view the delisting of the wolf was not justified because its populations were still critical in many areas and a lack of protection may be translated into less protection and not sound management. On her view the use of Article 9 in cases where the species causes problems is justified and it permits a better follow-up of the controls made. A delisting of the species might result in worse and less transparent management. The present system was satisfactory, even for Switzerland.

The Chair noted the mention of the precautionary principle in the report and observed that, other than for the administrative or legal aspects, no concrete information was provided on which to accurately forecast the consequences of delisting for wolf populations.

The United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the European Union, wished to delay the decision to a further meeting so Parties could have more time to examine the reports presented. Norway seconded this proposal.

The delegate of the *Société nationale pour la Protection de la Nature* speaking also for *France Nature Environnement* spoke against the delisting of wolf, which was not justified by the damage it may be causing to livestock, specially taking into account that control methods in both Switzerland and France had been put into place.

The Committee decided to postpone its decision on the Swiss amendment until its next meeting in 2006, when Parties will have had enough time to examine the documents presented.

3.2. Biennial reports (2001-2002 and 2003-2004) concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 and quadriennial reports 2001-2004

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2005) 6 Biennial Reports 2001-2002
T-PVS/Inf (2005) 7 Biennial Reports 2001-2002
T-PVS/Inf (2005) 10 Four-year reports 2001-2004

In conformity with Article 9, paragraph 2, of the convention, all Parties having made exceptions to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 must present these exceptions in writing.

The Secretariat presented the biennial reports received and announced that some reports had arrived too late to be distributed at the meeting.

The Committee took note of the reports submitted and invited the Contracting Parties which had not yet fulfilled this obligation to do so as soon as possible.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that it had also received general reports prepared on a voluntary basis.

The Secretariat also announced that the report concerning the implementation of the convention in Hungary was now available.

For financial reasons it had not been possible to produce any other report.

PART III –MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

4. Monitoring of Species and Habitats

4.1. Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2004) 4 Follow-up of the implementation of the European Strategy on IAS
T-PVS/Inf (2005) 17 Proceeding of the Workshop on Invasive Plants in Mediterranean Type Regions of the World
T-PVS (2005) 9 Report of the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species (Palma, June 2005)

The Group of experts met in Majorca (Spain) from 9 to 11 June 2005.

The Chair of the Group of experts, Mr Patrick De Wolf (Belgium), informed the Committee that the meeting of the Group of experts had permitted to see the very good value of the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and how it had helped many governments draft their own policies. The Committee could be proud of its achievement on the ground. Still some states were working on their policies but all had found the Bern Convention work of much use. More work needed to be done in raising awareness and it would be good if more resources could go to rapid response.

The delegate of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protected Organisation (EPPO) presented the conclusions of the Seminar on Invasive Alien Plants in Mediterranean Type Regions of the World and explained that her organisation was involved in reporting on invasive alien plants, so they could be subject to easy detection and containment (or eradication). A seminar on *Solanum elaeagnifolium* would be organised in 2006 in Tunisia. EPPO was ready to support Bern Convention action on invasive plants.

The representative of the RAC/SPA said that the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean sea had adopted a new Action plan concerning species introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean sea in November 2003. Good coordination between the programmes of the two conventions in this area would therefore be both necessary and useful, in order to exchange information and experience and give greater effect to the efforts of all the Parties concerned.

The delegate of the European Commission informed the Committee that the Commission had started technical work on IAS in view of drawing up guidelines for its member states. In that context appropriate attention will be devoted to Bern Convention work in the field so that action within European Union is aware of the action recommended by the Convention.

The Secretariat noted that further work by the Convention in this field would involve two seminars in Croatia and Ukraine to support national government drafting or implementing IAS policies in line with the European Strategy.

The United Kingdom delegate gave information about the work started in the framework of a LIFE project for the conservation of the White-headed duck. The project has two objectives that will lead to a more effective control of ruddy-ducks in Europe. The first is to protect the European population of the White-headed duck by eradicating ruddy-ducks from the United Kingdom. The second is to exchange and disseminate information on control methods and progress through contact with other European control teams and policy workers.

The delegate of Tunisia described the programmes run by his government to protect elements of biodiversity, driven by political awareness in his country of the importance of this natural heritage for sustainable development. Concerning the EPPO proposal to organise a seminar in Tunis in June 2006 on invasive alien plants, he emphasised the national and international concerns in this area and hoped that the seminar would provide an opportunity to concert and coordinate the efforts already invested or in progress throughout the region.

The Committee took note of the report of the Group of experts, took also note of the Proceedings of the Seminar and the Mèze Declaration on Invasive Alien Plants in Mediterranean Type Regions of the World, thanked warmly the Conservation Authorities of the Balearic Region for the excellent

hosting of the meeting of the Group of experts and adopted a recommendation on the control of the Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and other exotic squirrels as found in appendix 3 to this report.

The delegation of Italy informed that – also as a consequence of the results of the meeting of the Group of experts and the draft recommendation – Italy has already started actions to adopt an eradication programme in Ticino, setting-up a working group with representatives of the regions and the parks involved to get a solution to technical and legal problems related to the matter.

On the proposal from Norway, the Committee instructed the Secretariat to commission a report on the use of existing mechanism to ban or restrict trade in alien species and how the systems work. The report should also analyse whether and how the list of potentially invasive species are developed and what progress could be made on that field. The report will be presented to the Committee next year.

4.2. Large Carnivores: Iberian lynx conservation, LCIE activities

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2005) 10 Report of the Seminar on transboundary management of large carnivores populations (Osilnica, April 2005°
T-PVS/Inf (2005) 20 Report on the meeting on lynx in the Balkans (November 2005)

The Secretariat presented the report of the meeting, which had focused on the conservation of large carnivores in Europe. The situation of different populations has been examined, as well as the practical implementation of the Bern Convention recommendation concerning the transboundary management of populations, and progress in the European Action plans endorsed by the Committee.

During the Seminar it had become clear that, even if it had practical difficulties due to different authorities and conservation agencies involved in carnivores in neighbouring states, transboundary management was an essential tool to prevent conflict, prepare populations to the natural recolonisation of some large carnivores and enhance the objectives of the Bern Convention to collaborate when the conservation of species requires the co-operation of different states.

Considering the useful work done in the past, the moment was appropriate to propose the elaboration of joint action plans among neighbouring states and other mechanism to enhance co-operation focusing on the shared populations. Some populations were identified as requesting this enhanced transboundary co-operation.

The Committee examined the draft recommendation presented, and a number of states proposed amendments. The European Commission informed the Committee that they were also convinced of the need to work at the population level and had started the preparation of guidelines for the management of some population of bears, wolf, Eurasian lynx and Wolverine, which they would be happy to share with the Convention.

The delegates of Italy and France informed on the setting-up of a special co-operation (together with Switzerland) concerning wolf in the Alps aimed at sharing information, setting common objectives and enhancing transfrontier co-operation.

The delegate of Spain presented a short report on progress on the conservation action on Iberian lynx. Much conservation work was being carried out in the framework of a LIFE project but the species was still critically endangered.

The delegate of Italy informed on the conclusions of the 16th Conference on Bear Management, that had been supported by the Convention facilitating the participation of 30 experts. More than 300 contributions have been presented and experts had emphasised the need to properly plan and implement bear management.

The Committee took note of the report of the Seminar and warmly thanked the Slovenian authorities for the excellent hosting of the Seminar and LCIE and the Austrian LIFE Project for their excellent work as co-organisers.

The Committee took note of the report on the meeting on lynx in the Balkans, and the other information presented by Contracting Parties.

A recommendation on the conservation and management of transboundary populations of large carnivores was adopted as it appears in appendix 4 to this report.

Norway and other Parties pointed out that the draft recommendation should reflect differences in Parties' approach and accept modes of co-operation being in line with the recommendation.

4.3. Climatic change and biological diversity

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2005) 18 Draft recommendation on Biodiversity and climate change
CO-DBP (2005) 3 rev. Report on "Conserving European biodiversity in the context of climate change"

The consultant, Professor Michael Usher, presented his report on the impact of climate change on Europe's biological diversity. The report focused on how to adapt biodiversity conservation to this global phenomenon of extraordinary importance. He presented the different points in his recommendation and noted that it was important to start work on this field soon, as the implications of climate change were huge and Europe was in a good position to provide a lead in this field, especially considering that the Euro-Mediterranean area might be more affected than other regions.

Several delegations took the floor and noted the relevance of the issue. They were unanimous in praising the high quality of the report. Some proposed small changes to the recommendation. Norway, supported by other delegations, proposed to initiate work in this field within the convention.

Some delegations wished to have more time to study the draft recommendation in detail. The Secretariat would circulate it for comment and a new draft would be produced for possible adoption at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee was in favour of the Norwegian proposal provided that the work to be carried out under the convention was well coordinated with other initiatives and its added value was clear. The Secretariat would examine existing initiatives and, with the help of interested delegations, prepare a mandate for a group of experts to meet in 2007.

4.4. Action plan for European sturgeon and Danube sturgeon

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2005) 17 Draft recommendation on the conservation of (*Acipenseridae*) Sturgeon in the Danube River Basin
T-PVS/Inf (2005) 12 Action plan for the conservation of (*Acipenseridae*) Sturgeon in the Danube River Basin
T-PVS/Inf (2005) 21 Towards an Action plan for the European Sturgeon's restoration (*Acipenser sturio*)

Mr. Jurg Bloesch presented the Action plan for the conservation of the Sturgeons in the Danube River Basin, prepared on the basis of deliberations during an international stakeholder workshop held in Austria in July 2005.

Six species of sturgeons are native to the Danube River Basin and the need for conservation action is urgent. Spawning migration is an integral part of the natural life cycle of most sturgeons, making them especially sensitive to the impacts of physical barriers such as dams. Intense pressure from poaching and illegal trade, habitat loss and the introduction of exotic species meant that Danube sturgeon populations are perilously close to extinction.

The representative from the United Kingdom, on behalf of the European Union, expressed support for the Action plan. The representative from Romania stressed that Romania already had a regional strategy plan for the Danube and kindly offered their help, experience and knowledge for the implementation of the Action plan. The Bulgarian representative welcomed the fact that Bulgaria had improved the Action plan. Some delegates proposed minor changes to the recommendation. The Ukrainian representative suggested some changes in the Action plan's text. The delegate of Germany mentioned that at the Nairobi COP (Conference of the Parties of the Bonn Convention) the need for sturgeon protection was stressed and the necessity of the implementation of the Danube Sturgeons Action plan was underlined which should however not endanger the function of the Danube as a shipping way.

The Committee adopted a recommendation on the conservation of the Danube sturgeons (see appendix 5).

In a side-event on the European sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*) held during the session of the Standing Committee, participants invited the Committee to consider the elaboration of a European

Action plan for the species and the setting-up of a working group in collaboration with the European Union and the Bonn Convention. Parties were requested to provide the necessary resources. France and Germany expressed their readiness to provide financial contributions to that project. Ukraine and the United Kingdom will like to participate in the group.

4.5. Habitats: setting up of ecological networks, Emerald Network progress

Relevant document: T-PVS/Emerald (2005) 8 Development of the Emerald Network in Africa and in the Mediterranean (Tunisia)
T-PVS/Emerald (2005) 9 General principles of the procedure for examining and approving Emerald sites put forward by States
T-PVS (2005) 15 Report of Emerald Network Group of Experts

The Secretariat presented the findings of the meeting of the Emerald Network's Group of Experts held in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 October 2005, in conjunction with the meeting of the Committee of Experts for the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network.

The report covered:

- the state of progress of work on the Emerald Network pilot projects programme,
- the development of the Emerald Network in five countries of South-east Europe, with the financial support of the European Environment Agency,
- the Secretariat's proposal concerning the general principles to be adopted in the process of analysing and validating the Emerald sites proposed by governments,
- the organisation of a Seminar in Tunisia on the development of the Emerald Network in Africa and the Mediterranean area, on the basis of a strategic study to be prepared in 2006 concerning the action the Bern Convention could usefully take in this geographical area to complement the work of other international instruments or organisations in this field.
- The Network's programme of activities for 2006.

The delegates from Senegal and Burkina Faso, where pilot projects are under way, supplied additional information on the work in progress.

The delegate from Tunisia gave information on the initiatives taken in his country to organise a pilot project in the near future. He told the Committee that a network of protected areas was already in place in his country, and some were listed under international conventions, including Unesco, Ramsar and Barcelona. These areas were benefiting from management and monitoring programmes and also large-scale environmental projects. He backed the opening of the Emerald Programme to South Mediterranean countries and informed the Committee that his country was fully prepared to help take this project forward within the Bern Convention framework. The Ukrainian delegate was in favour of setting up ecological networks and gave information about transnational ecological corridors in preparation which passed through Ukraine.

With regard to the Secretariat's proposals concerning the analysis and validation of Emerald sites, the Norwegian delegate supported the idea of harmonising the Emerald and Natura 2000 networks and advocated a simplified procedure.

The representative of the European Commission presented details of the biogeographical seminars organised in the past or to be held in the future with a view to drawing up lists of Natura 2000 sites of community interest for the 25 EU member states. She also described the procedures set in place for managing these sites (guideline documents) and announced the establishment of a geographical information system (GIS) concerning the Natura 2000 network and its ramifications which would make the relevant data available on the Internet.

Norway pointed at the proposal to map 80 % of the national sites before officially accepting new sites in the Emerald Network. The reason being that the task of mapping potential sites is lengthy and will potentially delay the designation of new sites.

Concerning the development of the Emerald Network, particularly its extension to the Mediterranean region and Africa, the representative of the RAC/SPA confirmed that his institution

was willing to jointly organise, with the Bern Convention, the colloquy to be held on this theme in Tunis in 2007. A select committee should be set up for that purpose so that the subject matter could be well prepared.

The Standing Committee welcomed the results of the programme of pilot projects and the complementary programme in progress in five countries of South-east Europe, with the financial support from the European Environment Agency, and expressed the hope that similar initiatives might be opened up to other groups of countries. The Committee approved the general principles presented for the future analysis and validation procedure for Emerald sites and the project to hold a Seminar in Tunisia in 2007, with preparations beginning in 2006 on the basis of a prior study.

4.6. Possible elaboration of a European Charter on Hunting

Relevant documents: CM/AS (2005) Rec 1689 final - Reply of the Committee of Ministers on Hunting and Europe's environmental balance
T-PVS (2005) 3 rev. Opinion of the Bureau on Recommendation 1689 of the Parliamentary Assembly

The Secretariat told the Committee that the Parliamentary Assembly had contacted the Committee of Ministers concerning the possible utility of a European Charter on Hunting (Assembly Recommendation 1689 on hunting and Europe's environmental balance).

The Bureau had suggested that this project might be relevant to the Convention.

The Committee took note of Assembly Recommendation 1689 and of the Committee of Ministers' reply.

Several delegations, including those of France, Ukraine and the United Kingdom, thought this initiative interesting, and favoured setting up a group of experts; they suggested, however, that account should be taken of existing initiatives, both at Community level and under other international legal instruments, and also of differing traditions.

The FACE representative, supported by the International Association for Falconry & Conservation of Birds of Prey, wished to be fully involved in this exercise.

The Committee decided to set up a group of experts with specialists from nature conservation, hunting and NGO representatives.

*** Items for information only:**

T-PVS/Inf (2005)11 Windfarms and wildlife – Report of open-ended group
T-PVS (2005)6 Group of Specialists for a European Strategy on Invertebrates
T-PVS (2005) 8 2nd Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles

PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

5. Specific sites and populations

5.1. Files

- Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus)

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2005) 14 Secretariat report
T-PVS /Files (2004) 27 Government report
T-PVS/Files (2005) 6 Report by the NGOs

This case concerns plans to develop tourism in the Peninsula of Akamas, with detrimental effect on an ecologically valuable area with many rare plant and animal species protected under the Convention.

This case was first discussed at the 16th meeting of the Standing Committee in 1996. Two on-the-spot appraisals were carried out in 1997 and 2002 and a recommendation adopted in 1997 (Recommendation No. 63 (1997) on the conservation of the Akamas peninsula, Cyprus, and, in particular, of the nesting beaches of *Caretta caretta* and *Chelonia mydas*). The Cyprus authorities had informed the Secretariat in 2004 that another proposal concerning the Akamas peninsula had been

presented to the Council of Ministers, to be discussed in September 2004, but so far no decision has been made public.

The Cyprus delegate informed the Committee that the Council of Ministers had taken a decision on a proposal regarding the management of the Akamas Peninsula. A paper was distributed among the participants on the major issues incorporated in the proposal submitted to the Council of Ministers regarding the management of the Akamas Peninsula. The proposal, which will be debated by Parliament, takes into account all the suggestion under Recommendation No. 63 (1997) . Land use measures include the amendment of the development zones of each settlement, without waiting for a holistic solution, the revision and designation of a number of tourist zones around existing settlements, and the reduction of the development of some tourist zones. He informed the Committee that a Community project will be built at the South of Lara Bay and invited participants to examine in detail the government report.

The representative of Terra Cypria noted that two similar proposals had been made in the past which had not been followed by action. As there was no formal decision concerning this set of proposals and no text or map had yet been published, it seemed appropriate to take a cautious attitude and see which areas would be protected and how effectively, before the file was closed.

The Terra Cypria representative further noted that the file concerns two turtle-breeding areas – Akamas and Limni – and that the situation at Limni, despite its designation as a Natura 2000 site, is causing serious concern because development is happening very close to the coast, at some places within 60 metres of the shoreline.

The delegate of MEDASSET strongly recommended not to close the file. Other files had been provisionally closed, such as the Kazanli (Turkey) on Green turtles, where the situation has deteriorated and no information enabling the Committee to monitor progress was obtained.

Several delegations welcomed the positive aspects in the government decision and wished to see a sustainable development approach applied to the area.

The Committee congratulated the Cyprus government on this decision and decided to keep the file open so that a final approval and the implementation of protection measures for the area can be verified, as it had been recommended in the past.

**- Project to build a motorway through the Kresna Gorge (Bulgaria)
[Recommendation No. 98 (2002)]**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2005) 15 Secretariat report
T-PVS/Files (2005) 4 Government report
T-PVS/Files (2005) 2 NGO Report

This case concerns a motorway crossing an area of high biological diversity. It was examined by the Standing Committee in 2002, when it adopted a recommendation inviting the Bulgarian government to abandon the plans to enlarge the current road, and look for more suitable alternatives compatible with Bern Convention obligations. In 2004, the Bulgarian Ministry of the Environment informed the Secretariat that there was no further information concerning the state of progress of the project or the procedure for establishing a new protected area around the gorge.

At its 24th meeting, the Standing Committee decided to open a file in order to stimulate the Bulgarian government to further implement the Recommendation No. 98 (2002).

In 2005, the decision was taken by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW) to prepare a new detailed EIA report which will analyse all the proposed alternatives.

An agreement has been reached between the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) and the NGOs concerning common activities.

The Bulgarian delegate told the Committee that a decree from the Ministry of the Environment and Water (MoEW) had been approved on 14 November 2005, prohibiting certain activities, such as the building of hydro-electric generating stations with potentially harmful effects on the site.

She thanked the NGOs for helping to protect the Kresna Gorge .

While welcoming the agreement concluded with the Ministry, the representative of the Bulgarian NGOs told the Committee that it had not really been implemented. Moreover, the NGOs' request to hold a meeting, under Ministry auspices and involving all the partners, with a view to the preparation of the next environmental impact report, had been refused. He complained of the lack of progress on implementation of Recommendation No. 98 (2002).

The Committee congratulated the Bulgarian authorities on the decree.

It decided to keep the file open.

- Building of a navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary (Danube delta, Ukraine)

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2005) 12 Secretariat report
T-PVS/Files (2005) 16 Conclusions of the International Scientific Seminar

This case concerns the excavation of a shipping canal in the Bystroe estuary of the Danube delta in Ukraine, which is likely to affect adversely both the Ukrainian Danube Biosphere Reserve – the most important of Ukraine's wetlands – and the whole Danube delta dynamics. A first phase of the project was conducted in 2004.

In 2004, the Standing Committee adopted its Recommendation No. 111 (2004) inviting Ukraine to suspend works, except the completion of phase 1, and do not proceed with phase 2 of the project until:

- the EIA for phase 2 is undertaken to international standards and submitted to the relevant international experts and organisations;
- the public consultation on the EIA for phase 2 takes place and the proposals made during the discussions are duly considered; and
- the Data collected during the additional monitoring programme with involvement of international experts is analysed and adequate recommendations are elaborated.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe had invited the Standing Committee to promote platforms of dialogue open to the States concerned and relevant international organisations with the aim of fostering dialogue on the preservation and sustainable development of the area, participating in the ecological monitoring of the Danube, promoting a strategic assessment of the delta and carrying out the follow-up of the Recommendation.

The Secretariat was in contact with other international organisations to follow the implementation of the Recommendation. An International Conference on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the delta is in preparation to be held in 2006. The Conference is organised by Ukrainian authorities and a number of international organisations co-operate in its preparation including ICPDR, Ramsar Convention, Unesco, the Bern Convention and WWF.

The delegate of Ukraine informed the Committee that dredging in the delta had been stopped in August and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was being revised to make it more complete and exhaustive. Monitoring was being strengthened and data collected would be used in the EIA. There was a wide consultation with international bodies and it was planned to carry out a strategic assessment of the whole area. The Agreement on the protection of the Danube delta, concluded in the framework of the Council of Europe was to be ratified in the coming weeks. At the political level the Presidents of Ukraine and Romania had agreed to take environment consideration in policy decisions concerning the delta.

The delegate of Romania welcomed the positive events but noted that the issue had been the object of attention by the Ramsar, Aarhus and Espoo Conventions and explained that Romania would be more satisfied if the project was abandoned.

The delegate of Moldova expressed concern on the project and wished that the delta's environment be protected given its importance as European Heritage.

WWF welcomed the positive action by the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine, noted that the EIA of phase 2 had not been presented and regretted that the Minister of Transport of Ukraine was still wishing to go on with the project as one of the main European transport infrastructures. All the alternatives had to be fully studied and the strategic environmental assessment made.

The Chair noted the progress in the implementation of Recommendation No. 111 (2004) and congratulated Ukraine and the Secretariats of international conventions for following-up events and collaborating tightly on the issue.

On the proposal of Ukraine, the file was kept open.

5.2 Possible Files

- Conservation of the Hermann tortoise in the plaine des Maures (France)

Relevant documents: : T-PVS/Files (2005) 13 Report of the on-the-spot appraisal
T-PVS/Files (2005) 1 Government report
T-PVS/Files (2005) 11 NGO Report

This case concerns the protection of the habitat of Hermann tortoise in the Maures' Plain, which is considered unsatisfactory. In the past the Committee already dealt with this species and site when a project to build a test road for a tyre factory was proposed and abandoned. The French government took a strong commitment in order to ensure the protection of the species, and the Standing Committee decided in 1997 to close the file.

Considering that the implementation of the Public Interest Plan (PIG) as well as the additional measures of protection had not sufficiently contributed to the conservation of the species, the *Société nationale de Protection de la Nature (SNPN)* approached again the Secretariat in 2003.

The Committee discussed this issue as a possible case file in 2004 and decided to accept the French authorities' offer to organise an on-the-spot appraisal.

The visit was carried out by Mr Guy Berthoud on 29-30 March 2005 accompanied by a member of the Secretariat.

The expert emphasised that this region was a key biodiversity conservation area. He spoke of the severe pressures it was facing, and reviewed the various projects which had already caused – or might do – often irreversible damage to the turtle's habitats. One of these was the new project for extending the Balançan waste disposal site, which had been scheduled to close in 2002. Although it was nearing completion, the protection programme covered too limited an area, and its implementing strategy was too restrictive. He proposed a new, more comprehensive approach to the problems. This would provide fuller protection in the central Plaine des Maures by establishing a new conservation area, based on a network of interlinked habitat clusters.

The delegate of France said that the comprehensive approach proposed by the recommendation made the case a necessarily complex one and, since the last Standing Committee meeting, France had not been inactive:

- the expert's on-the-spot appraisal had been well received by the local authorities;
- consideration of the expert's proposals, which featured heavily in the recommendation, was ongoing at local level;
- the company responsible for running the waste disposal site applied for permission to clear 24 hectares which was turned down in September 2005;
- the Natura 2000 procedure was under way and the public inquiry would be held in 2006;
- legal consultation on the nature reserve was under way; and
- the biotope protection decree (west of the A57 motorway) was in progress.

The legal time-limits for these operations would run until the end of 2006.

The SNPN representative, who was also speaking for the SOPTOM and the FNE, with the support of several other NGOs, said that the French authorities were still using the old arguments, and had not accepted their responsibilities. Specifically, he thought that the current plans would not provide protection; that the heritage value of the Plaine des Maures had not been sufficiently considered in routing the high-speed rail link, and that no real effort had been made to find another site. Where the waste disposal site was concerned, he said that, in November 2005, the head of the

inquiry had issued an opinion that was favourable to the planned extension. On these grounds, the representative of the aforementioned NGOs asked that a file be opened.

The representative of the European Commission suggested that the Balançan waste dump site has to be closed as soon as possible and that the government must look for alternative site urgently.

The Chair noted that, subject to the changes which could be made in the draft recommendation, the French Government accepted the recommendations which had been sent to it.

The delegate of France reiterated that progress in this complex case could only be step-by-step.

The Committee thanked the expert and adopted the recommendation. It decided to keep this question on the list of possible files and asked the French Government to report on its implementation.

5.3. On-the-spot appraisal

- Windfarm in the Balchik area – Via Pontica (Bulgaria)

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2005) 8 Rreport of the on-the-spot appraisal
T-PVS/Files (2005) 5 Government Report
T-PVS/Files (2005) 18 Report by the NGO

This case concerns the building of the first windfarm in Bulgaria, at Balchik on the Black Sea coast. The NGO is challenging the chosen site located on the Via Pontica which is the migratory route in Europe especially for scaring birds. The decision to authorise the project has already been taken.

At the 24th meeting of the Standing Committee, the possibility of visiting the site had been envisaged.

At its April 2005 meeting, the Bulgarian government having confirmed its willingness to receive a visit from an expert, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to arrange this expert appraisal. It was carried out by Mr Guy Jarry from 27 to 29 September 2005 accompanied by a member of the Secretariat.

The inspecting expert presented his findings and insisted on the importance of the Via Pontica, which he considered Europe's chief migration route for birds. Some of the species which used it were endangered world-wide. He thought that the scientific content of the studies carried out before the decision was taken were inadequate, with the result that the biological richness of the site had been under-estimated, and the impact minimised. He thought that more information was needed to form an accurate idea of the heritage implications of the windfarm project. As a precautionary measure, implementation of the decision should be suspended, and efforts made to find another site.

The Bulgarian delegate said that the procedure had been fully concluded, and was fully consistent with the laws now in force. There could be no question of reopening it.

The Netherlands delegate emphasised that his country, as the last stop of the Via Pontica, takes a special interest in this file. The Netherlands had co-funded a study and requested the Bulgarian government that due account should be taken of this study.

The representative of BirdLife Bulgaria thanked the expert for his very full and objective report. He thought that the projects on the Via Pontica could be stopped only by international action. He favoured the opening of a file. He also drew attention to the cumulative effects of other, nearby schemes, such as in the Cape Kaliakra area.

The AEWa representative, who was also speaking for the Bonn Convention and EUROBATs, shared these concerns. He spoke of possible transfrontier effects and effects on other groups of animals concerned, particularly bats. Accepting a project of this kind with an EIA of questionable quality would create an unfortunate precedent. Bulgarian law made it possible to review decisions based on insufficient information.

The delegate of the European Commission urged the Bulgarian authorities to respect Community standards, as part of the pre-accession procedure.

The draft recommendation, as amended by the drafting group established for that purpose, was adopted by the Committee.

The Committee decided to keep this question on the potential file list for its next meeting.

It asked the Bulgarian Government to keep the Bureau informed of action taken to implement the recommendation.

5.4. Follow-up of selected recommendations from previous meetings

- Recommendation No. 107 (2003) on the Odelouca dam (Portugal)

The delegate of Portugal informed the Committee that:

- the construction of the Odelouca dam was suspended in the end of 2003 but Portugal wishes to have the recognition of the overriding public interest of the project, based on the water needs for domestic consumption;
- the works will be re-initiated;
- the infringement procedure is still pending at the European Commission and a new complete information document will be presented before the end of the year;
- correspondent information will be transmitted to the Bern Convention Secretariat;
- the Environmental Surveillance Plan is being implemented, it includes monitoring, mitigation and compensatory measures for lynx, birds of prey and ictyofauna;
- the National Action Plan for the Iberian lynx is not yet officially adopted although some of the included measures are being implemented, such as the monitoring of lynx populations, habitat recuperation, management of rabbit populations and co-operation with Spanish authorities.

- Recommendation No. 108 (2003) on the proposed construction of the “Via Baltica” (Poland)

Referring to Recommendation No. 108 (2003) asking the Government to carry out a full environmental strategy assessment, the Polish delegate told the Committee that tenders had been invited. The procedure should be launched in November 2006. All possible routes would be studied.

The Committee took note of this information on implementation of the recommendations.

*** Items for information:**

- Catching, killing or trading of protected birds in Cyprus

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2005) 3 et 17 Report by NGOs
T-PVS/Files (2005) 19 Report by the UK Government

The delegate from Cyprus informed the Committee of the willingness of the government to stop illegal catch and trade of protected birds in Cyprus. The situation was improving steadily, with a hard core of offenders, poaching and selling birds. His government was committed to eradicate these illegal practices from Cyprus and to continue reporting to the Committee.

The United Kingdom also expressed its willingness to continue working to combat the illegal catching, killing and trade of birds and to continue reporting.

The Committee took note of the information presented.

- Lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*)

The delegate of Norway also expressed concern on re-introductions in Sweden using captive bird stock belonging to populations outside Fennoscandia. Norway gave a summary on the situation for this critically endangered species, and reflected upon new initiatives, such as that from the CMS Scientific Council in relation to new and existing initiatives to improve the situation for the wild population.

The delegate of Sweden informed the Committee that the release of those birds had been stopped once there were doubts about the origins, and that they will establish a new captive breeding population for re-introduction with birds coming from Russia. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency will study the recommendations recently issued by the Bonn Convention Scientific Council

and consider what future actions should be taken in the conservation of this species. It should be noted that Sweden holds the only breeding population of Lesser white-fronted geese within the European Union territory, and therefore any action taken should be in line with the obligations linked to the Birds Directive.

The Committee took note of the information presented and wished that concerned states develop a better co-ordination on this issue, taking into account its Recommendation No. 48 (1996) which invited states to draft and implement national actions plans on the Lesser white-fronted goose.

PART V – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

6. Strategic development of the Convention

6.1. Council of Europe Summit

Relevant document: CM (2005) 80 final Action plan of the Council of Europe Summit

The Secretariat informed the Committee of the results of the 3rd Summit of Head of State and Government of the Council of Europe, held in Warsaw (Poland) in May 2005.

The Heads of State and government had expressed their commitment to improving the quality of life for citizens and had requested the Council of Europe to further develop and support integrated policies in the field of environment on the basis of existing instruments such as the Convention. The Summit also called the Council of Europe to strengthen relations with the European Union taking account of the achievements and further standard-setting work of both organisations.

This meant that Environment activities at the Council of Europe had been politically re-inforced. The 2006 budget for environment (budget line for activities) had been increased by 40 %, a very substantial amount that will permit, among other things, more work devoted to environmental awareness.

The Committee welcomed this news, had an exchange of views on the 3rd Summit decisions and instructed the Secretariat to keep promoting environment activities in a sustainable development perspective.

The representative of the RAC/SPA mentioned the necessity of a re-enforcement of the co-operation between the Bern and Barcelona Conventions concerning protected areas and biodiversity regarding similar preoccupations and a multitude of activities common to both institutions. Therefore he suggested the setting-up of a Memorandum of Understanding to co-ordinate different actions, an exchange of informations and the optimisation of human and material resources from the relevant Parties.

6.2. Proposal of amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee to enlarge its Bureau

Relevant document: T-PVS (2005) 4 Amendment of the rules of procedure of the Standing Committee

The present Bureau is formed by only three members. It is proposed to enlarge it to five members so as to ensure a more diversified representation.

The Secretariat presented a proposal of amendment to the rules of procedure.

On the proposal of an *ad hoc* group, the Committee decided to ask the Bureau to deal with this issue at its next meeting.

Parties will be invited to consider the initial deliberations by the Bureau and send their views to the Secretariat so that they may be considered further at the Bureau meeting in September 2006. The Bureau was requested to formulate proposals for consideration at the next Standing Committee, and the Secretariat was requested to circulate these as soon as possible after the Bureau meeting. The Bureau's deliberation will not open Rules of Procedure issues wider, confining its examination of the issues to the Rules of Procedure 18, 19 and 6 only. Issues for consideration and evaluation might be:

- the role of the Bureau as it currently operates;
- financial issues;
- other implications arising from a larger Bureau, such as its composition.

6.3. Draft Programme of Activities for 2006

Relevant document: T-PVS (2005) 11 Draft Programme of Activities for 2006

The Secretariat presented a proposal of activities for year 2006, prepared following discussions at the Bureau.

The Chair thanked the Parties that had made voluntary contributions in 2005. Several Parties noted that the activities on fish protection (Action plan on the European sturgeon) and on the Charter on Hunting needed financial re-inforcement. Some Parties (Belgium, France, Germany, Slovakia, United Kingdom) announced they would be able to make financial contributions to those topics and others.

The Committee instructed the Secretariat to present at its next meeting “Budgetary perspectives and a programme of work for the next 3 years” (including at least details on the Groups of experts conferences announced) so that a clearer medium-term picture could be examined by the Committee and the planning of activities decided upon.

The Committee adopted its 2006 work programme and budget as it appears in appendix 8 of this report.

6.4 States to be invited as observers to the 26th meeting

The Committee decided unanimously to invite the following States to attend its 26th meeting: Algeria, Belarus, Cape Verde, Holy See, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

PART VI- OTHER ITEMS

7. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Committee elected Mrs Véronique Herrenschmidt (France) as Chair.

The Committee elected Mr Jón Gunnar Ottósson (Iceland) as Vice-Chair; Mrs Ilona Jepsen (Latvia, ex-Chair) will stay on as member of the Bureau.

8. Date and place of the 26th meeting, adoption of the report

The Committee decided on the date of its 26th meeting (27-30 November 2006).

In accordance with Article 15 of the Convention, the Committee adopted its report, which will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers.

9. Other business (items for information only)

- Eco-corridor project

“The conservation of biodiversity in the Azov-Black Sea corridor”: from the Danube Delta to the Don Delta, more than 1,000 km of coastline, aiming to protect and recover nature, i.e. unique wetlands, very significant in sense of migratory birds, as well as endemic and relict sites for population and habitats.

The delegate of Ukraine presented the eco-corridor project which was funded by the GEF and the countries concerned.

He was concerned over the GEF decision to suspend work on the project, which was the fifth largest in Ukraine in the sphere of biodiversity;

The Standing Committee:

- took note of the information presented by the delegate of Ukraine;
- expressed its keen interest in the project geared to linkage of ecological and landscape elements;
- wished the project to be completed in keeping with the aims of the Bern Convention and more specifically with the setting up of the Emerald network.

- Bird flu

In reply to a question from the delegate of Burkina Faso as to whether the Council of Europe had a bird flu strategy, the Secretariat informed the Committee that this question was being dealt with by the organisation's public health sector.

The Chair stressed that the various conventions had already prepared specific recommendations on bird flu.

The Committee took note of this information, decided to monitor the impact of the recommendations within other bodies and asked the Bureau to remain very vigilant on this issue.

- Military antenna in the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus

The British authorities had sent the Secretariat a report on implementation of Recommendation No. 113 (2004) [document T-PVS/Files (2005) 20].

The delegate of Cyprus noted with interest the Bristol university study on the effect of electromagnetic emissions on human health, and asked that it be passed on to the Parties concerned.

The delegate of the United Kingdom told the Committee that he would present an updated report at the next meeting.

- Hydroelectric dams at Kárahnjúkar and Nordlingaalda (Iceland)

At the request of the delegate of the United Kingdom, the delegate of Iceland agreed to provide information on implementation of Recommendation No. 112 (2004).

The directive on the strategic environmental impact assessment was being discussed in Parliament.

The dam planned for Nordlingaalda (Thjorsaver) would not be built. The construction of the dam at Kárahnjúkar had been accompanied by mitigation measures, and monitoring had revealed results that were better than those forecast.

He stressed that pink-footed goose populations were increasing and plans for a national park were being studied.

He undertook to present a fuller report at the next meeting.

The Committee thanked the delegate of Iceland for this information.

- Presentation of reporting for obligations under the Habitats Directive and Bern Convention (HABIDES)

The delegate of the European Commission presented the system devised for collecting data on derogations to community directives, which was in its pilot phase.

Several delegations, including Germany and Belgium, stressed the usefulness of this exercise, which was intended to give uniformity to the different reports to be produced by the Contracting Parties.

The Committee expressed its interest in this attempt at harmonisation and administrative simplification.

It asked that the question be included on the agenda of its next meeting.

The delegate of the European Commission told the Committee that a full report would be prepared.

APPENDICES TO THE REPORT

- Appendix 1 List of participants
- Appendix 2 Agenda
- Appendix 3 Recommendation No. 114 (2005) on the control of the Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and other alien squirrels in Europe (appendix 3);
- Appendix 4 Recommendation No. 115 (2005) on the conservation and management of transboundary populations of large carnivores (appendix 4);
- Appendix 5 Recommendation No. 116 (2005) on the conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin (appendix 5);
- Appendix 6 Recommendation No. 117 (2005) the plan to set up a wind farm near the town of Balchik, on the Via Pontica route (Bulgaria) (appendix 6);
- Appendix 7 Recommendation No 118 (2005) on the protection of the Hermann tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*) in the Massif des Maures and Plaine des Maures localities (Var), France (appendix 7);
- Appendix 8 Programme of activities for 2006

Appendix 1**List of participants**

I. CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES CONTRACTANTES**ALBANIA / ALBANIE**

Mrs Elvana RAMAJ, Senior Expert, Nature Protection Directorate, Ministry of the Environment, Rruga e Durresit, No. 27, TIRANA.

Tel: +355 4 270 624. Fax: +355 4 270 627. E-mail: eramaj@hotmail.com (E)

AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Mr. Harald GROSS, Amt der Wiener Landesregierung, Magistratsabteilung 22 – Umweltschutz, Ebendorferstrasse 4, 1082 WIEN

Tel: +43 / 1 / 4000 88349. Fax: +43 / 1 / 4000 9988349. Email: gro@m22.magwien.gv.at (E)

AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN

Mr Faig SADIGOV, Lead Advisor, Division of International Cooperation, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, B. Aghayev Street 100 A, AZ-1073 BAKU.

Tel: +99 412 492 41 73 . Fax: +99 412 492 59 07. E-mail: faiq1975@mail.ru or azeri7@mail.az (E)

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

Mr Patrick DE WOLF, Ingénieur attaché à la Direction de la Nature, Division de la Nature et des Forêts, Ministère de la Région wallonne, 15, avenue Prince de Liège, B-5100 JAMBES (NAMUR).

Tel : +32 81 33 58 16. Fax : +32 81 33 58 22. E-mail : P.Dewolf@mrw.wallonie.be (F)

BULGARIA / BULGARIE

Mrs Rayna Hristoforova HARDALOVA, Expert d'Etat, Ministère de l'Environnement et des Eaux, 22 Maria Luiza Blvd., 1000 SOFIA.

Tel: +359 2 940 61 63. Fax: +359 2 980 96 41. E-mail: hardalovar@moew.government.bg (F)

BURKINA FASO / BURKINA FASO

Mr Guesrim GANSAORE, Contrôleur des Eaux et Forêts, Ministère de l'Environnement et du Cadre de Vie, Direction de la Faune et des Chasses, 03 – BP 7044 OUAGADOUGOU – 03.

Tel : +226 50 35 69 71 / 23. Fax : +226 50 35 82 43. E-mail : ggansaore@yahoo.fr (F)

CROATIA / CROATIE

Mrs Andrea ŠTEFAN, Expert Advisor, Nature Protection Directorate, Ministry of Culture, Runjaninova 2, 10 000 ZAGREB.

Tel: +385 1 48 66 124. Fax: +385 1 48 66 100. E-mail: andrea.stefan@min-kulture.hr (E)

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Mr Antonis ANTONIOU, Senior Environmental Officer, Environment Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, 1411 NICOSIA.

Tel.: +357 2 230 3888. Fax: + 357 2 277 4945. E-mail: mailto:rocperiv@cytanet.com.cy
aantoniou@environment.moa.gov.cy (E)

Mr Panayiotis PANAYIDES, Officer, Game Fund Service, Ministry of Interior, NICOSIA 1453.

Tel: 357 2 2867786. Fax: 357 22 867780. E-mail: wildlife.thira@cytanet.com.cy (E)

CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

Mrs Jana BROZOVA, Bern Convention National Focal Point, Department for the International Conservation of Biodiversity, Ministry of the Environment, Vrsoviccka 65, 100 10 Prague 10.

Tel: +420 267 122 375. Fax: +420 267 126 375. E-mail : Jana_Brozova@env.cz (E)

Mrs Barbora KAMINIECKA, National CITES Scientific Authority, Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic, Kališnická 4-6, 130 23 PRAGUE 3 ZIZKOV.

Tel: +420 283 069 250. Fax: +420 222 582 423. E-mail : barbora_kaminiecka@nature.cz (E)

DENMARK / DANEMARK

Mr Thomas BRUUN JESSEN, Head of section, Ministry of the Environment, Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Nature Division, Haraldsgade 53, DK-2100 COPENHAGEN Ø, Denmark

Tel. +45 3947 2000. E-mail: sns@sns.dk (E)

Mrs Ida SØNDERGAARD, Head of section, Ministry of the Environment, Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Nature Division, Haraldsgade 53, DK-2100 COPENHAGEN Ø, Denmark

Tel: +45 3947 2930 E-mail: ixs@sns.dk (E)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION / COMMISSION EUROPEENNE

Mrs Marie-Claude BLIN, Chef d'unité adjoint, DG ENV.B2, Nature & Biodiversity, European Commission, 100, rue de la Loi, B-1040 BRUSSELS / Belgium [Bureau : Avenue Beaulieu 9 03/184]

Tel.: +32 2 295 0270. Fax: +32 2 296 8824. E-mail: Marie-Claude.blin@cec.eu.int (E/F)

Mrs Ilona JEPSENA, Administrator, DG ENV.B2, Nature & Biodiversity, European Commission, 100, rue de la Loi, B-1040 BRUSSELS / Belgium [Bureau : Avenue Beaulieu 9 03/120]

Tel.: +32 2 296 9149. Fax: +32 2 299 08 95. E-mail: Ilona.jepsena@cec.eu.int (E)

FINLAND / FINLANDE

Mr. Seppo VUOLANTO, Counsellor, Biodiversity Land Use Department, Ministry of the Environment, PO Box 35, FIN-00023 GOVERNMENT, Finland.

Tel: +358 9 160 39 339. Fax: +358 9 160 39 364. E-mail: seppo.vuolanto@ymparisto.fi (E)

Mr Sami NIEMI, Senior Officer, Department of Fisheries and Game, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Mariankatu 23, Helsinki, P.O. Box 30, FIN-00023 Government Finland

Tel. +358 9 1605 3374. Fax. +358 9 1605 2284. e-mail: sami.niemi@mmm.fi (E)

[Postal address for year 2006: Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute , Viikinkaari 4, PO Box 2, 00791 HELSINKI, Finland. Tel: +358 205 751 327. Fax: +358 205 751 201. E-mail : sami.niemi@rktl.fi]

FRANCE / FRANCE

Mrs Véronique HERRENSCHMIDT (Présidente), Responsable de la mission internationale, Direction de la nature et des paysages, Ministère de l'écologie et du développement durable, 20, avenue de Ségur, F-75302 PARIS 07 SP

Tel : +33 142 19 19 48. . Fax : +33 142 19 19 06.

E-mail : veronique.herrenschmidt@environnement.gouv.fr (F)

Mr Patrice BLANCHET, Sous-Directeur de la Chasse, de la Faune et de la Flore sauvages, Direction de la nature et des paysages, Ministère de l'écologie et du développement durable, 20, avenue de Ségur, F-75302 PARIS 07 SP

Tel : +33 142 19 19 18. Fax : +33 142 19 19 30. E-mail : patrice.blanchet@ecologie.gouv.fr (F)

Mr Patrick HAFFNER, Expert Scientifique, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Unité Inventaire et suivi de la biodiversité, 57 rue Cuvier, 75231 PARIS Cedex 05.

Tel : +33 140 79 31 62. E-mail : haffner@mnhn.fr (F)

Mr. Michel PERRET, Chef de bureau de la faune et de la flore sauvage, Ministère de l'écologie et du développement durable, 20 avenue de Ségur, 75007 PARIS
tel: +33 142 19 18 69. Fax: +33 142 19 19 79. E-mail: michel.perret@ecologie.gouv.fr (F)

Mme Sabine MORAUD, Chargée de mission pour la faune sauvage, Direction de la nature et des paysages, Ministère de l'écologie et du développement durable, 20, avenue de Ségur, F-75302 PARIS 07 SP
Tel : +33 142 19 19 85 Fax : +33 142 19 19 30 E-mail : sabine.moraud@ecologie.gouv.fr (F)

Mme Martine BIGAN, Chargée de mission espèces marines, Direction de la nature et des paysages, Ministère de l'écologie et du développement durable, 20 avenue de Ségur, 75302 PARIS SP.
Tel : +33 142 19 18 70. Fax : +33 142 19 19 30. E-mail: Martine.bigan@environnement.gouv.fr (F)

Mr V. BENTATA, Chargé de mission amphibiens et reptiles, Direction de la nature et des paysages, Ministère de l'écologie et du développement durable, 20 avenue de Ségur, 75302 PARIS SP.
Tel : ... Fax : ... E-mail : ... (F)

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

Mr Oliver SCHALL, Head of Delegation, Bundesumweltministerium, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Robert-Schuman-Platz 3, D-53175 BONN
Tel: +49 1888 305 2632. Fax: +49 1888 305 2684. E-mail: Oliver.Schall@bmu.bund.de (E/F)

Mrs Edelgard VON HOUWALD, Member of Delegation, Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture, Referat 225, Rochusstrasse 1, Postfach 14 02 70, 53123 BONN
Tel: +49 1888 529 3616. Fax: +49 1888 529 3425.
E-mail: Edelgard.von-Houwald@bmvel.bund.de (E)

Mr Detlef SZYMANSKI, Bundesratsbeauftragter, c/o Hessisches Ministerium für Umwelt, Ländliches Raum und Verbraucherschutz, Hölderlinstr. 1- 3, 65187 WIESBADEN
Tel: +49 611 817 2306. Fax: +49 611 817 2185. E-mail: d.szymanski@hmulv.hessen.de (E)

HUNGARY / HONGRIE

Mr Zoltan CZIRAK, Counsellor, Ministry of Environment and Water, Division of international Treaties on Nature Conservation, Költö 21, H-1121 BUDAPEST
Tel: +36 1 391 1783. Fax: +36 1 275 4505. E-mail: czirak@mail.kvvm.hu (E)

Mrs Eva Anita Haaz, Counsellor, Ministry of Environment and Water, Division of international Treaties on Nature Conservation, Költö 21, H-1121 BUDAPEST
Tel: +36 1 391 1764. Fax: +36 1 275 4505. E-mail: haaz@mail.kvvm.hu (E)

ICELAND / ISLANDE

Dr Jón Gunnar OTTÓSSON, Director General, Icelandic Institute of Natural History, Hlemmur 3, 125 REYKJAVIK
Tel: +354 590 0500. Fax: +354 590 0595. E-mail: jgo@ni.is (E)

ITALY / ITALIE

Mr Pier Luigi FIORENTINO, Head of Division II – Flora and Fauna, Ministero dell'Ambiente et della Tutela del territorio, Via Capitan Bavastro 174, I-00154 ROMA.
Tel: +39 06 5722 8466. Fax: +39 06 5722 8468. E-mail : fiorentino.pl@minambiente.it (F)

Mr Felice CAPPELLUTI, Technical Officer, Dirigente Division Flora-Fauna, Direzione Protezione Natura, Ministero dell'Ambiente et della Tutela del territorio, Via Capitan Bavastro 174, I-00154 ROMA.
Tel. +39 06 5722 8403. Fax +39 06 5722 8468. E-mail : cappelluti.felice@minambiente.it (E)

Ms Chiara BRASCHI, Scientific Consultant, Direzione Protezione Natura, Ministero dell'Ambiente et della Tutela del territorio, Via Capitan Bavastro 174, I-00154 ROMA.

Tel : +39 06 5722 8404. Fax : +39 06 5722 8468. E-mail: braschi.chiara@minambiente.it (E)

Mr. Piero GENOVESI, Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica (National Wildlife Institute), Via Ca' Fornacetta 9 – I-40064 OZZANO EMILIA BO

Tel : +39 051 651 22 28. Fax: +39 051 79 66 28. E-mail: piero.genovesi@infs.it (E)

LATVIA / LETTONIE

Mr Vilnis BERNARDS, Head of Species and Habitats Conservation Division, Environmental Protection Department, Ministry of Environment of Latvia, Peldu Str. 25 LV-1494 RIGA

Tel: +371 7 026 524. Fax : +371 7 820 442 E-mail : vilnis.bernards@vidm.gov.lv (E)

LIECHTENSTEIN / LIECHTENSTEIN

Mr Michael FASEL, Head of Department, Amt für Wald, Natur und Landschaft (Office pour la forêt, la nature et le paysage), Dr. Grass-Strasse 10, FL-9490 VADUZ.

Tel / Fax: +423 236 6405. E-mail: michael.fasel@awnl.li (E)

LITHUANIA / LITUANIE

Mr Jonas AUGUSTAUSKAS, Chief Specialist, Biodiversity Division, Department of Nature Protection, Ministry of Environment, A. Jakšto Str. 4/9, LT-01105 VILNIUS.

Tel: +370 5 2663 548. Fax: +370 5 2663 663. E-mail : j.augustauskas@am.lt (E)

Mr Valerijus RAŠOMAVIČIUS, Director of the Institute of Botany, Head of the Laboratory of Flora and Geobotany, Zaliuju ezeru str. 49, LT-08406 VILNIUS.

Tel: +370 5 271 1618. Fax: +370° 5 272 9950. E-mail: floraval@botanika.lt (E)

Mr Dalius SUNGAILA, Chief Specialist, Protected Areas Strategy Division, Department of Nature Protection, Ministry of Environment, A. Jakšto Str. 4/9, LT-01105 VILNIUS.

Tel: +370 5 2663 566. Fax: +370 5 2663 663. E-mail : d.sungaila@am.lt (E)

Mr Dr. Povilas IVINSKIS, Head of Laboratory, Senior Researcher, Laboratory of entomology, Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University, Akademijos str. 2, LT-08412 VILNIUS.

Tel: +370 5 2729 280. Fax: +370 5 2729 257. E-mail : ivinskis@eko.lt (E)

Mr Eugenijus LEONAVIČIUS, Chief Desk Officer of Biological Diversity Division, Nature Protection Department, Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, A. Jakšto 4/9, LT-01105 VILNIUS

Tel : +370 52 663 550. Fax: +370 52 663 663. E-mail: e.leonavicius@am.lt (E)

MOLDOVA / MOLDOVA

Mrs Stela DRUCIOC, Superior Scientific Researcher, National Institute of Ecology, Ministry of the Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Moldova, 9, Cosmonautilor str. MD-2005 CHISINAU.

Tel: +373 22 20 45 30. Fax: +373 22 22 68 58. E-mail: biodiver@mediu.moldova.md; egreta@Mediu.moldova.md (F/E)

MONACO / MONACO

Mr Patrick VAN KLAVEREN, Délégué à l'Environnement International et Méditerranéen, Ministère d'Etat, Place de la Visitation, MC-98000 MONACO.

Tel : +377 93 15 81 48. Fax : +377 93 50 95 91. E-mail : pvanklaveren@gouv.mc

[Apologised for absence / Excusé]

Mr Rémi MORTIER, Représentant Permanent Adjoint de la Principauté de Monaco auprès du Conseil de l'Europe, 9 rue des Arquebusiers, 67000 STRASBOURG, France.

Tel : +33 390 22 97 50. Fax : +33 388 35 26 87. E-mail : rmortier@gouv.mc

THE NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS

Mr Stefan J.D. VERBUNT, Senior Policy Adviser, Department of Nature Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Willem Witsenplein 6, P.O. Box 20401, NL-2500 EK DEN HAAG

Tel: +31 70 378 47 36. Fax: +31 70 378 6146 E-mail: s.j.d.verbunt@minlnv.nl (E/F)

NORWAY / NORVEGE

Mr Jan ABRAHAMSEN, Special Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Post-box 8013 Dep., 0030 OSLO.

Tel: +47 22 24 58 50. E-mail: jan.abrahamsen@md.dep.no (E)

Mr Øystein STØRKERSEN, Senior Adviser, Directorate for Nature Management, Tungasletta 2, N-7485 TRONDHEIM

Tel: +47 73 58 05 00. Fax: +47 73 58 05 01. E-mail: oystein.storkersen@dirnat.no (E)

Mrs Elisabeth JERNQUIST, Legal Adviser, Directorate for Nature Management, Tungasletta 2, N-7485 TRONDHEIM

Tel: +47 73 58 05 00. Fax: +47 73 58 05 01. E-mail: elisabeth.jernqvist@dirnat.no (E)

POLAND / POLOGNE

Mr Ryszard ZAKRZEWSKI, Vice-Director, Department of Natura Conservation, Ministry of the Environment, Ul. Wawelska 52/54, 00-922 WARSAW

Tel: ... Fax: ... E-mail: ryszard.zakrzewski@mos.gov.pl (E)

Mrs Katarzyna TWARDOWSKA, Senior Specialist, Department of Natura Conservation, Ministry of the Environment, Ul. Wawelska 52/54, 00-922 WARSAW

Tel : ... Fax : ... E-mail : katarzyna.twardowska@mos.gov.pl (E)

Mr Adam JAWINSKI, Specialist, Department of Natura Conservation, Ministry of the Environment, Ul. Wawelska 52/54, 00-922 WARSAW

Tel: +48 22 57 92 734. Fax: +48 22 57 92 555. E-mail: adam.jawinski@mos.gov.pl (E)

Mr Tomasz ZAPAŚNIK, General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways, Ministry of Infrastructure, ul. Żelazna 59, 00-848 WARSZAWA

Tel: +48 22 375 87 16. Fax: +48 22 375 87 45. E-mail: tzapasnik@gddkia.gov.pl (E)

Mr Włodzimierz SUPERNAK, General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways, Ministry of Infrastructure, ul. Zwyciestwa 2, 15-703 BIALYSTOK

Tel/Fax: +48 85 651 35 03. E-mail: wsupernak@bialystok.gddkia.gov.pl (E)

Ms Katarzyna MARANDA, Head of Department for Environment, General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways, Ministry of Infrastructure, ul. Żelazna 59, 00-848 WARSZAWA

Tel. (022) 375-87-14. Fax. (022) 375-87-30. e-mail: kmaranda@gddkia.gov.pl (E)

PORTUGAL / PORTUGAL

Mrs Ana Isabel QUEIROZ, Biologist, Instituto da Conservação da Natureza, Rua de Santa Marta, 55°, 1050-294 LISBOA.

Tel : +351 21 351 0440. Fax : +351 21 357 4771. E-mail : aiqueiroz@portugalmail.pt (E/F)

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

Mrs Adriana BAZ, Directrice, Direction de la Conservation de la Biodiversité et de la biosécurité, Ministère de l'Environnement et de la gestion des Eaux, Bdl. Libertatii No. 12, sector 5, BUCAREST.

Tel/Fax : +40 21 316 0531. E-mail : adriana.baz@mmediu.ro (F)

Mr Ciprian POPA, Deputy Director, Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
14 Modrogan Street, District 1, BUCHAREST.
Tel: +40 21 319 21 99. Fax: +40 21 231 23 54. E-mail: ciprian.popa@mae.ro (E)

SENEGAL / SENEGAL

Colonel Mame Balla GUEYE, Directeur des Parcs Nationaux du Sénégal, Parc zoologique et
forestier de Hann – Dakar, B.P. 5135 DAKAR-FANN.
Tel : +221 832 23 09/ +221 561 01 02. Fax : +221 832 23 11. E-mail : dpn@sentoo.sn (E/F)

SLOVAKIA / SLOVAQUIE

Mrs Jana ZACHAROVÁ, Senior Advisor, Department of Nature and Landscape Protection,
Ministry of the Environment, Namestie L. Stura 1, 812 35 BRATISLAVA 1.
Tel: +421 2 5956 2211. Fax: +421 2 5956 2031. E-mail: zacharova.jana@enviro.gov.sk (E)

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

Mr Peter SKOBERNE, Under-Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning,
(Ministrstvo za okolje in Prostor) Dunajska 48, SI-1000 LJUBLJANA.
Tel: +386 1 309 45 62. Fax: +386 1 309 45 93. E-mail: peter.skoberne@gov.si (E)

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Mrs Barbara SOTO-LARGO, Assistance technique, Dirección General para la Biodiversidad,
Subdirección General de Vida Silvestre, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, c/ Gran Via de San
Francisco 4, E-28005 MADRID
Tel : +34 91 596 4658. Fax : +34 91 596 5510. E-mail : bslm@interlink.es (F)

SWEDEN / SUEDE

Mr Klas ALLANDER, Wildlife Management Officer, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency,
Blekholtsterrassen 36, SE-106 48 STOCKHOLM
Tel: +46-8-698 85 39. Fax: +46-8- 698 14 02. E-mail: Klas.Allander@naturvardsverket.se (E)

SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

Mrs E. MARENDAZ, Chef de la Division de la Gestion des espèces, Office fédéral de
l'environnement, des forêts et du paysage (DETEC), Papiermühlestrasse 172,
CH-3003 BERNE
Tel : +41 ... Fax : +41 ... E-mail :

Mr Reinhard SCHNIDRIG, Chef de la Section Faune sauvage et chasse, Division Gestion des
espèces, Office fédéral de l'environnement, des forêts et du paysage (DETEC), BUWAL
Papiermühlestrasse 172, CH-3003 BERNE
Tel : +41 31 323 03 07. Fax : +41 31 324 7866 E-mail : reinhard.schnidrig@buwal.admin.ch (F/E)

Mr Christoph JÄGGI, Section Faune sauvage et chasse, Division Gestion des espèces, Office fédéral
de l'environnement, des forêts et du paysage (DETEC), BUWAL Papiermühlestrasse 172,
CH-3003 BERNE
Tel : +41 31 324 78 49. Fax : +41 31 324 7866 E-mail : christoph.jaeggi@buwal.admin.ch (F)

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

Mr Aleksandar NASTOV, Head of Department of Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Drezdenska
52, 1000 SKOPJE
Tel.: +389 2 3066 930 ext.122. Fax: +389 2 3066 931. E-mail: a.nastov@moepp.gov.mk (E/F)

TUNISIA / TUNISIE

Mr Mohamed Ali BEN TEMESSEK, Chef du Service des Ressources biologiques, Direction générale de l'Environnement et de la Qualité de la Vie, Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement durable, Immeuble ICF Centre urbain nord, Cedex 1080 TUNIS

Tel: + 216 71 704 000. Fax: + 216 71 704 340/ 703 394. E-mail: mtemessek@yahoo.fr (F)

Mr Abdelhamid KAREM, Directeur de la conservation des forêts, Direction générale des forêts, Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Ressources hydrauliques, 30 rue Alain Savary, 1002 TUNIS

Tel: +216 71 891 497. Fax: +216 71 794 107. E-mail: abdelhamidkarem@yahoo.fr (F)

UKRAINE / UKRAINE

Dr Yaroslav MOVCHAN, Director, Directorate of Biotic, Land, Water Resources and Econet, Ministry of the Environment Protection, Uritskogo street, 35 of 515, 03035 KYIV.

Tel/Fax: +380 44 206 31 47. Fax: +380 44 206 31 53. E-mail: iar057@yahoo.com or bioangel@menr.gov.ua (E)

Mrs Antonina KARNANKHOVA, Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mykhailivska str. 1, 10018 KYIV-18.

Tel: +380 44 238 16 25. Fax : +380 44 238 18 83 E-mail: ukr_antonina@rambler.ru (E)

UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI

Mr John Louis ANGELL, Biodiversity Policy Unit, International Coordination Officer, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Kite Zone 1/10, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, BRISTOL BS1 6EB.

Tel: +44 1173 728 138. Fax: +44 1173 728 182. E-mail : john.angell@defra.gsi.gov.uk (E)

Mr Ian Grégory CLAYTON, Biodiversity Policy Officer, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Kite Zone 1/10, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, BRISTOL BS1 6EB.

Tel: +44 117 372 8628 Fax: +44 117 372 8182. E-mail: ian.clayton@defra.gsi.gov.uk (E)

Mr Jolyon THOMSON, Lawyer, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), 17 Smith Square, LONDON SW1P 3JR

Tel: +44 207 238 6245 Fax: +44 207 238 3398. E-mail: jolyon.h.thomson@defra.gsi.gov.uk (E)

Dr Stephen David GIBSON, International Advisor, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Monkstone House, City Road, GB PETERBOROUGH PE1 1JY.

Tel: +44 1733 866815 Fax: +44 1733 555948 E-mail: steve.gibson@jncc.gov.uk (E)

Mrs Jessica MAGNUS, Policy Advisor, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Monkstone House, City Road, GB PETERBOROUGH PE1 1JY.

Tel: +44 1733 866 856 Fax: +44 1733 555 948 E-mail: jessica.magnus@jncc.gov.uk (E)

Mrs Linda SMITH, Head of European and Non-Native Species Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Kite Zone 1/08c, Temple Quay House, The square, Temple Quay, BRISTOL BS1 6EB.

Tel: +44 117 372 8296 Fax: +44 117 372 8182 E-mail: linda.j.smith@defra.gsi.gov.uk (E)

II. MEMBER STATES NON CONTRACTING PARTIES / ETATS MEMBRES NON PARTIES CONTRACTANTES B

ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE****GEORGIA / GÉORGIE****RUSSIA / RUSSIE**

SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

III. OTHER STATES / AUTRES ÉTATS

HOLY SEE / SAINT SIEGE

Mr Jean-Pierre RIBAUT, 27 rue Rabié, F-33250 PAUILLAC, France.

Tel : +33 5 56 59 13 64. Fax : +33 5 56 59 68 80. E-mail: jeanpierreriibu@wanadoo.fr

(F)

IV. INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND SECRETARIATS OF CONVENTIONS / ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES ET SECRÉTARIATS DE CONVENTIONS

European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) / Organisation européenne et méditerranéenne de Protection des Plantes (OEPP)

Mrs Sarah BRUNEL, Scientific Officer « Invasive Alien Plants », 1 rue le Nôtre, 75016 PARIS, France.

Tel : +33 145 20 77 94. Fax : +33 142 24 89 43. E-mail : brunel@epo.fr

(E/F)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) / Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques (OCDE)

[Apologised for absence / Excusés]

Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbird (UNEP/AEWA) / Secrétariat de l'Accord sur la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie (UNEP/AEWA)

Mr. Sergey DERELIEV, Technical Officer, UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, Martin-Luther-King str. 8, 53175 Bonn, Germany

tel: +49-228-815-2415. fax: +49-228-815-2450. e-mail: sdereliev@unep.de

(E)

Mr. Florian KEIL, Information Officer, UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, Martin-Luther-King str. 8, 53175 Bonn, Germany

tel: +49-228-815-2415. fax: +49-228-815-2450. e-mail: fkeil@unep.de

(E°)

Secretariat of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (UNEP/CMS) / Secrétariat de la Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage (Bonn) (PNUE/CMS)

Mr Andreas STREIT, see UNEP/EUROBATS

Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe (EUROBATS) / Secrétariat de l'Accord sur la conservation des chauves-souris en Europe (EUROBATS)

Mr Andreas STREIT, Executive Secretary, UNEP/EUROBATS, CMS Secretariat, United Nations Premises in Bonn, Martin-Luther-King Str. 8, D-53175 BONN, Germany.

Tel: +49 228 815 2420. Fax: +49 228 815 2445. E-mail: astreit@eurobats.org

(E)

Ms Dessislava KRUEGER, Expert, UNEP/EUROBATS, CMS Secretariat, United Nations Premises in Bonn, Martin-Luther-King Str. 8, D-53175 BONN, Germany.

Tel: ... Fax: ... E-mail: ...

Secretariat of the Protocol concerning Mediterranean specially protected areas / Secrétariat du Protocole relatif aux aires spécialement protégées de la Méditerranée (Geneva / Genève)

United Nations Environment Programme – Mediterranean Action Plan

Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) – Tunis / Centre d'activités régionales pour les aires spécialement protégées (CAR/ASP)

Mr Abderrahman GANNOUN, Director, CAR/ASP, Boulevard du leader Yasser Arafat, BP 337, 1080 TUNIS, Tunisia

Tel : +216 71 206 649 / 71 206485 Fax : +216 71 206 490 E-mail : gannoun.abderrahmen@rac-spa.org

(F)

V. OTHER ORGANISATIONS / AUTRES ORGANISATIONS

Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) / Société royale pour la protection des Oiseaux (RSPB) - BirdLife International

Ms Nicola J CROCKFORD, European Treaties Adviser, The RSPB - BirdLife in the UK,
UK Headquarters, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)1767 680551 Fax: +44 (0)1767 683211 nicola.crockford@rspb.org.uk www.rspb.org.uk

Dr. Nikolai PETKOV, Director of Conservation, BSPB / BirdLife Bulgaria, P.O. Box 50, BG-1111 Sofia, Bulgaria

Tel :: +359 2 971 58 56. Fax: +359 2 971 58 56. E-mail: nicky.petkov@bspb.org, www.bspb.org

Mr Andrey Nikolaev KOVATCHEV, Expert, BALKANI Wildlife Society, 8 Dragan Tzankov blvd, SOFIA 1421, Bulgaria

Tel: +359 887 788 218 Fax: +359 2 9633193. E-mail: akovatchev@balkani.org, www.balkani.org

Professor Radi RADEV, President, Ecoforum Association, SOFIA 1114, PO Box 6, Bulgaria.

Tel/Fax: +359 2 705379. E-mail: radev@mgu.bg

Federation of Associations for hunting and conservation of the EU (FACE)

Mr Jochen SIEGRIST, Deputy Secretary-General, FACE, Rue F. Pelletier 82, B-1030 BRUXELLES, Belgique.

Tel: ... Fax: ... E-mail: conservation@face-europe.org, (E)

Mr Manuel ESPARRAGO, Legal Affairs Officer, FACE, Rue F. Pelletier 82, B-1030 BRUXELLES, Belgique.

Tel : +32 2 732 69 00. Fax : +32 2 732 70 72. E-mail : publicaffairs@face-europe.org (E)

France Nature Environnement

Mr Christian HOSY, chargé de mission de France Nature Environnement, Réseau Nature de France Nature Environnement, 8, rue Adèle Riton - 67000 STRASBOURG, France

Tél : +33 388 32 91 14. Fax : +33 388 22 31 74. Email : nature@fne.asso.fr (F)

Mme Stéphanie MORELLE, chargée de mission de France Nature Environnement, Réseau Nature de France Nature Environnement, 8, rue Adèle Riton - 67000 STRASBOURG, France

Tél : +33 388 32 91 14. Fax : +33 388 22 31 74. Email : nature@fne.asso.fr (F)

Il Nibbio – Antonio Bana's Foundation for research on ornithological migration and environmental protection / Il Nibbio – Fondation Antonio Bana pour la recherche des migrations ornithologiques et la protection de l'environnement

Mr Giovanni BANA, President, Via Sant Antonio 11, I-20122 MILANO, Italy.

Tel: +39 02 58304902. Fax: +39 02 58305005. E-mail: fein@nibbio.org. <http://www.nibbio.org> (E)

Dr Massimo MARRACCI, Via Sant Antonio 11, I-20122 MILANO, Italy.

Tel : ... Fax : ... E-mail : fein@nibbio.org (E)

International Association for Falconry & Conservation of Birds of Prey / Association internationale de la fauconnerie et de la conservation des oiseaux de proie

Dr Robert Eyres KENWARD, Director for Technology Transfer, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Winfrith Technology Centre, Dorchester, DT2 8ZD, United Kingdom.

Tel: +44 1305 213 606. Fax: +44 1305 213 600. E-mail: reke@ceh.ac.uk (E)

Mr Christian de COUNE, Expert, Le Cochetay, Thier des Forges, 85, B-4140 GOMZE ANDOUMONT, Belgium.

Tel : +32 476 46 1424. Fax: +32 4368 40 15. E-mail: christian.decoune@belgacom.net (F/E)

Journées européennes du Cortinaire - European Council for Conservation of Fungi (ECCF)

Mr Jean-Paul KOUNE, Expert, 27 rue du Commandant François, F-67100 STRASBOURG.

Tel : +33 3 88 39 67 76. E-mail : j.p.koune@wanadoo.fr (F)

Large Herbivore Foundation / Fondation en faveur des grands herbivores

[Apologised for absence / Excusés]

Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe – WWF / Initiative en faveur des grands carnivores en Europe – WWF (LCIE-WWF)

Mr Urs BREITENMOSER, Swiss Rabies Centre, Institute of Veterinary Virology, University of Bern, Laenggass-Str. 122, CH-3012 BERN / Switzerland.

Tel: +41 (631) 2378. Fax: +41 (631) 2534. E-mail: breitenmoser@ivv.unibe.ch (E)

Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET) / Association méditerranéenne pour sauver les tortues marines (MEDASSET)

Mrs Lily-Thérèse VENIZELOS, President, 1c Licavitou St., 106 72 ATHENS, Greece.

[c/o 24 Park Towers, 2 Brick St., LONDON W1J 7DD, United Kingdom.]

Tel: +30 210 361 3572 and +2103640389. Fax: +30 210 361 3572. E-mail: medasset@hol.gr
<http://www.euroturtle.org> <http://www.medasset.org>. <http://www.medasset.gr> (E/F)

Dr. Max KASPAREK, MEDASSET's Scientific Advisor, Moenchhofstr. 16, D-69120 HEIDELBERG, Germany

Tel.: 0049 6221 475069. Fax: 0049 6221471858. E-mail: Kasperek@t-online.de (E)

National Society for Nature Protection (SNPN) (France) / Société nationale de protection de la nature (SNPN) (France)

Mr Alain ZECCHINI, administrateur, Société nationale de protection de la nature, 9 rue Cels, F-75014 PARIS, France

Tel : +33 1 45 81 42 18. Fax : +33 145 81 42 18. E-mail : a-zecchini@club-internet.fr (F)

Pro Natura - Swiss League for Nature Protection / Pro Natura – Ligue suisse pour la protection de la nature

Mrs Brigit WYSS, Projektleiterin Umweltrecht, Abt.Politik und Internationales, Pro Natura, Dornacherstrasse 192, Postfach, CH-4018 BALE, Switzerland.

Tél: +41 (0) 61 317 92 41. Fax : +41 (0) 61 317 92 66. E-mail: brigit.wyss@pronatura.ch (E)
<http://www.pronatura.ch>

Sauvegarde Faune Sauvage (France-Alsace et Est de la France)

Mr Jean-Paul BURGET, Président, Sauvegarde Faune Sauvage, 23, rue du Limousin, F-68270 WITTENHEIM / France.

Tel : +33 389 57 92 22. Fax : +33 389 57 92 22. E-mail: sauvegarde-faune-sauvage@voila.fr (F)

Mrs Julie LEDIT, Chargée de mission, Sauvegarde Faune Sauvage, 23, rue du Limousin, F-68270 WITTENHEIM / France.

Tel : +33 389 57 92 22. Fax : +33 389 57 92 22. E-mail: ledit.julie@voila.fr (F)

Société française pour le droit à l'environnement (SFDE)

Mr Durousseau Michel, Vice-président, Université Robert Schuman, 11 rue du Maréchal Juin - B.P. 68, 67046 STRASBOURG CEDEX

Tél : +33.3.88.14.30.42 Fax : +33.3.88.14.30.44 E-mail : sfde@urs.u-strasbg.fr (F)

SOPTOM, Village des tortues

Mr Alain ZECCHINI, Administrateur, S.O.P.T.O.M., B.P.24, 83590 GONFARON

Tel: +33 494 78 26 41 Fax: +33 494 78 24 27 E-mail : a-zecchini@club-internet.fr (F)

Study, Research and Conservation Centre for the Environment in Alsace / Centre d'Etudes, de Recherches et de Protection de l'Environnement en Alsace (CERPEA)

Mr Gérard BAUMGART, Président, 12, Rue de Touraine, 67100 STRASBOURG, France.

Tel : +33 388 39 42 74. Fax : +33 388 39 42 74. E-mail : baumgart@noos.fr (F)

Dr Guy HILDWEIN, Expert de l'association, 1, Avenue d'Alsace, 67000 STRASBOURG, France.

Terra Cypria (Cyprus Conservation Foundation)

Mrs Artemis YIORDAMLI, Executive Director, P.O. Box 50257,3602 LIMASSOL, Cyprus.

Tel: +357 25 358 632. Fax: +357 25 352 657. E-mail : ccf@globalsoftmail.com (E)

Mr Adrian AKERS-DOUGLAS, Director, P.O. Box 50257, 3602 LIMASSOL, Cyprus.

Tel: +357 25 369 475. Fax: +357 25 352 657. E-mail: ccf@globalsoftmail.com (E)

Mr Costas OROUNTIOTIS, Deputy Director, P.O. Box 50257, 3602 LIMASSOL, Cyprus.

Tel: +357 25 358632. Fax: +357 25 352 657 E-mail: corountiotis@terracypria.org (E)

World Wide Fund for Nature / Fonds mondial pour la nature (WWF France)

Mr Stéphane RINGUET, Chargé de programme TRAFFIC, WWF France, Bois de Boulogne, 1, carrefour de Longchamp, 75016 Paris, France.

Tel : ... Fax : ... E-mail : (F)

Mrs Jacqueline MAIN, Membre du WWF France, Interprète de conférence

Mr Hervé LETHIER, Le Belvédère, Chemin de l'Observatoire, CH-1264 SAINT-CERGUE, Switzerland.

Tel: +41 (22) 360 12 34. E-mail: herve.lethier@wanadoo.fr (F)

Mrs Edith WENGER, Freshwater Policy Officer WWF Allemagne, Bleichstrasse 2, D-76437 RASTATT, Germany.

Tél. +49 7222 77489 14. e.mail : wenger@wwf.de (E/F)

VI. CONSULTANTS / EXPERTS CONSULTANTS

Mr Guy BERTHOUD, ECONAT, Rue du Nord, 1, CH-1400 YVERDON-LES-BAINS, Suisse.

Tél. +41 24/425'92'63. Fax +41 24/426'20'63. E-mail: econat@bluewin.ch (F)

Dr Jürg BLOESCH, President of IAD , Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG), Ueberlandstrasse 133, CH-8600 DÜBENDORF, Switzerland.

Or Stauffacherstr. 159, CH-8004 Zürich, Switzerland.

Tél.: +41-44-823.51.88. Fax: +41-44-823.53.98. E-mail: bloesch@eawag.ch (E)

Mr Guy JARRY, Directeur adjoint du Centre de recherches sur la biologie des populations d'oiseaux (CRBPO), Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, 55 rue Buffon, F-75005 PARIS, France.

Tel : +33 140 79 30 78. Fax : +33 140 79 38 35. E-mail: jarry@mnhn.fr (F)

Mr Marc ROEKAERTS, Ringlaan 57, B-3530 HOUTHALEN, Belgium.

Tel : +32 11 60 42 34. Fax : +32 11 60 24 59. E-mail : marc.roekaerts@eureko.be (E/F)

Mrs Clare SHINE, Consultant in Environmental Policy and Law, 37 rue Erlanger, 75016 PARIS, France.

Tel: +33 146 51 90 10. E-mail: clare.shine@wanadoo.fr (E/F)

Professor Michael B USHER, c/o School of Biological & Environmental Sciences, University of Stirling, STIRLING FK9 4LA, United Kingdom.

Tel: +44 (0) 1786 466552. Fax: +44 (0) 1786 467843. e-mail: m.b.usher@stir.ac.uk

VII. INTERPRETERS / INTERPRETES

Mrs Ingrid CATTON-CONTY, 26, rue de l'Yvette, F-75016 PARIS, France.
Tel: +33 1 45 44 22 52. Fax: +33 1 40 50 04 22. E-mail: ingrid.catton@wanadoo.fr

Mrs Starr PIROT, Chemin des Mollards, CH-1261 St. GEORGE, Suisse.
Tel : +41 22 368 20 67. Fax: +41 (22) 368 20 73. E-mail: spirot@dellmail.com

Mr William VALK, 2, rue des Jardins, Duntzenheim, F-67270 HOCHFELDEN, France.
Tel: +33 3 88 70 59 02. Fax: +33 3 88 70 50 98. E-mail: william.valk@wanadoo.fr

Interprètes allemandes :

Ms Angelika HAARKAMP, Federal Ministry for the Environment Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Robert Schuman Platz 3, 53175 BONN
Te : +49 1888 305-2287. Fax : +... . E-mail : Angelika.Haarkamp@bmu.bund.de

Ms Enken TADSEN-DUCH, Federal Ministry for the Environment Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Alexanderplatz 6, 10178 BERLIN.
Tel: +49 1888 305-2282. Fax: +49 1888 305-2289. E-mail: Enken.Tadsen-Duch@bmu.bund.de

VIII. COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Directorate of Culture and of Cultural and Natural Heritage / Direction de la Culture et du Patrimoine culturel et naturel, F-67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX, France
Tel : +33 3 88 41 20 00. Fax : +33 3 88 41 37 51

Mrs Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI, General Director / Directeur Général, Directorate General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport / Direction générale Education, Culture et Patrimoine, Jeunesse et Sport
Tel: +33 3 88 41 22 35. E-mail:

Mr Eladio FERNÁNDEZ-GALIANO
Tel : +33 3 88 41 22 59 Fax : +33 3 88 41 37 51 E-mail : eladio.fernandez-galiano@coe.int

Mrs Elda MORENO, Head of the Natural Heritage Division / Chef de la Division du Patrimoine naturel
Tel: +33 3 88 22 62. Fax: +33 3 88 41 37 51. E-mail : elda.moreno@coe.int

Mrs Françoise BAUER, Principal administrative assistant / Assistante administrative principale, Natural Heritage and Biological Diversity Division / Division du Patrimoine naturel et de la Diversité biologique
Tel : +33 3 88 41 22 61. Fax : +33 3 88 41 37 51. E-mail : francoise.bauer@coe.int

Mrs Hélène BOUGUessa, Principal administrative assistant / Assistante administrative principale, Natural Heritage and Biological Diversity Division / Division du Patrimoine naturel et de la Diversité biologique
Tel : +33 3 88 41 22 64. Fax : +33 3 88 41 37 51. E-mail : helene.bouguessa@coe.int

Mrs Véronique de CUSSAC, Natural Heritage and Biological Diversity Division / Division du Patrimoine naturel et de la Diversité biologique
Tel : +33 3 88 41 34 76 Fax : +33 3 88 41 37 51. E-mail : veronique.decussac@coe.int

Appendix 2

AGENDA

PART I – OPENING

1. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
2. **Chairman's report and communications from the delegations and from the Secretariat**

PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS

3. **Monitoring of the implementation of the legal aspects of the Convention**
 - 3.1 Amendments: Swiss proposal to pass *Canis lupus* from Appendix II to Appendix III
 - 3.2 Biennial reports 2003-2004 concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 and quadriennial reports 2001-2004

*** Items for information:**

- T-PVS/Inf (2005) 5 Implementation of the Bern Convention in Hungary
- T-PVS (2005) 5 and 12 Bureau Reports
- T-PVS/Inf (2005) 6, 7, 10 Biennial and General Reports

PART III – MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

4. **Monitoring of Species and Habitats**
 - 4.1 Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species
 - 4.2 Large Carnivores: Seminar on management of transboundary populations. Information on LCIE activities
 - 4.3 Climatic change and biological diversity
 - 4.4 Action plan for European sturgeon and Danube sturgeons
 - 4.5 Habitats: setting up of ecological networks: Emerald Network progress
 - 4.6 Possible elaboration of a European Charter on Hunting

*** Items for information:**

- T-PVS/Inf (2005) 11 Windfarms and wildlife – Report of open-ended group
- T-PVS (2005) 6 Group of Specialists for a European Strategy on Invertebrates
- T-PVS (2005) 8 2nd Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles

PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

5. **Specific sites and populations**
 - 5.1. Files
 - Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus)
 - Project to build a motorway through the Kresna Gorge (Bulgaria) [Rec. N. 98 (2002)]
 - Ukraine: building of a navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary (Danube delta)
 - 5.2 Possible Files
 - France: Conservation of the Hermann turtle in the plaine des Maures
 - 5.3 On-the-spot appraisals
 - Bulgaria: Windfarm in the Balchik area – Via Pontica

5.4 Follow-up of selected recommendations from previous meetings

- Recommendation No. 107 (2003) on the Odelouca dam (Portugal)
- Recommendation no. 108 (2003) on the proposed construction of the “Via Baltica” (Poland)

* Items for information:

Catching, killing or trading of protected birds in Cyprus

PART V – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

6. Strategic development of the Convention

- 6.1 Council of Europe Summit
- 6.2 Amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee to enlarge its Bureau
- 6.3 Draft Programme of Activities for 2006
- 6.4 States to be invited as observers to the 26th meeting

PART VI- OTHER ITEMS

7. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

8. Date and place of the 26th meeting, adoption of the report

9. Other business (items for information only)

- Reporting for obligations under Habitats Directive and Bern Convention (HABIDES)

Appendix 3



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 114 (2005) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 1st December 2005, on the control of the Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and other alien squirrels in Europe

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling Recommendation No. 78 (1999) of the Standing Committee on the conservation of the Red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) in Italy;

Recalling Recommendation No. 99 (2003) of the Standing Committee on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species;

Noting that the Grey squirrel has established a population in the wild in the Ticino valley and surrounding areas;

Noting that the Grey squirrel is likely to further spread in the next decades over a large part of Europe, causing both economic damage to forests and also impacts to other native biological diversity, including damage to forest species and changes of biocenoses, and that its spread will probably lead to the extinction of many populations of the native Red squirrel,

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. encourage international and national institutions to support and fund further studies into the impacts on forests, Red squirrels and other biological diversity caused by the Grey squirrel and into efficient control measures;
2. request Parties to apply measures preventing the introduction of alien squirrel species addressing relevant pathways such as trade and tourism; to be particularly attentive to detect new introductions in order to apply justified and species specific rapid interventions, such as eradication, especially in the very early stages of introduction;

Further recommends that Italy:

3. urge the authorities of the Ticino valley, in particular the Ticino park, to start without delay an eradication programme on the Grey squirrel, following the guidelines developed by the *Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica* (INFS) and the Italian Ministry of Environment, so as to prevent its expansion to Switzerland and other neighbouring states.

Appendix 4



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 115 (2005) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 1st December 2005, on the conservation and management of transboundary populations of large carnivores

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Wishing to promote co-existence of viable populations of large carnivores with sustained development of rural areas in appropriate regions;

Aware that the drafting and implementation of Action plans may be a useful tool to redress the situation;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the drafting and implementation of Action plans of wild fauna species;

Recalling its following Recommendations:

- Recommendation No. 74 (1999) on the conservation of large carnivores;
- Recommendation No. 82 (2000) on urgent measures concerning the implementation of Action plans for large carnivores in Europe;
- Recommendation No. 89 (2001) on the conservation of the European lynx in the Alps;
- Recommendation No. 94 (2002) on urgent measures for the conservation of the Iberian lynx;
- Recommendation No. 100 (2003) on the conservation of large carnivores in the Carpathians;
- Recommendation No. 101 (2003) on the implementation of the Pan-Alpine Conservation Strategy for Lynx (PACS);

Considering that some co-ordinated Action plans, such as the Pan-Alpine Conservation Strategy for Lynx are excellent examples of how states can co-operate to survey and manage a threatened population;

Wishing to see more co-ordination between states in the conservation and management of transboundary populations of large carnivores;

Considering these Action plans as guidelines for competent national authorities;

Recommends that Contracting Parties to the Convention:

1. co-operate on and share information relating to the conservation and management of transboundary populations of large carnivores, including as appropriate the consideration of jointly drafting and implementing (or, if necessary, re-enforcing) Action plans for transboundary populations of large carnivores;
2. engage in this work with neighbouring states not yet Parties to the Convention where appropriate;

3. implement any of such Action plans for transboundary populations through the harmonisation and co-ordination, when appropriate, of existing national action plans;
4. consider the populations listed in the appendix as some potential candidates for further action in the context of this recommendation.

Appendix

- Bear in the Alps;
- Lynx in the Alps (re-inforcing of PACS);
- Bear, wolf and lynx in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland;
- Bear, wolf and lynx in Finland, Norway and Sweden;
- Bear, wolf and lynx in the Carpathians;
- Wolf in France, Italy and Switzerland;
- Bear, lynx and wolf in the Dinaric-Pindos Range;
- Lynx in the Balkans
- Iberian lynx (re-inforcing of co-operation for captive breeding and re-introduction),
- Lion (*Felis leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) in the National Park of Niokolo Koba (Senegal) and Mali.

Appendix 5



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 116 (2005) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 1st December 2005, on the conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Further having regard to the aims of the Bucharest Convention and Framework Carpathian Convention;

Noting that Danube sturgeons form a unique and interesting biological group;

Noting that the six species of sturgeons in the Danube Basin are very threatened at the world level;

Desirous to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe;

Aware that the drafting and implementation of Action Plans may be a useful tool to redress the situation;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 41 (1993) on the protection of freshwater fish;

Referring to the Action Plan for the conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin, proposed by many scientific and conservation groups [document T-PVS/Inf (2005) 12];

Desirous of taking prompt action for the conservation of sturgeons in the Danube River Basin;

Considering this action plan as guidelines for competent national authorities,

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites Observer States to consider drafting and implementing (or, if appropriate, reinforcing) national Action Plans in the Danube River Basin for the species listed in the Appendix to the recommendation, and to take note, in that context, of the above-mentioned Action Plan.

**Appendix: List of species covered by this recommendation
(concerning the Danube River Basin)**

Acipenser gueldenstaedti Brandt, 1833

Acipenser nudiventris Lovetsky, 1828

Acipenser ruthenus Linnaeus, 1758

Acipenser stellatus Pallas, 1771

Acipenser sturio Linnaeus, 1758

Huso huso Linnaeus, 1758

Appendix 6



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 117 (2005) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 1st December 2005, on the plan to set up a wind farm near the town of Balchik and other wind farm developments, on the Via Pontica route (Bulgaria)

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Pointing out that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Convention calls on the Parties to give particular emphasis to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species;

Pointing out that, in pursuance of Article 3, paragraph 2, of the Convention, “Each Contracting Party undertakes, in its planning and development policies and in its measures against pollution, to have regard to the conservation of wild flora and fauna”;

Recalling that Article 4 of the Convention stipulates that “Each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats”;

Recalling that Article 4 of the Convention also stipulates that “The Contracting Parties in their planning and development policies shall have regard to the conservation requirements of the areas protected under the preceding paragraph, so as to avoid or minimize as far as possible any deterioration of such areas”;

Recalling that Article 4 of the Convention further stipulates that “The Contracting Parties undertake to give special attention to the protection of areas that are of importance for the migratory species specified in Appendices II and III and which are appropriately situated in relation to migration routes, as wintering, staging, feeding, breeding or moulting areas”;

Referring to the other provisions of the Convention relating to the protection of habitats and the conservation of species;

Recognising the value of wind power in the fight against climate change, and welcoming that the Bulgarian Government has opted to follow this path;

Recognising the value of SEA/EIA and policy guidance for providing certainty for investment by industry and protection for the environment, including biodiversity, and therefore in respect of wind farms contributing to sustainable development;

Drawing attention to its Recommendation No 109 (2004) on minimizing adverse effects of wind power generation on wildlife;

Referring to Birdlife International’s report: “Wind farms and Birds: an analysis of the effects of wind farms on birds, and guidance on environmental assessment criteria and site selection issues” [document T-PVS/Inf (2003) 12];

Recognising the importance of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast as a part of the Via Pontica migration route of major global importance for birds breeding in at least 17 European countries;

Aware that within this area there are a number of key areas where migrating birds concentrate and the siting of wind farms in these locations is likely to be particularly problematic;

Further aware that the first instance of a wind farm development along this coast will set a precedent for future developments;

Referring to Mr Guy Jarry's report (document T-PVS/Files (2005) 8) on the proposed wind farm at Balchik, in Bulgaria, drawn up following a meeting with the Bulgarian authorities and a site visit and its concern that risks to a number of groups of migratory and resident species may be significant;

Noting with concern that the report found that the scientific work carried out within the framework of the EIA on the Balchik wind farm, was greatly insufficient, and for some aspects completely lacking with consequential absence of understanding of the impact of the proposed wind farm;

Further noting with concern its findings as to the inadequacy of the evaluation report and the supplementary report which informed the decision-taking process;

Aware that information from NGOs was available for consideration as part of the scientific analysis to address some of the insufficiencies in the EIA;

Emphasising the need, before any decision within the SEA and EIA processes is taken, to carry out sufficiently thorough and detailed studies to inform the selection of wind farm sites;

Considering that the site between Balchik and Albena is important to the implementation of the Emerald/Natura 2000 Networks;

Recommends the Bulgarian Government to:

1. Reconsider its decision to approve the proposed windfarm in Balchik taking into account its potential impact on wildlife and its obligations under the Convention;
2. Undertake a strategic environmental assessment of Bulgaria's programme or plan for harnessing wind power, taking the greatest account, inter alia, of the risk of cumulative effects from different projects and other threats and adopt best practice in these respects, including a precautionary approach;
3. Involve and takes account of the views, information, data and reports provided by scientific institutions and NGOs in the above process including results of research and identifying sensitive areas in relation to windfarms in the Black Sea coast;
4. As a consequence of the above, set out, for the benefit of industry, civil society and others as appropriate, its expectations for the future development of wind power development in Bulgaria;
5. Develop and use guidance on undertaking EIA screening and project assessment, including cumulative impacts and consideration of alternative locations, taking account of existing guidance such as the CMS Resolution 7.5 and report T-PVS/Inf (2003) 12 by BirdLife International's and published by the Bern Convention: "Windfarms and Birds: An analysis of the effects of windfarms on birds, and guidance on environmental assessment criteria and site selection issues" and potential Emerald /Natura 2000 Network sites;
6. Involve and take account of the views, information, data and reports provided by scientific institutions and NGOs in undertaking future EIAs;
7. Apply the approach described above to other proposed windfarm developments in the Black Sea coast.

Appendix 7



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 118 (2005) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 1st December 2005, on protection of the Hermann tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*) in the Massif des Maures and Plaine des Maures localities (Var), France

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Having regard to Resolution (78) 22 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on threatened amphibians and reptiles in Europe;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 26 (1991) on the conservation of some threatened reptiles in Europe, recommending that *“the French Government protect as a nature reserve the habitat of Testudo hermanni hermanni in the Massif and the Plaine des Maures, thus removing further threats from development”*;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the drafting and implementation of action plans for threatened wild fauna species;

Recalling its Guidelines of 1993 to be taken into account in recovery plans for species of amphibians and reptiles;

Recalling that Article 3 of the Convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take the necessary steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild flora, wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Referring to the other provisions of the Convention relating to protection of habitats and conservation of species;

Taking into consideration Mr Guy Berthoud’s report drawn up after his on-the-spot appraisal [T-PVS/Files (2005) 13];

Recalling that the Plaine des Maures locality in the *département* of Var, France, comprises not only an exceptional site for the preservation of the Hermann tortoise, a strictly protected species listed in Appendix II to the Convention, but that the plain and the Massif des Maures also constitute, together with a small population in Spain, the last European retention site for continental populations of the species;

Considering that the transformation and destruction of the specific habitats constitute the most fundamental threat to which the species is exposed;

Considering that the plan to extend the Balançon waste storage centre entails risks of irreversibly destroying wide areas of scrubland and grazing land hospitable to several animal and plant species as well as various biotopes to which the Habitats Directive applies;

Referring to the firm undertakings made by the French Government in 1997 to ensure the protection of the species by initiating, in particular, a Public Interest Programme (PIG) procedure for the establishment of a nature reserve;

Observing that in the meantime several schemes (golf links, urban build-up, clearance of vegetation for grape-growing, extension of refuse tips, etc.) which have been allowed to go ahead without proper control or co-ordination by the administrative authority have irreversibly impaired wide expanses of vital habitats for the tortoises and numerous protected species;

Noting that despite the measures taken, the aforesaid procedure has failed to achieve all the stated objectives through lack of ambition (the designated Natura 2000 zone covers only 60% of the zones with good levels of tortoise population density) and delay in the constitution of the nature reserve;

Considering that the nature reserve project, ready to be lodged, which has already been extensively negotiated with the municipalities concerned, may indeed fulfil legal criteria and the Habitats Directive in particular but lacks coherence from the ecological standpoint;

Noting that the protection concept envisaged only marginally takes account of the evolutive dynamics of the species, its unique and distinctly anthropogenic habitats, the local biocenoses which are very rich in protected species, and above all the scope for preserving adequate interactions between numerous population nuclei already considerably dispersed by human activities and the general transformation of the landscape;

Stressing the need to take the additional measures warranted by the conservation requirements of the species and to adopt a more comprehensive new approach to the problems,

Recommends that the French Government:

1. couple the procedure of classifying the main Natura 2000 sites as a nature reserve with a more global management concept for the landscape areas concerned by the presence of the Hermann tortoise, as part of arrangements for managing the extension zone;
2. bring under a common Natura 2000 type management programme all the natural habitats used by the species, including those which do not fully correspond to the selective criteria of Natura 2000 habitats;
3. provide technical and financial incentives for maintaining the anthropogenic habitats created particularly by traditional farming, grazing and forestry activities where these further the aims of preserving the species;
4. apply most particularly to this case the principle of ecological coherence laid down in Article 3 of the Habitats Directive, insofar as a flagship species, several heritage species and a complex of habitats unique in Europe are simultaneously involved;
5. analyse and then manage, according to a global concept of specific ecological networks designated as “Réseau Tortue des Maures”, the entire existing and potential range of the species which forms an extensive patchwork of habitats in the Maures plain and massif and is already seriously fragmented by urbanisation, transport infrastructures and various developments;
6. identify clearly when defining the specific ecological network for the Hermann tortoise the core zones (or retention zones) as primary zones of the network, and the extension zones, development zones and connecting corridors as secondary zones, so as to arrive at a graded classification for the utilisation and management of the area concerned;
7. incorporate the human activities compatible with the presence of the species into the general management of its habitats and of its specific network, determining by consensus the appropriate for each zone type and their distribution in time and space;

8. prohibit in principle any plans, programmes and projects injurious to the species and its habitats except in cases where only the secondary components of the specific network are affected in ways that can be reversed and compensated by appropriate measures generally enhancing the quality of the specific habitat and not interfering with the dynamics of the existing populations;
9. set up a programme to remedy the fragmentation of the tortoise habitat over the full potential range of extension; this should take in the entire network of transport routes, determining the development constraints for new infrastructure schemes and defining a rationalisation programme for the existing road system;
10. set up a scientific programme to monitor the dynamics of the residual populations and the potential habitats of the tortoises so that a periodic appraisal of the situation in the Maures plain and massif can be established;
11. reject the new application for extension of the Balançon waste storage centre as it stands. Because of the time required to find a feasible alternative solution, a project strictly limited to the volumes corresponding to that time span and located on the least ecologically important lands might be an option worth considering, but the French authorities would need in that case to give their solemn assurance that this would be the last authorisation on this site and that they had taken the necessary steps to protect the species and habitats concerned. They would also have to demonstrate that the remedial measures stipulated were capable of offsetting the ecological losses caused by the project. Any consideration of this last extension would then imperatively have to fit into an overall plan for the protection of the whole Plaine des Maures site;
12. implement the recovery plan for the Hermann tortoise awaited since 1994;
13. release adequate financial resources for the provision of suitable management.

Appendix 8

Activities for 2006

in Euro

1. Monitoring of the legal application of the Convention	
<p>1.1. Reports on the implementation of the Convention in one Contracting Party and legal assistance to new Contracting Parties</p> <p>The report will make a legal analysis of the implementation of the Convention in one Contracting Party, suggesting way to improve such implementation and adapt it to the provisions of the Convention (for new Parties).</p> <p>Fixed appropriation for consultant</p>	6,000
2. Conservation of natural habitats	
<p>2.1. Group of experts for the setting up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 day</p> <p><i>Terms of reference</i></p> <p>To do the necessary work to implement Recommendation No. 16 (1989) on areas of special conservation interest. The group will review the technical documents prepared by the experts and make proposals to build up the Emerald Network.</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each 22 states: ALBANIA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, GEORGIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, MOLDOVA, MONACO, MOROCCO, ROMANIA, RUSSIA, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, SLOVAKIA, "THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA", TUNISIA, TURKEY, UKRAINE</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses for 1 consultant</p>	15,500 1,000
<p>2.2. Pilot projects for the setting-up of the Emerald Network at national level in some states</p> <p>Financial contribution for the setting-up of the Network in 2 States</p>	22,000
<p>2.3. Consultants</p> <p>Consultants will be hired to manage the setting-up of the Emerald Network and to do the necessary technical work required, included software, lists, handling of data, etc.</p>	10,000
3. Monitoring of species and encouraging conservation action	
<p>3.1. Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>- 2 Workshops to support states drafting national strategies on invasive alien species</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Kyiv, Zagreb)</p> <p>With the help of national authorities, workshops will be organised with national and international experts, that may provide guidance on the elaboration of national strategies on invasive alien species.</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses of experts, consultants fees</p>	16,000
<p>-Follow-up of the implementation of the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS)</p> <p>Appropriation for consultant and technical meetings</p>	4,000

<p>3.2. Invertebrate Conservation</p>	
<p>- Group of Experts on Conservation of Invertebrates</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Strasbourg: 2 days</p>	
<p><i>Terms of reference:</i></p>	
<p>The Group of Experts will finalise the European Strategy for Invertebrate conservation, aimed at identifying priority action by states.</p>	
<p>Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert of each of the following 16 States: ALBANIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, IRELAND, LITHYANIA, NORWAY, POLAND, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY.</p>	13,000
<p><i>Participants:</i></p>	
<p>All Contracting Parties</p>	
<p><i>Observers:</i></p>	
<p>All observer states and qualified organisations active in this field</p>	
<p>- Task force Strategy on Invertebrates</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Strasbourg: 1 day</p>	4,000
<p>Travel and subsistence expenses of 6 experts</p>	
<p>3.3. Large Carnivores and Large Herbivores</p>	
<p>These activities are carried out in co-operation with LCIE and LHI. Within the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe, a number of regional working groups have been established to monitor implementation of European action plans.</p>	4,000
<p>Consultants and co-ordination meetings</p>	
<p>3.4. Plant Conservation</p>	
<p>In co-operation with Planta Europa, implementation of a European Strategy on Plant Conservation.</p>	4,000
<p>Consultants</p>	
<p>3.5. Conservation of amphibians and reptiles</p>	
<p>- Group of Experts on the Conservation of amphibians and reptiles</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Strasbourg: 2 days</p>	
<p><i>Terms of reference</i></p>	
<p>To revise current problems on herpetile conservation and to suggest adequate action.</p>	
<p>Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert of each of the following 12 States: AZERBAIJAN, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, LATVIA, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, UKRAINE.</p>	10,000
<p><i>Participants:</i></p>	
<p>All Contracting Parties</p>	
<p><i>Observers:</i></p>	
<p>All observer states and qualified organisations active in this field</p>	.
<p>Travel and subsistence expenses of 3 experts</p>	2,000
<p>- Contribution to International Symposium on marine turtles (Travel grants for participants)</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">(Greece): 3 days</p>	3,000

<p>3.6. Conservation of fish</p> <p>- Elaboration of an Action plan on the European Sturgeon</p> <p><i>Terms of reference</i></p> <p>To draft an Action Plan on the European sturgeon (<i>Acipenser sturio</i>) in collaboration with the Bonn Convention, the European Union and appropriate NGOs and experts.</p> <p>Expenses for meeting and consultants (part of this funds depend on specific voluntary contributions)</p>	10,000
<p>4. Sectorial policies and biodiversity conservation</p>	
<p>4.1 Wind energy and biodiversity</p> <p>Contribution to wind energy and nature conservation ad hoc group (Brussels): 2 meetings, 1 day</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses of experts</p> <p>4.2 Elaboration of a Charter on Hunting and Biological Diversity</p> <p><i>Terms of reference:</i></p> <p>To draft a Charter on Hunting and Biological Diversity.</p> <p>Consultant fees and meetings</p> <p>4.3 Climatic change and biological diversity</p> <p>A select Group of specialists from states that volunteer to participate will meet to examine existing work on this field, make proposals for possible Bern Convention future work (including the setting-up of an expert group in 2007) and revise the draft recommendation (possible hosting and co-organisation of this group by the United Kingdom).</p>	<p>6,000</p> <p>20,000</p> <p>p.m.</p>
<p>5. Monitoring of sites and populations at risk and Emergencies</p>	
<p>5.1. On-the-spot visits</p> <p>On-the-spot visits, by independent experts designated by the Secretary General to examine threatened habitats and travel and subsistence expenses incurred by such experts to inform the Standing Committee or its groups of experts</p> <p>5.2. Sites at risk as a result of an emergency</p> <p>Fixed appropriation to cover expenses for reports, travelling of experts or Secretariat to areas under a particular environmental stress as a result of natural catastrophes or accidents caused by man. It includes assistance to areas under political or military conflict. It may cover training of specialists, aid to establish environmental monitoring. This chapter will be only used under instruction of the Bureau and will be paid both from Council of Europe or by voluntary contributions</p> <p>Fixed appropriation for consultant</p>	<p>4,500</p> <p>p.m.</p>
<p>6. Awareness and visibility</p>	
<p>Funds for the conception, the translation, the photocomposition and publication of technical documents, posters, brochures, stickers, postcards, making of buttons, other documents. It includes publication in Internet and conception and update of a Website.</p>	20,000

7. Operational expenditure of the Standing Committee's Secretariat	
Fixed appropriation to cover travel expenses to attend the meetings of the Standing Committee and of the Bureau.	.
7.1. Chairman's expenses	
Fixed appropriation to cover travel and/or subsistence expenses incurred by the Chairman or delegate T-PVS after consultation with the Secretary General.	p.m
Expenses of the Chairman to attend the meetings of the Standing Committee	
7.2. Delegates of African states and of some delegates of Central and Eastern Europe	
Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by the delegates of African states to attend the Standing Committee meeting or other meetings organised under its responsibility	7,500
Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by some delegates from Contracting Parties of Central and Eastern Europe (on a temporary basis and after decision of the Bureau) to attend the Standing Committee	8,500
7.3. Travels of experts and Secretariat	
Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by experts to attend meetings of special relevance under instruction from the Committee or the Chairman and Secretariat official journeys	12,000
7.4. Meetings of the Bureau	
Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by the three members of the Bureau to attend the Bureau meetings	8,000
7.5. Full-time secretary	40,000
TOTAL	251,000

Bern Convention Programme of Activities and Budget for 2006 (Summary)

in Euro

1. Monitoring of the legal application of the Convention	
1.1. Report on the implementation of the Convention in two Contracting Parties	6,000
2. Conservation of natural habitats	
2.1. Group of experts for the setting up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest	16,500
2.2. Pilot projects for the setting-up of the Emerald Network at national level in some states	22,000
2.3. Consultants	10,000
3. Monitoring of species and encouraging conservation action	
3.1. Invasive Alien Species	20,000
3.2. Invertebrate Conservation	17,000
3.3. Large Carnivores	4,000
3.4. Plant Conservation	4,000
3.5. Amphibians and Reptiles	15,000
3.6 Fish	10,000
4. Sectorial policies and biodiversity conservation	
4.1 Wind energy and biodiversity	6,000
4.2 Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity	20,000
4.3 Climatic change and biological diversity	p.m.
5. Monitoring of sites and populations at risk: Emergencies	
5.1. On-the-spot visits	4,500
5.2. Sites at risk as a result of an emergency	p.m.
6. Awareness and visibility	
	20,000
7. Operational expenditure of the Standing Committee's Secretariat	
7.1. Chairman's expenses	p.m.
7.2. Delegates of African states and of some delegates of Central and Eastern Europe	16,000
7.3. Travels of experts and Secretariat	12,000
7.4. Meetings of the Bureau	8,000
7.5. Full-time secretary	40,000
TOTAL	251,000