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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

44th meeting
Strasbourg, 2 – 6 December 2024

**Group of Specialists on the European Diploma
for Protected Areas**

20-21 February 2024

Strasbourg, France

CONCEPT NOTE
60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA

*Document prepared by the
Secretariat of the Bern Convention*

1. BACKGROUND

The environment is under extreme pressure. We face a triple planetary crisis of pollution, loss of biodiversity, and the terrible advance of climate change, caused by human activity. The multiplication and intensification of extreme events result directly or indirectly from human activity. All of this underlines the need for urgent climate action.

The 4th Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government in Reykjavík¹ underlined the importance of urgent, coordinated action and acknowledged that human rights and the environment are intertwined.

Moreover, European leaders recognised that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is essential to the full enjoyment of those rights.

The 60th anniversary of the creation of the European Diploma for Protected Areas will be celebrated in 2025 and will be an opportunity to showcase the role of protected areas for mitigating the effects of climate change and contributing to the protection of biodiversity.

2. PROPOSED CELEBRATORY ACTIVITIES

It is proposed that the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the European Diploma consists in the following activities:

Updated Publication on the European Diploma

Revision of the [publication](#) published at the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the European Diploma with a new focus on the achievements of the European Diploma in 60 years of existence. A dedicated chapter should not only stress the added value of the European Diploma but also emphasize the contribution of the European Diploma to the follow up of the 4th Summit of the Council of Europe.

Celebratory event

Organisation of an event in 2025 aiming to define the role and contribution of the European Diploma to the follow up of the 4th Summit of the Council of Europe and to the Vision for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 and its related strategic plan.

The event would bring together the managers of the Diploma holding areas and focus on transversal topics common to all Diploma holding areas such as climate change, the touristic pressure, the development of green energy infrastructures within or in the vicinity of Diploma holding areas.

The celebratory event would be organised back-to-back with the annual meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas. The event will be organised at the invitation of the Spanish authorities at the Sierra Nevada National Park.

Considering that the European Diploma is an award of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Secretary General could be involved and open the event.

Communication campaign

Organisation of a communication campaign, focusing on the importance of the European Diploma for human wellbeing and how it contributes to human rights' protection and to safeguard nature for the benefit of future generations.

¹ Reykjavík Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the 4th Council of Europe Summit, Reykjavík, Iceland, 16-17 May 2023.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSION ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF EUROPEAN DIPLOMA

The Group of Specialists on the European Diploma is invited to discuss the proposed celebratory activities and to advise the Secretariat on their planning throughout 2025.