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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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

5-6 March 2019

Strasbourg, Agora building, Room G 05

**EXTRACT FROM THE LIST OF DECISIONS AND ADOPTED  
TEXTS ON THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED  
AREAS, AT THE 38TH MEETING OF THE STANDING  
COMMITTEE OF THE BERN CONVENTION**

*Document prepared by  
the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

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## **5.6.2. European Diploma for Protected Areas**

### **a. Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas**

The Standing Committee took note of the outcomes of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas and Ecological Networks and in particular:

- the development of a dashboard bringing together the annual reports, the on-the-spot appraisal reports and the Resolutions of the Diploma holding areas in order to ensure transparency and visibility and facilitate the monitoring processes;
- the development of a scoring mechanism assessing the compliance of the Diploma holding areas with their annual reporting obligations;
- The update of the Diploma holding areas database with a view to make them visible on the Common Database of Protected Areas (CDDA) and the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA).

The Standing committee welcomed the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of renewal Resolutions of the European Diploma to 20 areas in July 2018.

### **b. Diploma holding areas requiring specific attention**

The Standing Committee took note of the decision of the management authorities of the National Park of Ecrins (France) not to apply for the renewal of the European Diploma and mandated the Secretariat and the Group of Specialists to explore ways to raise awareness about the added value of the European Diploma, the complementarity of multiple certifications and to assess the different area's needs in this respect.

The Standing Committee also took note of the non-renewal of the European Diploma to the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park (Germany/Luxembourg) in 2018, resulting from the impossibility to reach an agreement with the areas' authorities on an on-the-spot appraisal visit in 2017. The Committee welcomed the readiness of the management authorities to host an on-the-spot appraisal visit in 2019, with a view to assess the opportunity to renew the European Diploma to the area in 2020;

The Standing Committee finally took note of the difficulties the Luneburger Heath Nature Reserve (Germany) faces with the implementation of the recommendations attached to the renewal of European Diploma.