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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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

18-19 March 2020

Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe, Room 17

**EXTRACT FROM THE LIST OF DECISIONS AND ADOPTED
TEXTS ON THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED
AREAS, AT THE 39TH MEETING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE OF THE BERN CONVENTION**

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

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5.5.2. European Diploma for Protected Areas

Relevant documents: T-PVS/DE(2019)13 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the EDPA
T-PVS/DE(2019)20 - EDPA: List of renewal resolutions adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2019
T-PVS/DE(2019)19 - Renewal of the European Diploma in 2021: List of areas which could be visited in 2020

The Standing Committee took note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists.

The Committee welcomed the application of the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato (Italy) and the decision of the Group of Specialists to consider the application admissible and to carry out an on-the-spot appraisal visit to the area.

The Standing Committee expressed its concern regarding the situation of the Scandola Nature Reserve (France) and the absence of reaction from the regional and national authorities following the ultimatum addressed by the Group of Specialists. It welcomed the commitment of the French Delegate to provide in writing an update of the situation in reply to the letter of the Secretariat of 5 April 2019.

The Standing Committee further welcomed the decisions of the Group of Specialists to renew the European Diploma to eleven areas and the subsequent formal adoption of the renewal Resolutions by the Committee of Ministers and took note of the seventeen on-the-spot appraisal visits carried out in 2019 and of the lists of areas which are pending on-the-spot appraisal visits in 2020. It further noted the request of the Dutch Delegate that when the conditions attached to draft renewal Resolutions concern political issues, the terms of these conditions are discussed at adequate political level with the authorities of the countries concerned before the draft Resolutions are sent for formal adoption to the Committee of Ministers.

The Committee welcomed the update of the database of European Diploma holding areas which will result in the display of the European Diploma holding areas in the World Database on Protected Areas and the launch of the dashboard of the European Diploma holding areas which contributes to improved monitoring and increased visibility.

The Standing Committee welcomed the mapping of the multiple designations detained by the European Diploma holding areas and the resulting opportunity for seeking monitoring synergies and mandated the Secretariat to pursue the negotiations with UNESCO's World Heritage Center for agreeing on a Memorandum of Cooperation.