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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee
46th meeting
Strasbourg, 7-11 December 2026

Bureau of the Standing Committee
7-9 April 2026
Strasbourg

Open File: 1995/06

Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus)

-GOVERNMENT REPORT-

*Document prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture,
Rural Development and Environment, Republic of Cyprus*



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
1498 LEFKOSIA

9th March, 2026

URGENT – VIA EMAIL

Mrs. Grazia Alessandra Siino
Secretary of the Bern Convention
Council of Europe

Dear Mrs. Siino,

Complaint No. 1995/6: case-file open on “Cyprus: Akamas Peninsula”

Referring to your letter dated 19.12.2022 regarding the aforementioned subject we would like to express our content for the acknowledgement to the efforts of the Cyprus Government towards the protection of the turtles and of Akamas.

Regarding the declaration of the whole of the Akamas peninsula as a national park or as a protected area, as it has been debated and explained both in our reports and during the SC meetings, it is considered that the designated Natura 2000 area, along with the National Forest Park (enclosing 80% of the Natura 2000 site) is adequate for achieving our goals towards protecting the habitats and species and meeting our legal obligations under relevant EU law.

The Natura 2000 area of Akamas, has a Management Plan in place, and although is not legally binding, the competent authorities implement conservation and monitoring actions continuously. Additionally, as was also mentioned in our last report, the area will have a Ministerial Decree that establishes management plans, conservation objectives and measures by the end of 2026.

With regards to the referral of Cyprus to the Court of Justice of the EU for failing to designate SCIs as SACs and for failing to establish conservation objectives and measures for these sites, it is noted that all 37 SCIs have been designated as SACs and by the end of 2026 all of them will have conservation objectives and measures established.



The Sustainable Development Plan for the Akamas Forest Park does not include activities and developments (i.e upgrade of the road network), but it does include improvements of the road network to accommodate the use of the area as a National Forest Park. These improvements have been appropriately assessed and an AA report was issued. As the works progressed some adjustments were made to further decrease the environmental impact of the improvements.

Illegal activities, including the illegal removal of protective poles preventing vehicle access to the beaches, are unfortunately continuing, however the competent authorities take all necessary and timely measures to alleviate the threats and ensure protection of the nesting beaches. As was communicated in previous reports, rangers from the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research patrol the nesting beaches regularly to ensure nests are not disturbed in any way.

As far as the possible need for the expansion of the quarry adjacent to the Natura 2000 area in Androlikou gorges, all relevant procedures set out by Union law for appropriate assessment will be followed before any decisions are made.

The SC and the Bureau will be kept updated on any progress made.

We take this opportunity to assure you of the efforts undertaken by the Government of Cyprus to protect the Akamas area and its habitats and species.

Sincerely,



Despo Zavrou
for Deputy Director

