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Strasbourg 4 December 1992
APESZ45A.93
0504-10/12/92-1-E

PE-S-ZP (93) 45
addendum

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL HABITATS (CDPE)

Group of Specialists - Protected Areas

1-4 February 1993

APPLICATION FOR THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA

Mercantour National Park
(France)

Addendum - expert's report

presented by

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MERCANTOUR NATIONAL PARK

On-the-spot appraisal

ADDENDUM

On 20 October 1992, the expert was able to meet Mr P Le Meignen, Deputy Director of the Mercantour National Park, on the premises of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. This meeting proved useful as a certain number of points could be cleared up. In particular, it transpired that the technical nature of the visit by the Council of Europe delegation had not perhaps been fully appreciated by the Park management. Not everyone who might have shed light on certain aspects of the park's management (forestry methods, system of grazing) was available for consultation when the on-the-spot appraisal took place.

The documents promised by Mr Le Meignen eventually arrived at the end of November 1992; they prove that the Park had shown an active interest in these questions. The documents are the following:

- "La Politique de Recherche dans le Parc National du Mercantour", by J Claudin, report, October 1991 - 21 pp + appendices
- "Formations Pâturées d'Altitude", undated, inter-park brochure, 28 pp.
- "Note de synthèse sur le pastoralisme dans le vallon du Lauzanier", January 1992, 5 pp.
- "Bilan de l'utilisation des alpages de Trottes, la Boulière et Mortis" by M Lambertin, report, February 1990, 22 pp.
- "La Gestion Forestière au sein des Espaces Naturels Protégés" by P Le Meignen, extract, October 1992.

The meeting with the Deputy Director and examination of these extra documents reveal that the Park:

1. possesses a sizeable collection of studies and research works relating to the natural habitat and its management;
2. intends to draw up a development plan as soon as possible.

There remains, however, an unknown factor: the relations between the management and the park staff which could influence the quality of future management of the Park.

The expert, therefore, feels he is not in a position to recommend that the European Diploma be awarded and suggests that the Group of Specialists on Protected Areas should assess this point in particular.

The following recommendations should accompany the European Diploma, if awarded:

1. during the five years for which the Diploma would be valid, a development plan for the protected area should be drawn up and applied;
2. consultation between the various partners working on the Park should be improved, with the aim of managing the forestry, fishing and grazing activities in a way that is more in keeping with the objectives of protecting the natural habitat.

Moreover, **one condition** for the award of the European Diploma might be that the protected area should not be affected directly or indirectly by the proposed transalpine motorway link.

1 December 1992

A Froment