



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate D - Natural Capital
ENV.D.3 - Nature Protection



DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF DEMOCRACY
BERN CONVENTION



**To the delegates of Habitats & ORNIS Committee
&
National Focal Points of Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention**

This note aims to clarify the use of the on-line tool Habides+ in reporting on exceptions granted under Article 9 of the Bern Convention and thus improve the streamlining of this reporting procedure with the reporting on derogations under Article 16 of the Habitats and Article 9 of the Birds Directives of the EU.

Habides+¹ is a tool developed by the European Environment Agency (EEA) for reporting of derogations under the Birds and Habitats Directives and exceptions under the Bern Convention. The Habides+ tool allows producing comprehensive reports covering both obligations. It is freely accessible through Internet, requires no login or password, and it works with all main browsers.

The European Commission's DG ENV and the Secretariat of the Bern Convention have met in May 2018 and after a hands-on session on Habides+, agreed that the tool fully meets the reporting obligations of the Bern Convention. Therefore, DG ENV recommends that EU Member States submit their reports in the Habides+ format to EEA's reportnet system in order to fulfil their reporting obligations under the Bern Convention. Both DG ENV and the Secretariat of the Bern Convention will receive the reports automatically from EEA's reportnet system.

Furthermore, DG ENV invited the Bern Convention Secretariat to contribute to development of the planned EU-wide online search interface that will allow to access and view the information reported in the Habides+ format in a user friendly way. This tool could be possibly expanded to include non-EU Parties to the Bern Convention, provided they also report in the same format (i.e. Habides+). Specifications for the search interface will be discussed with the EEA by end 2018.

Delegates of the Habitats & ORNIS Committee and national focal points to the Bern Convention are requested to take note of the above information.

Nicola Notaro
Head of Unit, ENV.D.3

Iva Obretenova
Secretary of the Bern Convention

Cc: Stefan Leiner, András Demeter ENV.D.2 - Biodiversity

¹ Habides+ manual: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/cfc38522-bd5e-4237-af4b-37928504ee87>