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T-PVS(2018)Misc

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

38th meeting
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2018

Opening of the meeting: 9:30am, Tuesday 27 November 2018, Room AGORA G3

**LIST OF DECISIONS
AND ADOPTED TEXTS**

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

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PART I – OPENING

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Agenda(2018)1 - Draft agenda
T-PVS(2018)12 – Draft annotated agenda

The Standing Committee was opened by its Chair, Mr Øystein Størkersen, and Mr Gianluca Silvestrini, Head of the Major Hazards and Environment Division.

The agenda was adopted with no amendments.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DELEGATIONS AND FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2018)4 and 8 - Reports of the Bureau meetings in March and September 2018
T-PVS(2017)29 – Report of the 37th Standing Committee meeting

The Standing Committee noted the reports of the 37th Standing Committee meeting and of the two meetings of the Bureau to the Standing Committee for 2018.

The delegate of the UK informed the Committee of his country's intention to keep being a global leader in environmental policy, protecting and restoring nature. He further informed that the UK sites which are currently part of the EU's Natura 2000 Network will continue as the UK's contribution to the Emerald network after the UK leaves the EU.

3. FINANCING OF THE BERN CONVENTION AND ITS FUTURE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Future financing and development of the Bern Convention

Relevant document: T-PVS(2018)6 – Concept Paper on the financial mechanism of the Bern Convention
T-PVS(2018)15 - Additional discussion paper on Agenda item 3.1

The Standing Committee warmly acknowledged the voluntary contributions provided so far by many Contracting Parties, but regretted that not all Parties could adhere to this commitment over the last years. In light of the current serious financial constraints of the Convention and the new readiness of some Parties to even increase their voluntary contributions, the Standing Committee called upon all Contracting Parties to review their past contributions with the aim to secure the future joint financing of the work under the Convention.

The Standing Committee noted with great concern the continuous issues facing the Convention in terms of financing, the constant decreases in the Convention's allocation from the Council of Europe's ordinary budget and the further cuts expected over the next three-year period of downsizing of the Organisation's activities.

The financial challenges that the Convention faces provide an opportunity for Contracting Parties to agree on a vision for the future of the Bern Convention.

The Standing Committee invited an inter-sessional working group to articulate this vision of the Convention's role amongst other MEAs. This should explain the unique value that the Convention adds and can develop in the future.

The Standing Committee decided, as immediate measures, to instruct the Secretariat:

- to seek savings as described in paragraph 4 (page 7) of document T-PVS (2012) 8, as relates to the support to Contracting Parties for attending Standing Committee meetings and for the production of reports;
- to change the modus operandi of thematic Groups of Experts, through a stronger focus on the elaboration of documents and studies, including through consultancies and to consequently reduce the need for face-to-face meetings. The Secretariat will use its discretion, in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee, to decide when and if there is a need to have broad Contracting Party attendance in said Groups of Experts.

- to actively request funding of expenses for meetings hosted by Parties, this includes support towards the attendance of other Contracting Parties and expenses incurred on the development of studies and documents for the meetings;
- to prioritise the continued funding of the Emerald Network and the case-files system to continue the collaboration with relevant EU institutions and agencies, such as the Commission, the European Environment Agency and the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity ETC/BD;
- to use the Convention reserve as deemed necessary, after presenting a plan for withdrawal from the reserve to the Bureau, for approval.

The Standing Committee further decided, in view of ensuring a stable, sufficient, predictable, long-lasting and fair future financial mechanism for the Convention, to instruct the Secretariat in collaboration with the inter-sessional working group which will operate through electronic means:

- to develop a Resolution on the financing of the Convention with a scale of a financial contribution by the Contracting Parties based on a minimum and a maximum level. The criteria used for the development of the scale will be developed by the inter-sessional working group;
- to prepare in parallel a document clarifying various options as regards financing of the Convention including the legal aspects of the development of an additional Protocol or agreement to the Convention. The document should discuss the benefits and risks of the various options;
- to present the above-mentioned Resolution, together with the parallel above-mentioned document, at least two-month before the 39th meeting of the Standing Committee in order to be considered at this meeting.

3.2 40th anniversary of the signature of the Bern Convention - 2019

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf(2018)7 – Proposed activities to mark the 40th anniversary of the signature of the Bern Convention (2019)

The Committee decided that the Secretariat should follow and implement scenario 1 of proposed celebratory events and activities to mark the 40th anniversary of the Bern Convention. It further agreed that the opportunity to organise an event to mark the occasion and to work on the Bern Convention's contribution to the current and future post-2020 global biodiversity framework is to be considered, pending available financial resources.

PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS

4. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION

4.1 Biennial reports 2013-2014, 2015-2016 concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 and quadrennial reports 2009 – 2012 and 2013 - 2016¹

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf 2018)9 – Summary tables of reporting under the Bern Convention
T-PVS/Inf(2018)14 – Registered users to the ORS System
Joint Note from the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and DG Environment on reporting under Article 9 of the Bern Convention

The Standing Committee noted the derogations' reports submitted by Parties for the period 2015-2016 and welcomed the information provided in the Joint Note on reporting under Article 9. The Committee further noted that from 2019 onwards, Contracting Parties which are EU member states can submit one and single report for both EU Nature Directives and Bern Convention derogation/exceptions purposes, through the Habides + reporting tool.

Last coordination points regarding the EEA Reportnet space where reports have to be deposited and notifications to the Secretariat on their submission are to be discussed by the Secretariat, DG Environment and the European Environment Agency. A clarification on available space for reporting on Appendix III species for the Bern Convention has to be provided as well.

4.2 Proposal for amendment of the Convention's Appendices: Proposal for moving the wolf (*Canis lupus*) from Appendix II to Appendix III of the Bern Convention

Relevant document: Notification of the amendment proposal by Switzerland from the Treaty Office of the Council of Europe, including the justification of the proposal

The proposed amendment was not put to a vote as the Chair noted that many Parties were not ready to take a position.

Switzerland announced that they wished to return to the proposed amendment on the wolf at a future meeting, once relevant reports under both the Bern Convention (Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the conservation status of species and habitats) and the EU (Reporting under Articles 17 of the Habitats Directive) are finalised and analysed

4.3 Proposal for amendment of the Convention's Appendices: Proposal for moving the Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) from Appendix II to Appendix III of the Bern Convention

Relevant document: Notification of the amendment proposal by Norway from the Treaty Office of the Council of Europe, including the justification of the proposal

The proposed amendment was not put to a vote as the Chair noted that many Parties were not ready to take a position.

The delegate of Norway informed that the country will revert to the proposal again at an upcoming meeting of the Standing Committee.

¹ For information only, unless otherwise requested

PART III – MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

NB Delegations are kindly reminded that only written statements will be included in the report of the meeting.

5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

5.1 Invasive Alien Species

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2018)14 - Report of the Expert meeting on the eradication of the ruddy duck
T-PVS(2018)5 - Report of the meeting of the Select Group of Experts on IAS

a. Expert Meeting on the implementation of the Action Plan for the eradication of ruddy duck in Europe

The Standing Committee took note of the report of the Expert meeting and recognised the efforts of all Parties working towards the implementation of the Action Plan for the eradication of the ruddy duck in the Western Palearctic endorsed in its Recommendation No. 149 (2010). It further noted with appreciation that the recently launched LIFE project on the issue in France could bring the Bern Convention Action Plan to completion and wished France every success in its implementation.

b. Report of the meeting on the Select Group of Experts on IAS

The Standing Committee took note of the report of the meeting of the Select Group of Experts on IAS and of the progress in the development of the two guidance documents for the upcoming meeting of the full Group of Experts on the issue, one on e-commerce and IAS and one on communication and IAS.

It further noted the proposal of the Group to create a dedicated select Group of Experts to work on the issue of wildlife pathogens from alien species, but decided that such a Group should be created pending the availability of funding.

5.2 Biodiversity and Climate change

a. Analysis of the needs and opportunities for future work of the Bern Convention on management of protected areas from climate change perspective

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf(2018)4 - Management of protected areas from climate change perspective: Questionnaire for Bern Convention Contracting Parties and Partners
T-PVS/Inf(2018)12 - Report on the survey on climate change and protected areas
T-PVS/Inf(2018)8 - Management of protected areas from climate change perspective: Replies to the

The Standing Committee took note of the analysis of the replies to the questionnaire aimed at assessing gaps and needs of Contracting Parties in implementing climate adaptive management in protected areas at pan-European level.

The Standing Committee agreed on the proposal to explore, during the joint meeting of the Groups of Experts on Climate Change and on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks planned for 2019, how the suggestions of Parties could result in useful outputs for strengthening climate change adaptive management of protected areas.

The Committee also welcomed the decision of Norway to host the joint meeting of the Groups of Experts.

b. Opportunities for cooperation between the Bern Convention and EUR-OPA on climate related issues

The Standing Committee took note of the findings of the study on cooperation opportunities between the Bern Convention and EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement and in particular on the issues of environment-based adaptation and nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction.

The Committee instructed the Secretariat to circulate the study to both the Convention Contracting Parties and the Permanent representatives of EUR-OPA member states, in order to collect delegates' comments and proposals on the niche issues and activities on which both instruments can bring an added value through a reinforced collaboration.

The results of the study should be considered at the Joint meeting of the Convention's Groups of Experts on Climate Change and Protected Areas.

5.3 Conservation of large carnivores

Relevant document: T-PVS(2018)7 - Draft Recommendation on the use of artificial feeding as a management tool of large carnivore populations and their prey, with a particular emphasis on the brown bear

a. Report of the 2018 meeting of the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe

The Standing Committee thanked the LCIE for their important work on large carnivore conservation and noted that artificial feeding of the species is a recognised problem across Europe which needs careful management and regulation.

b. Draft Recommendation on artificial feeding of large carnivores

The Standing Committee examined and adopted, without amendment, the following Recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 198 (2018) on the use of artificial feeding as a management tool of large carnivore populations and their prey, with a particular emphasis on the brown bear

5.4 Eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf(2018)13 - List of countries reporting on the Scoreboard 2018
T-PVS/Inf(2018)3 - Concept Note: Beyond 2020 - Bringing an end to Illegal Killing, Taking Trade in Wild Birds as a conservation concern for the flyways
T-PVS/Inf(2018)2 - Questionnaire for Bern Convention Contracting Parties and Partners: Post-2020 policy priorities on eradication of illegal killing, taking and trade in wild birds
T-PVS/Inf(2018)5 - Post-2020 policy priorities on eradication of illegal killing, taking and trade in wild birds – Replies to the questionnaire

a. 1st reporting under the Scoreboard for measuring progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds

The Standing Committee took note of the very preliminary results of the first reporting exercise on the Scoreboard and acknowledged the countries which have participated so far. It further noted that the full analysis of the results will be provided at the upcoming joint meeting of the Bern SFPs Network and the CMS MIKT taskforce in 2019.

b. Shaping up the post-2020 strategic priorities of the Bern Convention on combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds

The Standing Committee thanked the Secretariat and the expert for the excellent work done on initiating the process of shaping the future Bern Convention strategic document. The Committee further recognised that the vision and objectives of the proposed strategy are ambitious and important.

The Committee decided that the second version of the draft Concept Note will be circulated for more comments until the end of the year (2018) as some Parties did not have enough time to look into the paper. A draft post-2020 strategy document, based on the final version of the Concept note, will be prepared well ahead of the upcoming joint meeting of the Bern SFPs Network and the CMS MIKT taskforce in 2019. The joint meeting will further work on the strategic document, which should be ready for decision at the 39th meeting of the Standing Committee.

5.5 Conservation of the sturgeon

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf(2018)6 - Draft Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons
T-PVS(2018)9 - Draft Recommendation on the Pan-European Action Plan for sturgeons

a. Draft Pan-European Action Plan for sturgeons

The Standing Committee expressed its great concern regarding the highly critical conservation status of all sturgeon species in Europe. The Committee welcomed the Draft Action Plan for sturgeons and adopted it with minor changes proposed by the European Union and its Member States.

b. Draft Recommendation on the Pan-European Action Plan for sturgeons

The Standing Committee examined and adopted, with no amendment, the following Recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 199 (2018) on the Pan-European Action Plan for sturgeon.

5.6 Habitats

Relevant documents: T-PVS/PA(2018)19 - Report of the 9th meeting of the GoEPAEN
 T-PVS/PA(2018)11 - Progress of the sufficiency of the Emerald Network
 T-PVS/PA(2018)7 - Ukrainian proposal for 4 additional Habitats to Resolution No. 4 (1996)
 T-PVS/PA(2014)7 - Analysis of the proposals for additional Habitats to Annex I to Resolution No. 4 (1996)
 T-PVS/PA(2014)4 - Information forms for 4 new Habitats proposed to be added to Resolution No. 4 (1996) by Switzerland
 T-PVS/PA(2018)20 - Revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996)
 T-PVS/PA(2018)18 - Proposal of delineation of Marine regions in the framework of the Bern Convention
 T-PVS/PA(2018)13 - Proposal for guidance on detecting, assessing, reporting and responding to changes and likely changes in the ecological character of Emerald Network sites
 T-PVS/PA(2018)21 - Updated list of officially nominated candidate Emerald sites
 T-PVS/PA(2018)22 - Updated list of officially adopted Emerald sites
 T-PVS/DE(2018)11 - Report of the 2018 meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas

5.6.1 Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

a. Report of the 9th meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

The Standing Committee took note of the results of the 9th meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks and welcomed the launch of the reviewed Emerald Network Reference Portal.

b. Progress in the constitution of the Emerald Network

The Standing Committee took note of the development of the Emerald Network and welcomed the positive evolution of the sufficiency of the Network in many Contracting Parties. It urged Parties lagging behind to step up their efforts in order to achieve the objectives of the revised Emerald Network Calendar 2011-2020.

c. Draft revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996)

The Standing Committee adopted the revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996) (appendix 1) including the following four new habitat types:

- C3.2 Water fringing reedbeds and tall helophytes other than canes;
- G1.41 Alnus Swamp Woods not on acid peat;
- G3.4G *Pinus sylvestris* forest on chalk in the steppe zone;
- X36 Depressions (pody) of the Steppe zone.

It further decided to amend the descriptions of the habitat types G1.7 Thermophilous deciduous woodland and H6 Recent volcanic features in the Interpretation Manual of Habitats so as to include *Pistacia mutica* woodland and Mud volcanoes.

The Standing Committee also mandated the Secretariat to draft a proposal for controlling the future additions of species and habitats to Resolutions No. 6 (1998) and No. 4 (1996).

d. Delineation of marine regions in the framework of the Bern Convention

The Standing Committee adopted the proposed delineation of marine regions (appendix II) noting that its purpose is limited to the evaluation of the sufficiency of marine sites within the framework of the Emerald Network and to the reporting on the conservation status of marine species and marine habitats under Resolution No. 8 (2012).

In addition the Standing Committee took note that the proposed delineation will be accompanied by the following disclaimer whenever it is used: “*The map serves as a working tool only and shall not be considered as an official and legally-binding map representing marine borders in accordance with international law. This map shall be used without prejudice to the agreements that will be concluded between Contracting Parties or between Parties and non-Parties in respect of their marine borders*”.

e. Draft updated lists of Emerald sites and draft updated lists of candidate Emerald sites

The Standing Committee welcomed the decision of Georgia and the Republic of Moldova to propose respectively 36 and 52 sites for formal adoption as Emerald Network sites by the Standing Committee.

It also expressed appreciation of the decision of the Republic of Moldova to request the nomination of 8 candidate Emerald sites.

The Standing Committee took note of the transfer back to the list of candidate Emerald sites of 7 sites from Belarus, adopted in 2017 without explicit prior request by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus.

The Standing Committee adopted:

- The updated list of officially nominated candidate Emerald Network sites (appendix III);
- The updated list of officially adopted Emerald Network sites (appendix IV).

f. The concept of ecological character of sites in the context of the Emerald Network under the Bern Convention

The Standing Committee took note of the guidance on detecting, assessing, reporting and responding to changes and likely changes in the ecological character of Emerald Network sites.

The Standing Committee welcomed the volunteering of Ukraine to pilot the guidance on an existing complaint related to an Emerald Network site and mandated the Secretariat and the Bureau to assess the relevance of the guidance for backing up the decisions of the Bureau regarding complaints/case files related to Emerald Network sites.

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.

5.6.3 Protection Strategy for old growth forest in Europe

The Standing Committee took note of progress in the development of the Protection Strategy for old growth forest in Europe by Wild Europe Initiative and welcomed the contribution made by some Parties to the draft document.

The Committee agreed that further contribution by the Bern Convention to the implementation of the strategy is ensured through exchange of data on Emerald network areas which cover old growth forest and encouraged Parties to be pro-active in the protection of these precious and threatened ecosystems.

5.7 Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) of the Standing Committee

Relevant document: T-PVS/PA(2018)19 - Report of the 9th meeting of the GoEPAEN

The Standing Committee took note of the delays in the delivery of the reporting tool which is expected by the end of March 2019.

The Standing Committee welcomed the design and launch of a Reporting Reference Portal hosted on the website of the Bern Convention and bringing together the reference texts, legal texts guidance and technical resources to assist Contracting Parties in the reporting.

The Standing Committee took note of the positive outcomes of the two training workshops on reporting held in 2018 with the support of the European Environment Agency and its European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity and welcomed the planning of a third training workshop in 2019 thanks to the continuation of the cooperation with the EEA within the framework of the ENI SEIS East II project funded by the EU.

The Standing Committee encouraged Contracting Parties which are EU member states and have already reported several times within the framework of the Nature Directives to share their experience and to volunteer for mentoring non-EU Contracting Parties which will face their first reporting exercise of this type in 2019. The Committee also called on the same parties to volunteer to help the Secretariat run the reporting helpdesk and provide advice and support to their non-EU peers.

PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2018)2 – Summary of case files and complaints
T-PVS/Files(2018)55 – Follow-up of Case Files – Report by the European Commission
T-PVS/Inf(2018)1 – Register of Bern Convention’s case-files

6.1 Files opened

➤ 1995/6: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2018)51 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2018)55 – Follow-up of Case Files – Report by the European Commission
T-PVS/Files(2018)28 - Complainant Report

The Standing Committee noted with appreciation the progress in the past year demonstrated by the national authorities of Cyprus and in particular the designation of the area as a National Forest Park.

The Committee further noted that the NGOs consider that nevertheless, there is a strong need for a legally binding management plan for the area to be developed, which is the only way to ensure full compliance with Recommendation No. 191 (2016) and an efficient and effective protection for the benefit of the species.

The Committee decided to keep the file open and to request the national authorities to report on further progress with the implementation of all operational points of the Recommendation, for the second Bureau meeting in 2019.

➤ 2004/2: Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2018)45 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2018)52 – NGO Report
T-PVS/Files(2018)25 – On-the-spot appraisal report
T-PVS(2018)11 - Draft Recommendation on the windfarms planned near Balchik and Kaliakra, and other wind farm developments on the Via Pontica route (Bulgaria)

The Standing Committee thanked the Bulgarian authorities for the important progress made on the case-file, as shown in the report of the Bern OSA mission, prepared by the independent expert. It further welcomed the outcomes and recommendations formulated by the mission. The Committee noted the objections of Bulgaria and the proposed amendments to recommendations 1, 2 and 5.

On the proposal of the delegates of Hungary and the Czech Republic, with support expressed from the delegates of EUROBATS and UNEP/AEWA, the Committee adopted, without amendments, the following Recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 200 (2018) on the windfarms planned near Balchik and Kaliakra, and other wind farm developments on the Via Pontica route (Bulgaria).

The Committee noted the statement by the Bulgarian delegation that the adopted Bern Convention Recommendation should not define the parameters used for measuring compliance with the related decision of the European Court of Justice.

➤ 2010/5: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2018)42 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2018)44 – NGO Report (ARCHELON)
T-PVS/Files(2018)48 – NGO Report (MEDASSET)

The Standing Committee took note of the information presented by the Greek authorities and acknowledged the important progress achieved through the adoption of the Presidential Decree.

The Committee further noted that the Decree and its scope and provisions do not seem to entirely cover Bern Convention’s Recommendation No. 174 (2014), in particular regarding the setting and implementation of management measures for the area.

The Committee decided to keep the case-file open and encouraged Greece to continue to work in the same positive direction towards ensuring a full implementation of Bern Convention's Recommendation for the sake of the effective conservation of marine turtles.

➤ **2012/9: Turkey: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2018)26 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2018)33 - Complainant Report

The Standing Committee took note of the updated information provided by the Turkish authorities and acknowledged the efforts made for implementing the Recommendations during the last nesting season.

The Committee noted the pending issues and challenges still faced and presented by the NGO, before a full implementation of Recommendations No. 182 (2015) and No. 183 (2015) is achieved.

The Standing Committee decided to keep the file open and requested the Turkish authorities to provide an updated report on the planned activities for the upcoming nesting season by the first Bureau meeting of 2019, aimed at ensuring a thorough and timely implementation of all operational parts of the Recommendations.

➤ **2013/1: “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”: Hydro power development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2018)14 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2018)50 - Complainant Report

The Standing Committee welcomed the positive statement made by the national authorities and noted that the development of both large HPPs subject of the complaint are stopped, while the Government ceased further promotion of concessions of small and micro HPPs in the area.

It further noted that the complainant presented evidence of the ineffective deferment of 4 low-performing hydro power plants in the area of the National Park, but confirmed the initiation of positive cooperation between them and the Government aimed at ensuring the full implementation of Recommendation No. 184 (2015). The complainant also asked the Committee to raise the issue at a higher political level in the country.

The Committee further welcomed the letter sent by the national authorities to the Secretariat, requesting advise and support in the implementation of the Recommendation and in particular the finalisation of the Law for the re-proclamation of the National Park, which is a prerequisite for the development of the SEA.

The Standing Committee decided to keep the file open and to mandate the Secretariat to seek the best possible avenues, including entrusting the task to an expert, to provide advice and guidance to the national authorities which will efficiently facilitate and accelerate the implementation of Recommendation No. 184 (2015).

6.2 Possible files

➤ **2001/4: Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2018)15 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2018)17 - Complainant Report

The Standing Committee thanked the Bulgarian authorities for the updated information on recent developments on the case and the final decision of the Bulgarian Supreme Administrative Court, rejecting a complaint against the EIA/AA decision on procedure and substance. The Committee recognised the authorities' efforts in relation to the case, including the fulfilment of Recommendation No. 98 (2002) and readiness to continue their reporting to the Bern Convention. It further noted their strong opposition to an external review of the EIA/AA study, in view of the Court's final decision confirming equal treatment of the assessed alternatives and compliance with relevant national and EU legislation.

The Committee also noted the complainant NGO's concern that the construction can be imminent and their proposal for an on-the-spot appraisal visit and their support for an independent external review of the EIA/AA study and in particular its quality and conformity with Bern Convention's requirements and obligations.

After a long debate, the Committee decided to keep the file as possible and to await that the application package to the European Commission is submitted and the evaluation by the European Commission services is made available, as this will certainly be done taking into account the EU *acquis* on nature conservation.

Eventually, it decided to request the authorities to report to the Bureau and Standing Committee on progress in submitting the application package and any other relevant and new information, including on the mitigation and compensation measures planned in relation to the alternative chosen for LOT 3.2.

➤ **2017/01: Lack of legal protection for Northern goshawk and birds of prey in Norway**

Relevant documents : T-PVS/Files(2018)39 - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2018)54 – Complainant report

The Standing Committee took note of the report presented by the national authorities of Norway and acknowledged the initiation of the process for amending the Nature Diversity Act in order to close the loophole and bring it in line with Article 9 of the Bern Convention. The Committee further noted that as part of the revision process, a public consultation will be initiated early 2019.

The Standing Committee decided to keep the file as possible file and asked the authorities of Norway to report on progress at the 2019 meeting of the Standing Committee.

➤ **2016/4: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site (Montenegro)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2018)XX - Government Report
T-PVS/Files(2018)2 + Annex – Complainant report
T-PVS/Files(2018)47 – On-the-spot appraisal report
T-PVS(2018)13 – Draft Recommendation on the development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake (Montenegro)

The Standing Committee thanked the Montenegrin authorities for hosting the OSA mission, for fully supporting its recommendations and committing to ensure compliance and report on their implementation.

The Standing Committee adopted, without amendments, the following Recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 201 (2018) on the development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake (Montenegro).

The Committee agreed to maintain this case as a possible file in order to monitor progress in the Recommendation implementation, at this stage.

The Committee appreciated the cooperation between two MEAs, the Bern and Ramsar Conventions and noted that the same expert report will become public as a report on the Ramsar Advisory Mission, following the adoption of the Recommendation.

Representatives from several NGOs stressed the importance of active monitoring of the Recommendation's implementation.

➤ **2016/5: Presumed negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Vjosa river in Albania**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2018)19 - Complainant Report
 T-PVS/Files(2018)43 – On-the-spot appraisal report
 T-PVS(2018)10 – Draft Recommendation on the planned hydro-power plant developments on the Vjosa river (Albania)

The Standing Committee thanked the Albanian authorities for hosting the OSA mission, for fully supporting its recommendations and for committing to ensure compliance and report on their implementation.

The Committee further thanked the national NGO for its report and efforts to protect the unique river system of the Vjosa River.

The Committee examined and adopted, without amendment, the following Recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 202 (2018) on the planned hydro-power plant developments on the Vjosa river (Albania).

The Committee welcomed the positive news that the Workshop mentioned in operational point 9 of the Recommendation is already planned and will take place during the first week of December.

On the proposal of the delegate of Luxembourg, supported by Belgium, France, Estonia and Hungary, and taking into account the urgency of the case, the Committee decided to open a case-file and to closely follow-up the implementation of the Recommendation.

The Committee agreed that the issue of hydro power energy and Emerald Network sites should be examined by the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks in view of presenting principles in this respect, because of the high importance of the issue.

6.3 Follow-up of previous complaints and Recommendations

➤ **Closed file No. 2011/4: Threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) in Turkey**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files(2018)53 – Government report

The Standing Committee took note of the report provided by the Turkish authorities on the issue and requested that a new progress report is provided to the Committee in two years (2020), as per the decision of the Committee from 2016.

➤ **Recommendation No. 169 (2013) on the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland) in the frame of a case-file on stand-by 2011/5: France / Switzerland**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2018)41 – Government report Switzerland
 T-PVS/Files(2018)30 + ann1 + ann2 – NGOs report

The Standing Committee expressed its appreciation of the work done by authorities and private enterprises.

Given that the situation of the Apron is still dire and has not improved, that much of the permitted projects have yet to be implemented on the ground and in view of the obstacles that still need to be overcome at all levels, the Committee decided to keep the file on stand-by.

The Standing Committee further expressed its concern that no measures have been taken to prevent any further pollution from agri- and silviculture and request that measures aimed at controlling and reducing these should be added to the portfolio of measures, such as: stricter enforcement of existing agricultural legislation, and the creation of a sensitivity map of the zones in the Doubs hydrogeological basin which are especially sensitive to the application of possible contaminants.

➤ **Recommendation No. 175 (2015) on the monitoring of the agreement concluded in the frame of complaint No. 2013/5 (Lithuania)**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files(2018)46 – Government report

The Standing Committee took note of the progress report provided, as requested, by the national authorities of Lithuania.

➤ **Recommendation No. 190 (2016) on the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, specially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland**

The Standing Committee took note of the on-going processes at national level in Iceland, namely for example that a new forestry bill was recently introduced in the Parliament which, if and when adopted, will pave the way for future work on the issue and the preparation of a national forestry strategy.

The Committee urged the national authorities to step up their work on the full implementation of all operational paragraphs of the Recommendation, including the preparation of a schedule and clear programme of work, to be revised as soon as possible taking into account the AEWAs Standing Committee comments.

PART V – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

7. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION WITH OTHER MEAS AND ORGANISATIONS

The Standing Committee took note of the information provided by the Secretariat and expressed its appreciation of the cooperation developed throughout the year with other MEAs, namely the Ramsar Convention, the CMS, UNEP/AEWA, as well as with the European Commission, the European Environment Agency and its European Topic Centre for Biological Diversity. It further welcomed the fruitful cooperation with various international non-governmental organisations, such as WWF, IUCN and BirdLife International.

8. AWARENESS AND VISIBILITY

The Standing Committee welcomed the awareness raising campaigns developed throughout the year on the topics of climate change and biodiversity and amphibians and reptiles' conservation, as well as the active presence of the Convention on social media in 2018.

9. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2019

Relevant document: T-PVS(2018)16 – Draft Programme of Activities for 2019

The Standing Committee adopted the Programme of Activities and budget for 2019 (appendix V). It further noted that the Programme of Activities reflects the Convention's objectives and priority areas of work and reminded that its implementation should be done in accordance with the decision under agenda item 3.1 above.

10. STATES TO BE INVITED AS OBSERVERS TO THE 39TH MEETING

The Standing Committee decided unanimously to invite the following States to attend its 39th meeting: the Russian Federation, San Marino and the Holy See.

PART VI - OTHER ITEMS

11. ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND BUREAU MEMBERS

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf(2013)6 – Rules of Procedure: Standing Committee, on-the-spot enquiries, mediation

The Standing Committee is invited to elect its Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2 Bureau members. According to Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee will acknowledge the automatic election of the previous Chair as Bureau member.

In accordance with Article 18(e) of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected:

- Ms Jana Durkošová (Slovak Republic) as Chair;
- Ms Merike Linnamägi (Estonia) as Vice-Chair ;
- Mr Jan Plesnik (Czech Republic) and Mr Peter Skoberne (Slovenia) as Bureau members.

According to Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee acknowledged the automatic election of the previous Chair, Mr Øystein Størkersen (Norway), as a Bureau member.

12. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 39TH MEETING

The Standing Committee agreed to hold its next meeting on 3-6 December 2019, in Strasbourg.

13. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

The Standing Committee adopted document T-PVS(2018)Misc.

14. OTHER BUSINESS (ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

No other business.



Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Recommendation No. 198 (2018) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 30 November 2018 on the use of artificial feeding as a management tool of large carnivore populations and their prey, with a particular emphasis on the brown bear

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling in particular Articles 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the Convention;

Recalling its Recommendations No. 74 (1999) on the conservation of large carnivores, No. 82 (2000) on urgent measures concerning the implementation of action plans for large carnivores in Europe, No. 115 (2005) on the conservation and management of transboundary populations of large carnivores, No. 137 (2008) on population level management of large carnivores populations, No. 162 (2012) on the conservation of large carnivores populations in Europe requesting special conservation action, and No. 163 (2012) on the management of expanding populations of large carnivores in Europe;

Wishing to promote co-existence of viable populations of large carnivores with sustained development of rural areas in appropriate regions;

Aware that, particularly where large carnivores are culled by hunting, feeding is variously used to modify carnivore density and distribution as well as facilitate efficient, safe and humane killing;

Aware that the rise in the artificial feeding of all wildlife, including large carnivores, and particularly brown bears, is causing conservation concern, mainly for the risk that the practice negatively changes wildlife density, health and behaviour and may have unintended consequences for protected species or ecosystems;

Worried that artificial feeding may spread without control of the possible negative consequences of the practice for the populations of target species, their prey, other species and ecosystem dynamics;

Recommends that Contracting Parties to the Convention:

1. Examine where appropriate the impact on ecosystems of artificial feeding of large carnivores aiming to better understand the way in which it may affect other species and the behaviour, numbers and health of the target large carnivores;
2. Regulate as appropriate artificial feeding practices aimed at large carnivores, taking into account the position statement of the IUCN's Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe which is available in appendix to this recommendation.

Appendix

Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe policy support statement on the use of artificial feeding as a management tool of large carnivore populations and their prey, with a particular emphasis on the brown bear

Artificial feeding of wildlife² has been a widespread tool used to promote wildlife conservation, particularly for supporting threatened populations, including large carnivores like the Iberian lynx or the Gobi brown bear. Wildlife feeding is aimed at drawing animals away from undesired places to avoid conflicts (diversionary feeding), at improving population viability or densities (supplementary feeding) and at concentrating animals to facilitate their observation and photography (recreational or tourism feeding) or hunting (game baiting). In recent decades, the amount of food provided to wildlife, as well as the number of sites and length of the period where and when is provided, has considerably increased worldwide. These anthropogenic food subsidies can also potentially have important unintended negative consequences for species and ecosystems, such as alterations of social and trophic interactions, behavior, activity and movement patterns, reproduction, spread of exotics, and pathogen transmission. Therefore, the rise of this practice is of increasing conservation concern and needs to be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Artificial feeding of game animals has been a common practice in many European countries. Hunting is the main motivation for wildlife feeding, followed by supporting animal populations. Wildlife feeding occurs year-round in many cases and mostly occurs at established feeding sites. These artificial food subsidies are also used by many non-target species of birds and mammals. Currently, more than 80% of the European countries where large carnivores occur feed them intentionally or unintentionally. Being omnivores, brown bears are particularly affected by this practice as they often also use the food provided to ungulates and to other carnivores. The main reasons for bear feeding are bear viewing/photographing, followed by hunting, and then for damage management and population monitoring. Corn and livestock (whole carcasses and slaughter remains) are the most common foods used to feed bears in Europe. Artificial feeding may help decrease damages, keep bears away from human-dominated areas and facilitate bear monitoring, viewing and hunting. On the other hand, there is evidence that artificial feeding affects brown bear biology, ecology and behavior, including for instance, diet, home range, hibernation or movements.

In Europe, artificial feeding practices are currently not always properly regulated. More than 60% of the areas where targeted bear feeding occurs have regulations regarding the type and amount of food that can be provided and the periods during which it may be provided, although often such regulations are not properly implemented and feeding is not controlled in practice. This is happening also in countries where bears are not the primary target of feeding. In most cases, these practices have not been subject to an appropriate impact assessment, even if they occur in Natura 2000 sites, Emerald Network areas or other protected areas. In both Emerald and Natura 2000 sites, national authorities have a legal obligation to ensure that feeding is in conformity with the ecological requirements of bears and other species for which the sites are designated, and that any significant adverse effects on these species are avoided.

The LCIE highlights the urgent need to reevaluate the practice of artificial feeding of large carnivores from cultural, ecological, conservation and legal perspectives. While recognizing that in some situations it can be an appropriate management tool and that further scientific evidence of the impacts of this practice should be gathered, in general, the LCIE does not recommend artificial feeding of large carnivores and would like to see a progressive decrease in the practice. Unintentional feeding of large carnivores, for instance where large herbivores are fed, should be minimised where possible.

² We consider here “artificial feeding” to include all deliberate food provisioning by humans to wildlife (large carnivore) species in natural habitats and which is considered a wildlife management tool, independent of the aim (baiting for hunting, diversionary feeding to decrease conflicts, recreation, support of populations). The use of rubbish dumps, containers and human waste are excluded.

In areas where it is currently practiced, the LCIE recommends a detailed case by case evaluation of the intended goals and the potential impacts on target and non-target species, as well as wider ecosystem effects. Proper monitoring of positive and negative impacts is essential to permit adaptive modification of the practice. There is also a need to develop, and enforce, clear regulations to govern the practice that relate to periods of the year when feeding should be conducted, the location of feeding sites, and the type and amounts of food that can be used.



Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Recommendation No. 199 (2018) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 30 November 2018 on the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of the sturgeon

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Recalling that Article 3 of the Convention requires Parties to take the necessary steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4.1 of the Convention requires Parties to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 41 (1993) on the protection of freshwater fish;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 116 (2005) on the conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 127 (2007) of the Standing Committee on the conservation and restoration of the European sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*);

Recalling the report on the status of implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin, prepared by DSTF [document [T-PVS/Inf\(2017\)22](#)] and presented at its 37th meeting in December 2017;

Alarmed by the fact that the species continue to be in critical danger of extinction;

Reminding that, despite the adoption of several Action Plans for sturgeons in Europe in the past 15 years, the species remains one of the most threatened fish in Europe, with no signs of recovery;

Aware that the reasons for the unsuccessful conservation efforts in the past 15 years are complex and relate to various but interlinked issues such as lack of resources, of coordination of action and of awareness of both the public and policy-makers;

Desirous to speed up conservation efforts in favour of sturgeons in Europe, in coordination and cooperation with all other competent MEAs, actors and institutions/platforms, both governmental and non-governmental;

Eager to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe and in particular of this flagship species for river ecosystems,

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites Observer States to:

1. Fully implement all measures included in the Pan-European Action Plan for sturgeons [document T-PVS/Inf(2018)6];

Mandates the Secretariat of the Bern Convention to:

1. Closely monitor the implementation of the Action Plan with all competent MEAs, actors and institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, if possible through the setting-up of a dedicated working group;
2. Coordinate the implementation of regular reporting on the implementation of the Action Plan at national level, with the support of the dedicated working group, for the purposes of monitoring progress in the implementation of recommended actions and of allowing adaptive management;

Appendix to Recommendation No. 199 (2018) of the Standing Committee on the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of the sturgeon

PAN-EUROPEAN ACTION PLAN FOR STURGEONS

Kindly consult document [T-PVS/Inf\(2018\)6](#) on the website of the meeting.



Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Recommendation No. 200 (2018) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 30 November 2018, on the windfarms planned near Balchik and Kaliakra, and other wind farm developments on the Via Pontica route (Bulgaria)

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the objectives of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Convention calls on Parties to give particular emphasis to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species;

Recalling that Article 3 of the Convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take steps to promote national policies for the conservation of the habitats of wild flora, wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild fauna species, especially those listed in Appendix II to the Convention;

Recalling that Article 4 of the Convention also stipulates that Contracting Parties, in their planning and development policies, shall have regard to the conservation requirements of the areas protected under the preceding paragraph, so as to avoid or minimize as far as possible any deterioration of such areas;

Recalling that Article 4 of the Convention further provides that each Contracting Party shall give special attention to the protection of areas that are of importance for the migratory species specified in Appendices II and III and which are appropriately situated in relation to migration routes, as wintering, staging, feeding, breeding or moulting areas;

Referring to the other provisions of the Convention relating to the protection of habitats and the conservation of species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 117 (2005) on the plan to set up a wind farm near the town of Balchik and other wind farm developments on the Via Pontica route (Bulgaria);

Recalling its Recommendation No. 130 (2007) on the windfarms planned near Balchik and Kaliakra, and other wind farm developments on the Via Pontica route (Bulgaria);

Noting the Bern Convention on-the-spot appraisal (OSA) undertaken in Bulgaria on 15-16 May 2018, which had six specific objectives agreed by all concerned parties prior to the mission;

Noting that one of the objectives of the OSA mission was to collect information on the status of implementation and functioning of already developed and planned wind farms in the Kaliakra area, with a view to assessing the actualization needs of Recommendation No. 130 (2007);

Referring to the OSA mission report prepared by Mr Dave Pritchard and available in document T-PVS/Files (2018)25;

Noting that despite some progress achieved in the implementation of Recommendation No. 130 (2007), some substantial parts have not been fully implemented so far and there is room for more effective action by the national authorities;

Noting that the OSA mission report makes clear proposals on the way forward during the next 12 months;

Agreeing that the present Recommendation complements Recommendation No. 130 (2007), by providing guidance on concrete steps to undertake to improve the implementation of Recommendation No. 130 (2007);

Recommends to the Bulgarian Government:

1. The comprehensive independent assessment of the impact of operational windfarms in the Kaliakra area which was recommended by the Bern Convention Standing Committee in 2015 (amplifying paragraph 5 of Recommendation No. 130 of 2007) should be undertaken without delay, according to scientifically appropriate methods to be agreed in advance. It should include information from the current collision mortality monitoring but should also address other impacts such as displacement, barrier effects, disturbance and habitat change; and it should arrange to draw on collaborative sharing of information between windfarm operators, regional authorities, NGOs, academic researchers and others. An interim report of the results should be transmitted to the Bern Convention Bureau before February 2019, and a final report before August 2019;
2. A broader regime for on-going monitoring and assessment of potential impacts of the Kaliakra area windfarms during their operation should be developed, ensuring that it inter alia:
 - follows scientifically appropriate methods agreed in advance,
 - addresses all types of potential impacts, including collisions, disturbance, displacement, barrier effects and habitat changes,
 - includes observations at both windfarm sites and comparable areas with no windfarm developments, so as to provide “control” comparisons,
 - is coordinated across all the Kaliakra installations,
 - is undertaken in conjunction with research by NGOs, supported by data-sharing agreements,
 - takes the opportunity to undertake related research where it would be appropriate and cost-effective to associate this with the field efforts already being made on monitoring and assessment,
 - makes information about the methods and systems used available in a form which would allow these to be replicated at other windfarm sites elsewhere,
 - feeds results and insights (through the authorities) into national processes for planning and assessment of future developments;
3. Windfarm operators and other land owners, managers and authorities should explore options for creating conservation gains for migratory birds and habitats in or around the Kaliakra area (e.g. through habitat creation/restoration and management investments, designation of additional protected areas, etc), as a way of aiming partially to offset the risks and/or damage introduced by the completed windfarm developments, and/or in any event to contribute to agreed conservation priorities;
4. The conservation impact achieved by measures undertaken in response to point (iii) above should be thoroughly evaluated, and if judged in any way to be less successful than hoped, or if the exploration of options itself has not advanced significantly within one year of the date of the present Recommendation, then alternative options for removal of existing operational wind turbines from Kaliakra should be investigated and implemented as appropriate;
5. The successor plan to the Bulgarian National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2011-2020 should re-confirm (and enhance where necessary) the latter’s prohibition on wind energy developments in sensitive locations;

6. The Bulgarian authorities should provide the Bern Convention Bureau with a short report by March 2019 on the specific ways in which the legal provisions, policy requirements, standards, established practices or other aspects of environmental assessments (SEA/EIA/AA) in Bulgaria meet each of the individual points in paragraphs 1, 4, 8 and 9 of Recommendation No. 130 (2007) or will do so in future (with an indication of the expected timeframe), giving particular attention to the points in the Recommendation concerning cumulative assessment and peer review;
7. The Bulgarian authorities should promote the dissemination (including translation where necessary) and use within the country of the guidance on windfarms and birds developed under the auspices of the Bern Convention (Gove et al. 2013), and the international standards and best practice guidance on EIA/SEA adopted under the Conventions on Biodiversity, Migratory Species and Wetlands, together with related materials produced by the International Association for Impact Assessment;
8. Options should be explored for developing a proposal (which could be submitted to potential funders) for a project to build enhanced capacity in Bulgaria on knowledge exchange and best practices in the assessment and management of wind energy impacts on wildlife;
9. The Conservation Action Plan for the Red Breasted Goose population in Bulgaria should be funded and implemented without delay, and periodic summary reports on its implementation should be transmitted to the Bern Convention Standing Committee, beginning with a first report in November 2018. Those responsible for the Plan should ensure that thorough and coordinated monitoring of the species' population status and trends receives sustained high priority attention;
10. The findings of the on-the-spot appraisal should be shared with the Secretariats of the AEWA and Eurobats Agreements, the Convention on Migratory Species and the European Commission, given that all of these bodies have shared interests in the issues it covers,

Invites the Bureau to the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and the Committee itself to:

1. Monitor the implementation of the present Recommendation through scheduled reviews by both the Bureau and the Standing Committee at their meetings throughout 2019, in advance of which the Bulgarian authorities are requested to submit a progress report on each of the points above.

Annex 1: Recommendation No. 130 (2007) of the Standing Committee on the windfarms planned near Balchik and Kaliakra, and other wind farm developments on the Via Pontica route (Bulgaria) *(adopted by the Standing Committee on 29 November 2007)*

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Pointing out that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Convention calls on the Parties to give particular emphasis to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species;

Pointing out that, in pursuance of Article 3, paragraph 2, of the Convention, “Each Contracting Party undertakes, in its planning and development policies and in its measures against pollution, to have regard to the conservation of wild flora and fauna”;

Recalling that Article 4 of the Convention stipulates that “Each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats”;

Recalling that Article 4 of the Convention also stipulates that “The Contracting Parties in their planning and development policies shall have regard to the conservation requirements of the areas protected under the preceding paragraph, so as to avoid or minimize as far as possible any deterioration of such areas”;

Recalling that Article 4 of the Convention further stipulates that “The Contracting Parties undertake to give special attention to the protection of areas that are of importance for the migratory species specified in Appendices II and III and which are appropriately situated in relation to migration routes, as wintering, staging, feeding, breeding or moulting areas”;

Referring to the other provisions of the Convention relating to the protection of habitats and the conservation of species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 117 (2005), adopted on 1st December 2005, on the plan to set up a wind farm near the town of Balchik and other wind farm developments, on the Via Pontica route (Bulgaria);

Drawing attention to its Recommendation No 109 (2004) on minimizing adverse effects of wind power generation on wildlife;

Referring to BirdLife International’s report: “Wind farms and Birds: an analysis of the effects of wind farms on birds, and guidance on environmental assessment criteria and site selection issues” [document T-PVS/Inf (2003) 12];

Recognising the value of wind power and other renewable sources of energy in the fight against climate change;

Recognising the value of SEA/EIA and policy guidance to provide certainty to investors and industry, and protection for the environment, including biodiversity;

Recognising the importance of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast as a part of the Via Pontica migration route of major global importance for birds breeding in at least 17 European countries;

Aware that within this area there are a number of key areas where migrating birds concentrate and the siting of wind farms in these locations is likely to be particularly problematic;

Further aware that the first wind farm developments along this coast will set a precedent for future developments;

Referring to Mr Eckhart Kuijken’s report (document T-PVS/Files (2007) 27) on wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra in Bulgaria, drawn up following meetings with the Bulgarian authorities and interested stakeholders and a site visit, and its concern that risks to migratory and resident species may

be significant, especially given the ecological importance of Via Pontica as an internationally recognised long-distance migration corridor;

Noting with concern that the report found that the decisions seem to have been based upon incomplete or partial information brought together in EIAs that minimise the likely effects of windfarms at the very core areas of mass migration, contrary to the results of more detailed ornithological monitoring during longer periods;

Further noting with concern its findings as to the significant ecological problems that development of windfarms at Balchik and Kaliakra is likely to cause, given the presence of precious steppe vegetation in most current and future windfarm locations, and the specific topography and landscape structure, including cliffs and bare steppe plateaus, suitable for migrating soaring birds;

Aware that information from NGOs and investors was available for consideration as part of the analysis of this case;

Emphasising the need, before any decision within the SEA and EIA processes is taken, to carry out sufficiently thorough and detailed studies to inform the selection of wind farm sites;

Considering that the sites in Balchik and Kaliakra are important for the implementation of the Natura 2000/Emerald Networks;

Recommends the Bulgarian Government to:

1. review relevant decisions, at the local, regional and national level, concerning wind energy plants and ensure that new plants are not built in the region unless Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) prove they do not have a substantial negative effect on the biological diversity protected under the Convention - EIA reports should be more precise and scientifically sound than those already presented and should formulate independent peer reviewed conclusions;
2. fully reconsider the development of approved windfarms projects in the Balchik and Kaliakra region situated within or nearby sites designated as important bird areas and special areas of conservation;
3. investigate the possibility of relocating the windfarm projects already under construction as well as the single turbines (whose building is possible without EIA) in order to restore the integrity of sites to be considered as Natura 2000 sites, IBAs, or under other protection status;
4. select alternative locations for future and not yet operating turbines based on appropriate data (including long-term monitoring of biodiversity) and assessments (e.g. using multicriteria-analysis); key bird areas, potential SPAs, IBAs, intensive bird migration corridors and sites regularly used by large flocks of roosting species such as storks and wintering geese must be avoided from windfarm development;
5. assess the impact of the current operating turbines;
6. conduct an Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Bulgaria's wind energy programme, taking into account possible conflicts of wind energy production within the most intensive bird movements areas, in particular along the Black Sea coast;
7. establish a strict moratorium on further turbines and windfarm projects in the coastal areas of Bulgaria until EIA and SEA reports mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 6 are completed;
8. respect the need to focus on the avoidance of the impacts coming from outside having negative effects on areas of recognised conservation importance;
9. take into account the following guidance to improve EIAs for future and not yet operating turbines, including in accordance with "Regulation about the conditions and the order for accomplishment of assessment for compatibility of plans, projects, programmes and investment intentions with the subject and the aims of the conservation of protected zones":
 - further research and monitor birds, bats, other fauna, vegetations and key landscape-ecological structures and processes influencing biodiversity; to this end long-term monitoring of flora and

fauna, review and validation of all data is required, included those from NGOs, institutes and independent scientists;

- apply collision modelling of cumulative effects of several wind farms or turbines along intensive flyways, followed by the assessment of the suitability of localities using multicriteria-analysis methods;
- develop compulsory procedures to peer review the completeness and quality of biodiversity chapters of EIAs and their conclusions before continuing the administrative and legal processes;

10. develop guidelines for appropriate planning of the construction of windfarms and/or individual turbines, taking account of the following issues in order to integrate biodiversity conservation concerns:

- initiate a broad debate on the precautionary principle regarding development projects in relation to sites with outstanding biodiversity values;
- take measures for the removal of turbines in case of unacceptable bird collisions where no alternatives exist; this require the drafting of a set of mitigating and compensatory measures when biodiversity losses occur;
- promote capacity building for specific and independent control of the ecological effects of turbines (in terms of experienced staff, equipment, legal base, cooperation with other institutions and NGOs, appropriate procedures, etc);
- to consider and properly investigate the social impacts of windfarms on local population and on the loss of nature and scenery as a significant source of recreation and eco-tourism.



Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Recommendation No. 201 (2018) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 30 November 2018 on the development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake (Montenegro)

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the objectives of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 3 of the Convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take steps to promote national policies for the conservation of the habitats of wild flora, wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild fauna species, especially those listed in Appendix II to the Convention;

Noting that a complaint on the presumed negative impacts on biodiversity from the development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site (Montenegro) has been filed with the Convention in 2016 (Complaint No. 2016/4);

Recalling that Skadarsko Jezero (Lake Skadar), a transboundary lake between Montenegro and Albania, is the largest freshwater lake in the Balkans, a National Park, a candidate Emerald Site (ME0000003) and a Ramsar Site (No. 784);

Noting also that the lake has a particular European importance due to the sheer size and representativeness of its complexes of floating vegetation;

Noting that the lake and its terrestrial area form an extremely biodiversity rich ecosystem, where endemic flora and fauna species are present alongside strictly protected species of the Bern Convention;

Recalling that the Skadar Lake National Park has been officially nominated as candidate Emerald site in 2011 and - as such - it is subject to Recommendation No. 157 (2011) on the status of candidate Emerald sites and guidelines on the criteria for their nomination, requiring national authorities to “take the necessary protection and conservation measures in order to maintain the ecological characteristics of the candidate Emerald sites” until their full inclusion in the Emerald Network;

Noting the joint Bern/Ramsar Conventions’ mission to the area (Bern Convention on-the-spot appraisal and Ramsar Advisory Mission No. 89) held in Montenegro on 12-14 June 2018, which had four specific objectives agreed by all concerned parties prior to the mission;

Taking note of the report [document T-PVS/Files (2018)47] of the joint mission carried out;

Worrying that the unique freshwater ecosystem of the Lake is in immediate danger due to the planned development projects,

Recommends that the Government of Montenegro:

1. Immediately applies the following conservation and management measures to be pursued over the next 12 months:
 - i. Halts any further development on the mainland as well as the shore zone and water body of the Mihailovići location unless a detailed habitat map on a 1:10,000 scale has been provided for “Mihailovići“, Poseljanski Zaliv Bay, Biški Rep, the mouth of Crnojevića river, the mouth of Bazagurska matica and the islands Liponjak and Galići. The habitat map, ideally based on earth observation images, shall clearly classify any habitat type pursuant to the EUNIS habitat classification and EU Habitat Directive. The detailed habitat map provides the basis for any environmental impact assessment,
 - ii. Elaborates immediately a reference list of all present EUNIS and NATURA 2000 habitats with a focus on wetlands habitats, define their favourable conservation status and the necessary conservation measures to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status and include those measures in any planning document related to the conservation of Skadar Lake National Park, Skadarsko jezero Ramsar Site and Candidate Emerald Sites Skadar Lake,
 - iii. Establishes and runs a monitoring system on species strictly protected according to Appendices I and II of the Bern Convention respectively NATURA 2000 species and habitats by the National Environmental Protection Agency at first, at least in the area mentioned under (i). The monitoring system must include the otter (*Lutra lutra*),
 - iv. Provides the Conventions' secretariats with georeferenced and digitalised borders of and respective updated data forms on the corresponding Candidate Emerald Site and Ramsar Site,
 - v. The new Special Purpose Spatial Plan for Skadar Lake National Park needs to follow the approach of the 2001 Special Purpose Spatial Plan for Skadar Lake National Park and reconfirm the designation of the broader area of the mouth of Crnojevića river and the Liponjak and Galići islands a Zone I of strict protection,
 - vi. In addition, the Zone I area needs to include a 300 m wide belt on the lake around the islands and the sublacustrine springs,
 - vii. The new Special Purpose Spatial Plan for Skadar Lake National Park needs to apply the designation of Zone I of strict protection to the Poseljanski zaliv Bay and Biški Rep shore zone. Namely, pursuant to the definition of the new Plan, strict protection is to be applied to natural conservation sites of ecological importance for the functioning of natural biological processes and the integrity of the ecosystem. The proposed area clearly fits in this definition but not in the definition of Zone III of sustainable use to be applied to modified or changed natural habitats,
 - viii. The use of speedboats has to be limited to police, border police, ranger service and other authorities with competences on the lake. Those have to follow speed restrictions except in case of emergency,
 - ix. The use of personal water crafts (water scooters) and any other water activities which can harm the floating vegetation must be prohibited,
 - x. Regulations on boating, such as speed limit (a 4 knot speed restriction on the lake area in question), and distance from Zone I of strict protection and from the shore have to be stipulated,
 - xi. No installations or constructions shall be allowed in the shorezone stretches classified with Shorezone Functionality Index under category I (high) and II (good);
2. Includes the *Porto Skadar Lake* development on the urban planning plot UP1 and, in addition the development known as *White Village* on urban planning plots UP2 and UP3 of Mihailovići location as well as any other development on this location;

3. Examines whether any building permit related to the location issued after October 2017 were valid as according to article 4 of the Decision on the adoption of SSL Mihailovići, the latter is valid until 2020, but respective building permits shall be issued within a three-year period only. In addition, the validity of SSL Mihailovići should not be renewed and the provisions of article 4 of the above mentioned Decision should be applied in a way that through amendments the remaining facilities such as the landing place in front of UP1 shall be deleted;
4. Carefully examines the procedure which led to the issuing of a landing place in the case of the *White Village* development and if necessary revise or revoke the respective building permit. Pursuant to the provisions of SSL Mihailovići such a landing place must be subject to a separate environmental impact assessment;
5. Provides and determines clear basic technical specifications and requirements in the appropriate planning documents which are related to the construction of any landing place or waste water treatment inside the protected area. Those specifications and requirements must fully consider the integrity and dynamics of the sensitive ecosystem of Skadar Lake National Park, Ramsar Site and Candidate Emerald Site;
6. The floating vegetation with large carpets of white water-lily and water chestnut is a special habitat on Skadar Lake. It is the very sheer size of these habitat complexes that makes them representative on European level. Any reduction of those habitats shall be prohibited;
7. Establishes an effective dialogue mechanism with and participatory approach to all stakeholders in order to ensure information exchange as well as to consider any biodiversity data gathered by NGOs and the scientific community;
8. Considers hosting the upcoming biogeographical seminar on Emerald sites in SEE;
9. Identifies and defines appropriate mitigation measures;
10. Takes measures to preserve and improve the ecological value of protected areas and potential Natura 2000 and Emerald Network sites such as Ulcinj Salina, Lake Skadar and river courses, as stated in the recommendations of the latest EC Montenegro 2018 Report of April 2018. Better coordination is needed with the 'appropriate assessment' procedure under the Habitats Directive. Implementation of EIA and public consultations need to improve, especially at the local level. Potential investments in hydropower and touristic developments need to comply with nature protection requirements;
11. Prepares a schedule and programme of work to implement the above recommendations, including details of the person/actors responsible, along with the timetable with clear milestones and deadline for each recommended action;
12. Regularly reports on progress in the implementation of the Recommendation, as requested by the Bureau to the Standing Committee to the Convention and the Committee itself.



Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Recommendation No. 202 (2018) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 30 November 2018, on the planned hydro-power plant developments on the Vjosa river (Albania)

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the objectives of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 3 of the Convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take steps to promote national policies for the conservation of the habitats of wild flora, wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild fauna species, especially those listed in Appendix II to the Convention;

Noting that a complaint on the presumed negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Vjosa River in Albania has been filed with the Convention in 2016 (Complaint No. 2016/5);

Noting the unique ecosystem of the Vjosa River, in particular its central section where two HPPs (Poçem and Kalivac) are planned, alternating narrow gorges and wide valleys within which the river is braided with highly dynamic channels containing sediment bars and shoals of varying grain size (boulders, cobbles, sand), vegetated islands (often *Salix* spp.) and alluvial floodplains;

Noting the rich variety of wildlife reported to inhabit the river, the areas of the planned catchments and their terrestrial environment, including a population of the Eurasian otter (*Lutra Intra*) and many rare or endangered fish species type, such as the European eel, and various loach, salmon and sturgeon species;

Noting as well that the Vjosa river gravel bars in the braided river reaches provide breeding habitat for many bird species, such as the stone curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*) and little ringed plover (*Charadrius dubius*), although population numbers and their dynamics are uncertain due to lack of systematic surveys;

Recalling that the Vjosa-Narta Protected Landscape has been officially nominated as candidate Emerald site in 2011, in accordance with national legislation, and - as such - it is subject to Recommendation No. 157 (2011) on the status of candidate Emerald sites and guidelines on the criteria for their nomination, requiring national authorities to “take the necessary protection and conservation measures in order to maintain the ecological characteristics of the candidate Emerald sites” until their full inclusion in the Emerald Network;

Recognising that the area of the catchments for both Kalivach and Pocem HPP is not a designated protected area at national or international level;

Noting the Bern Convention on-the-spot appraisal (OSA) held in Albania on 12-15 June 2018 which had five specific objectives agreed by all concerned parties prior to the mission;

Taking note of the report [document T-PVS/Files (2018)43] of the OSA mission carried out;

Worrying that the unique river ecosystem of the Vjosa is in immediate danger due to the planned hydro energy developments,

Recommends that the Government of Albania:

1. Uses the precautionary approach and suspends both Kalivac and Poçem hydropower plant projects - as their implementation would pose compliance concerns with the Bern Convention - until the necessary strategic planning and additional assessments are carried out in conformity with Recommendations 2-10 below.
2. Urgently prepares an integrated River Basin Management plan, and strategic environmental impact assessment including social aspects, for the Vjosa river basin (including collaboration with Greece), particularly the potential for ecotourism.
3. Develops a study of the potential impacts of Poçem and Kalivac HPP schemes on the sediment regime of the Vjosa River and implications for the environment as an essential requisite to a comprehensive EIA, also taking into account other points of concern expressed under chapter 5 of this report. This should include potential negative impact on the Vjose – Narte Protected Landscape and candidate Emerald site;
4. Taking into account that the Albanian Emerald network of areas of special conservation interest (and ultimately the Natura 2000 Network in the country) still needs to be completed, considers areas along the Vjosa River, including reaches at Poçem and Kalivac based on available scientific knowledge, for possible designation under the Bern Convention Network;
5. Repeats the EIA study for the Poçem HPP project taking into account the River Basin Management Plan (Rec 2), the sediment study (Rec 3), any revision of the Emerald network (Rec 4), data from NGOs and any local or indigenous knowledge (Recs 6 & 10), taking a precautionary approach to data uncertainty;
6. Undertakes a thorough consultation with local people to discuss development plans and EIAs. Meetings should be advertised by direct contact with local government (such as Mayors) and other community representatives and local people by putting-up posters in villages throughout the potentially affected area;
7. Reviews the existing Albanian EIA training programme to ensure that it meets international standards. The environmental impact of dams should be an important component and should feature guidance being produce for National Agency for Protected Areas on dams and international best practice, such as from the World Bank, the European Commission and International Hydro-power Association;
8. Undertakes a strategic energy assessment for Albania to consider the merits of other energy producing options, such as wind and solar-based production;
9. Jointly organises a workshop between the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and NGOs in late 2018/early 2019 with presentations on evidence of wildlife species and ecological process, such as sediment transport, in the Poçem - Kalivaç area. This should have a wide invitation list including other Ministries and relevant Agencies (e.g. Energy and Infrastructure, National Environment Agency, etc.), Albanian and international scientists, the Network of NGOS for Nature Protection and local people with wildlife knowledge;
10. Improves collaboration between government ministries (and their agencies) and independent experts, this includes better use of local and indigenous knowledge. There is an urgent need to build capacity in Albanian scientists by their closer involvement in environmental projects. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment should stimulate this by supporting proposals to EU for research funds for Albanian partners. The Ministry should also approach research funders

(Academy of Sciences, National Council for Research, National Agency of Research) and recommend prioritisation of freshwater science.

11. Prepares a schedule and programme of work to implement the above recommendations, including details of the person/actors responsible, along with the timetable with clear milestones and deadline for each recommended action.
12. Regularly reports on progress in the implementation of the Recommendation, as requested by the Bureau to the Standing Committee to the Convention and the Committee itself.

APPENDIX I

**REVISED ANNEX I TO RESOLUTION 4 (1996) OF THE BERN CONVENTION
ON ENDANGERED NATURAL HABITAT TYPES USING THE EUNIS HABITAT CLASSIFICATION**
(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 30 November 2018)

ENDANGERED NATURAL HABITAT TYPES

EUNIS code	EUNIS name
A	Marine habitats
A1.11	Mussel and/or barnacle communities
A1.141	Association with Lithophyllum byssoides
A1.22	Mussels and fucoids on moderately exposed shores
A1.44	Communities of littoral caves and overhangs
A2.2	Littoral sand and muddy sand
A2.3	Littoral mud
A2.4	Littoral mixed sediments
A2.5	Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds
A2.61	Seagrass beds on littoral sediments
A2.621	Eleocharis beds
A2.72	Littoral mussel beds on sediment
A3	Infralittoral rock and other hard substrata
A4	Circalittoral rock and other hard substrata
A5	Sublittoral sediment
A6.911	Seeps in the deep-sea bed
B	Coastal habitats
B1.1	Sand beach driftlines
B1.3	Shifting coastal dunes
B1.4	Coastal stable dune grassland (grey dunes)
B1.5	Coastal dune heaths
B1.6	Coastal dune scrub
B1.7	Coastal dune woods
B1.8	Moist and wet dune slacks
B1.9	Machair
B2.1	Shingle beach driftlines
B2.3	Upper shingle beaches with open vegetation
B3.24	Unvegetated Baltic rocky shores and cliffs
B3.3	Rock cliffs, ledges and shores, with angiosperms
C	Inland surface waters
C1.1	Permanent oligotrophic lakes, ponds and pools
C1.222	Floating Hydrocharis morsus-ranae rafts
C1.223	Floating Stratiotes aloides rafts
C1.224	Floating Utricularia australis and Utricularia vulgaris colonies
C1.225	Floating Salvinia natans mats
C1.226	Floating Aldrovanda vesiculosa communities
C1.24113	Transylvanian hot-spring lotus beds

C1.2416	Nelumbo nucifera beds
C1.25	Charophyte submerged carpets in mesotrophic waterbodies
C1.32	Free-floating vegetation of eutrophic waterbodies
C1.33	Rooted submerged vegetation of eutrophic waterbodies
C1.3411	Ranunculus communities in shallow water
C1.3413	Hottonia palustris beds in shallow water
C1.4	Permanent dystrophic lakes, ponds and pools
C1.5	Permanent inland saline and brackish lakes, ponds and pools
C1.66	Temporary inland saline and brackish waters
C1.67	Turlough and lake-bottom meadows
C2.111	Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and springfens
C2.12	Hard water springs
C2.18	Acid oligotrophic vegetation of spring brooks
C2.19	Lime-rich oligotrophic vegetation of spring brooks
C2.1A	Mesotrophic vegetation of spring brooks
C2.1B	Eutrophic vegetation of spring brooks
C2.25	Acid oligotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams
C2.26	Lime-rich oligotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams
C2.27	Mesotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams
C2.28	Eutrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams
C2.33	Mesotrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers
C2.34	Eutrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers
C3.2	Water fringing reedbeds and tall helophytes other than canes
C3.4	Species-poor beds of low-growing water-fringing or amphibious vegetation
C3.51	Euro-Siberian dwarf annual amphibious swards (but excluding C3.5131 Toad-rush swards)
C3.55	Sparsely vegetated river gravel banks
C3.62	Unvegetated river gravel banks
D	Mires, bogs and fens
D1.2	Blanket bogs
D2.226	Peri-Danubian black-white-star sedge fens
D2.3	Transition mires and quaking bogs
D3.1	Palsa mires
D3.2	Aapa mires
D3.3	Polygon mires
D4.1	Rich fens, including eutrophic tall-herb fens and calcareous flushes and soaks
D4.2	Basic mountain flushes and streamsides, with a rich arctic-montane flora
D5.2	Beds of large sedges normally without free-standing water
D6.1	Inland saltmarshes
D6.23	Interior Iberian salt pan meadows
E	Grasslands and lands dominated by forbs, mosses or lichens
E1.11	Euro-Siberian rock debris swards
E1.12	Euro-Siberian pioneer calcareous sand swards
E1.13	Continental dry rocky steppic grasslands and dwarf scrub on chalk outcrops
E1.2	Perennial calcareous grassland and basic steppes
E1.3	Mediterranean xeric grassland
E1.55	Eastern sub-Mediterranean dry grassland
E1.71	Nardus stricta swards

E1.722	Boreo-arctic <i>Agrostis-Festuca</i> grasslands
E1.83	Mediterraneo-montane <i>Nardus stricta</i> swards
E1.9	Open non-Mediterranean dry acid and neutral grassland, including inland dune grassland
E1.B	Heavy-metal grassland
E2.15	Macaronesian mesic grassland
E2.2	Low and medium altitude hay meadows
E2.3	Mountain hay meadows
E3.1	Mediterranean tall humid grassland
E3.3	Sub-mediterranean humid meadows
E3.4	Moist or wet eutropic and mesotrophic grassland
E3.5	Moist or wet oligotrophic grassland
E4.11	Boreo-alpine acidocline snow-patch grassland and herb habitats
E4.12	Boreo-alpine calcicline snow-patch grassland and herb habitats
E4.3	Acid alpine and subalpine grassland
E4.4	Calcareous alpine and subalpine grassland
E5.4	Moist or wet tall-herb and fern fringes and meadows
E5.5	Subalpine moist or wet tall-herb and fern stands
E6.1	Mediterranean inland salt steppes
E6.2	Continental inland salt steppes
E7.3	Dehesa
F	Heathland, scrub and tundra
F2.22	Alpine acidocline <i>Rhododendron</i> heaths
F2.26	<i>Bruckenthalia</i> heaths
F2.32	Subalpine and oroboreal <i>Salix</i> brush
F2.336	Rhodope <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> thickets
F2.41	Inner Alpine <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub
F2.42	Outer Alpine <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub
F2.43	Southwestern <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub
F2.44	Apennine <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub
F2.45	Hercynian <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub
F3.12	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> thickets
F3.16	<i>Juniperus communis</i> scrub
F3.21	Montane <i>Cytisus purgans</i> fields
F3.241	Central European subcontinental thickets
F3.245	Eastern Mediterranean deciduous thickets
F3.247	Ponto-Sarmatic deciduous thickets
F4.1	Wet heaths
F4.2	Dry heaths
F4.3	Macaronesian heaths
F5.13	Juniper matorral
F5.171	Iberian arid zone <i>Ziziphus</i> matorral
F5.18	<i>Laurus nobilis</i> matorral
F5.516	<i>Laurus</i> thickets
F5.517	Coastal <i>Helichrysum garrigues</i>
F5.51G	Tall spiny broom brush
F5.52	<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i> formations
F5.53	<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanica</i> -dominated garrigues
F5.54	<i>Chamaerops humilis</i> brush

F5.55	Mediterranean pre-desert scrub
F5.56	Thermo-Mediterranean broom fields (retamares)
F5.5B	Cabo de Sao Vicente brushes
F6.7	Mediterranean gypsum scrubs
F6.8	Xero-halophile scrubs
F7	Spiny Mediterranean heaths (phrygana, hedgehog-heaths and related coastal cliff vegetation)
F9.1	Riverine scrub
F9.3	Southern riparian galleries and thickets
G	Woodland, forest and other wooded land
G1.11	Riverine Salix woodland
G1.12	Boreo-alpine riparian galleries
G1.13	Southern Alnus and Betula galleries
G1.21	Riverine Fraxinus - Alnus woodland, wet at high but not at low water
G1.22	Mixed Quercus - Ulmus - Fraxinus woodland of great rivers
G1.3	Mediterranean riparian woodland
G1.41	Alnus Swamp Woods not on acid peat
G1.44	Wet-ground woodland of the Black and Caspian Seas
G1.51	Sphagnum Betula woods
G1.6	Fagus woodland
G1.7	Thermophilous deciduous woodland
G1.8	Acidophilous Quercus-dominated woodland
G1.917	Oroboreal Betula woods and thickets
G1.918	Eurasian boreal Betula woods
G1.925	Boreal Populus tremula woods
G1.A1	Quercus - Fraxinus - Carpinus betulus woodland on eutrophic and mesotrophic soils
G1.A4	Ravine and slope woodland
G1.A7	Mixed deciduous woodland of the Black and Caspian Seas
G1.B3	Boreal and boreonemoral Alnus woods
G2	Broadleaved evergreen woodland
G3.134	Holy Cross fir forests
G3.15	Southern Apennine Abies alba forests
G3.16	Moesian Abies alba forests
G3.17	Balkano-Pontic Abies forests
G3.19	Abies pinsapo forests
G3.1B	Alpine and Carpathian subalpine Picea forests
G3.1C	Inner range montane Picea forests
G3.1D	Hercynian subalpine Picea forests
G3.1E	Southern European Picea abies forests
G3.1F	Enclave Picea abies forests
G3.1G	Picea omorika forests
G3.1H	Picea orientalis forests
G3.21	Eastern Alpine siliceous Larix and Pinus cembra forests
G3.22	Eastern Alpine calcicolous Larix and Pinus cembra forests
G3.25	Carpathian Larix and Pinus cembra forests
G3.26	Larix polonica forests
G3.31	Pinus uncinata forests with Rhododendron ferrugineum

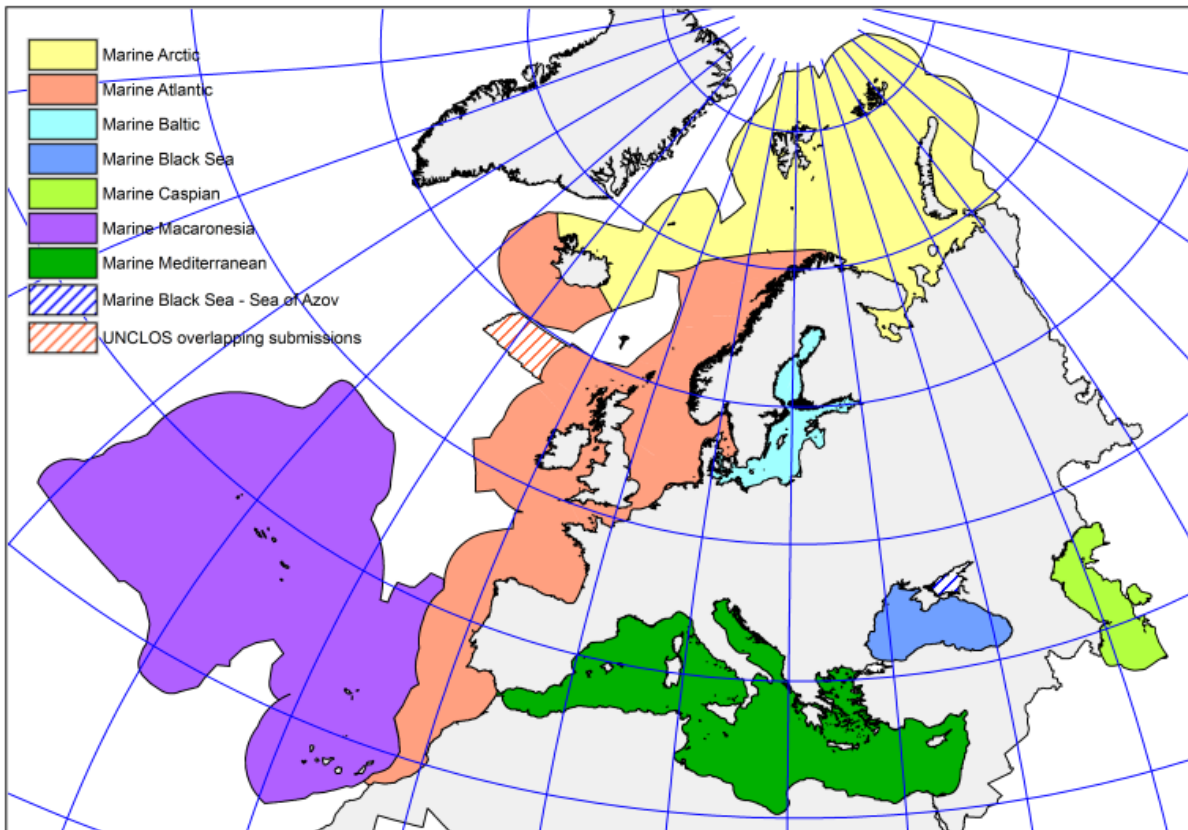
G3.32	Xerocline <i>Pinus uncinata</i> forests
G3.41	Caledonian forest
G3.4232	Sarmatic steppe <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests
G3.4233	Carpathian steppe <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> woods
G3.4234	Pannonic steppe <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> woods
G3.43	Inner-Alpine <i>Ononis</i> steppe forests
G3.44	Spring heath <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests
G3.4C	Southeastern European <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests
G3.4E	Ponto-Caucasian <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests
G3.4G	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forest on chalk in the steppe zone
G3.5	<i>Pinus nigra</i> woodland (but excluding G3.57 : <i>Pinus nigra</i> reforestation)
G3.6	Subalpine mediterranean <i>Pinus</i> woodland
G3.7	Lowland to montane mediterranean <i>Pinus</i> woodland (excluding <i>Pinus nigra</i>)
G3.8	Canary Island <i>Pinus canariensis</i> woodland
G3.9	Coniferous woodland dominated by Cupressaceae or Taxaceae
G3.A	<i>Picea</i> taiga woodland
G3.B	<i>Pinus</i> taiga woodland
G3.D	Boreal bog conifer woodland
G3.E	Nemoral bog conifer woodland
H	Inland unvegetated or sparsely vegetated habitats
H1	Terrestrial underground caves, cave systems, passages and waterbodies
H2.1	Cold siliceous screes
H2.2	Cold limestone screes
H2.3	Temperate-montane acid siliceous screes
H2.4	Temperate-montane calcareous and ultra-basic screes
H2.5	Acid siliceous screes of warm exposures
H2.6	Calcareous and ultra-basic screes of warm exposures
H3.1	Acid siliceous inland cliffs
H3.2	Basic and ultra-basic inland cliffs
H3.511	Limestone pavements
H4.2	Ice caps and true glaciers
H4.3	Rock glaciers and unvegetated ice-dominated moraines
H6	Recent volcanic features
X	Habitat complexes
X01	Estuaries
X02	Saline coastal lagoons
X03	Brackish coastal lagoons
X04	Raised bog complexes
X09	Pasture woods (with a tree layer overlying pasture)
X18	Wooded steppe
X29	Salt lake islands
X35	Inland Sand Dunes
X36	Depressions (pody) of the Steppe zone

APPENDIX II

DELINEATION OF MARINE REGIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE BERN CONVENTION

As adopted by the Standing Committee on 30 November 2018

Marine regions in the framework of the Bern Convention



Disclaimer: The map serves as a working tool only and shall not be considered as an official and legally-binding map representing marine borders in accordance with international law. This map shall be used without prejudice to the agreements that will be concluded between Contracting Parties or between Parties and non-Parties in respect of their marine borders.

For background information, please consult document [T-PVS/PA\(2018\)18](#) on the website of the meeting.

APPENDIX III

UPDATED LIST OF OFFICIALLY NOMINATED CANDIDATE EMERALD SITES

Kindly consult document [T-PVS/PA\(2018\)21](#) on the website of the meeting.

APPENDIX IV

UPDATED LIST OF OFFICIALLY ADOPTED EMERALD SITES

Kindly consult document [T-PVS/PA\(2018\)22](#) on the website of the meeting.

APPENDIX V**PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET OF THE
BERN CONVENTION
FOR 2019**

The Convention's Programme of Activities is built on the following five clusters of activities and budget lines:

1. Meetings of the Statutory bodies (Standing Committee and Bureau)

The Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, whose existence is foreseen in Article 13 of the Convention for enabling parties to meet regularly to develop common and co-ordinated programmes, is the body composed of the representatives of the parties. It has much of the responsibility for the functioning and monitoring of the Convention and meets once a year.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee takes administrative and organisational decisions in between meetings of the Standing Committee. It includes the Chair of the Standing Committee, the Vice-chair, the previous Chair, and two additional Bureau members, and is assisted by the Secretariat.

2. Monitoring and assistance to Parties in species conservation

The activities planned under this heading aim at assessing and recording the conservation status of the populations of species listed in the appendices to the Convention, identifying species at risk, devising processes affecting loss of wild biological diversity, setting-up models to monitor change in wildlife outside protected areas. Common management standards may be proposed through action plans. Monitoring of the implementation of Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention, as well as of the pertinent recommendations should also be carried out by the relevant Group of Experts.

3. Conservation of natural habitats

The activities planned under this heading aim at ensuring the conservation of natural habitats and the implementation of Article 4 of the Convention, as well as of Resolutions (89) 1, (96) 3, (96) 4, (98) 5, (98) 6 and Recommendations (89) 14, (89) 15 and (89) 16 of the Standing Committee. The setting-up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI) in Europe is the main objectives of the Convention's work in this field.

4. Implementation of Article 3

Article 3 of the Convention sets out the general obligation for each Contracting party to take action individually, with respect to the conservation of wild flora and fauna and all natural habitats in general, by for instance promoting national conservation policies as well as education and information. Through the activity planned under this heading, the Secretariat seeks to provide assistance to parties in building capacities for communicating on the biodiversity advantage and benefits and for reporting on the conservation status of special and habitats (reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012)).

5. Monitoring of sites at risk

The activities to be implemented under this heading concern the monitoring of the implementation of the obligations of the Convention by parties by examination of case-file complaints or in the framework of the mediation procedure. They may also concern emergencies in the eventuality of a grave ecological damage as a result of a catastrophe, an accident or a conflict situation, and include on-the-spot appraisals organised for the European Diploma for Protected Areas

BUDGET YEAR 2019

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available from CoE BO allocation	Funds needed through VCs
			716671	356674	359997
1. Statutory bodies			55505	33077	22428
Meeting of the Standing Committee (4 days)			45504	25477	20027
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (average: 24 experts*5 per diem). Chair + Countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, BiH, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Portugal, Serbia, Slovak Republic, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, Morocco, Tunisia, Burkina Faso, Senegal</i>	120	175	21000	8900	12100
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	24	470	11280	6577	4703
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	6	2 204	13224	10000	3224
1st Meeting of the Bureau (1 day)			4563	3850	713
<i>Subsistence of Bureau Members (5 experts*1,5 per diem)</i>	7,5	175	1313	1200	113
<i>Travel expenses of Bureau Members (5 experts)</i>	5	650	3250	2650	600
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	0	0	0	0	0
2nd Meeting of the Bureau (1,5 days)			5438	3750	1688
<i>Subsistence of Bureau Members (5 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	12,5	175	2188	1500	688
<i>Travel expenses of Bureau Members (5 experts)</i>	5	650	3250	2250	1000
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	0	0	0	0	0

2. Monitoring and assistance to Parties			72150	11457	60693
Group of Experts on Birds and Network of SFPs for IKB (2,5 days)			18925	4050	14875
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	15	470	7050	2050	5000
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (15 experts*3 per diem)</i>	45	175	7875	2000	5875
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4000	0	4000

Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles (1,5 days)			21612,5	0	21612,5
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	15	470	7050	0	7050
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (15 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	37,5	175	6562,5	0	6562,5
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	2	4 000	8000	0	8000

Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species (1,5 days)			21612,5	7407	14205,5
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	15	470	7050	3450	3600
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (15 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	37,5	175	6562,5	3957	2605,5
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	2	4 000	8000	0	8000

Technical support to plant conservation activities (evaluation of the European Plant Conservation Strategy)			10000	0	10000
<i>Lumpsum AA</i>	1	0	10000	0	10000

3. Conservation of Natural Habitats			138445	40133	98312
Joint meeting Group of Experts Climate Change and Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks (2,5 days)			35850	15983	19867
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	30	470	14100	5170	8930
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (30 experts*3 per diem)</i>	90	175	15750	4813	10937
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	6000	6000	6000	0

Emerald Network bilateral evaluation Seminar (1 day)			11740	0	11740
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	7	470	3290	0	3290
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (7 experts*2 per diem)</i>	14	175	2450	0	2450
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	2	3000	6000	0	6000

Emerald project in an EaP or a South-East Europe/South Caucasus country			20000	0	20000
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	pm	20000	0	20000

Emerald biogeographic evaluation Seminar (2 days)			32705	6000	26705
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	2	10 000	20000	0	20000
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	14	470	6580	3000	3580
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (14 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	35	175	6125	3000	3125

Emerald biogeographic evaluation Seminar (2 days)			32705	12705	20000
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	2	10 000	20000	0	20000
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	14	470	6580	6580	0
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (14 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	35	175	6125	6125	0

Group of Specialists on the EDPA (1,5 days)			5445	5445	0
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	6	470	2820	2820	0
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (6 experts*2,5 per diems)</i>	15	175	2625	2625	0

4. Implementation of Article 3			64325	10000	54325
Capacity building on marine turtles conservation			5000	0	5000
<i>Lumpsum (training and consultancy)</i>	1	5 000	5000	0	5000

Training Workshop on Reporting under Res. 8 (2012) (1,5 days)			32325	1000	31325
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	10	470	4700	500	4200
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (15 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	15	175	2625	500	2125
<i>Contribution to the finalisation of the on-line reporting tool</i>	1	25000	25000	0	25000

Awareness and visibility, including communication activities in relation to the 40th anniversary of the Bern Convention			27000	10000	17000
<i>Campaign on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Convention ((lumpsum)</i>	1	15 000	15000	5000	10000
<i>Publication on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Convention (lumpsum)</i>	1	5 000	5000	3000	2000
<i>Development of additional query options for the Emerald Network Viewer (lumpsum)</i>	1	7 000	7000	2000	5000

5. Monitoring of and advise on sites (EDPA and on-the-spot appraisals in the frame of the case-file system)			31940	21400	10540
<i>Travels Experts</i>	12	470	5640	3500	2140
<i>Subsistence Experts</i>	36	175	6300	3900	2400
<i>Consultancy/AA</i>	10	2 000	20000	14000	6000

6. Official Journeys of staff			18000	18000	0
<i>Travel and subsistence</i>	12	1 500	18000	18000	0

7. Provision for the Chair			5000	2000	3000
<i>Travel and subsistence expenses (lumpsum)</i>	1	5 000	5000	2000	3000

8. Overheads			27700	27700	0
<i>Printing Internal</i>	110 000	0,03	3300	3300	0
<i>Postage (Lumpsum)</i>	1	400	400	400	0
<i>Prepress (lumpsum)</i>	1	2 500	2500	2500	0
<i>Translation Services</i>	636	33,805	21500	21500	0

9. Staff costs*			303 607	192907	110 700
Permanent staff, senior management and office costs	lumpsum		170 952	170952	0
Pensions Permanent staff	lumpsum		21 955	21955	0
Temporary staff and office costs	27	4100	110700	0	110700

The Bern Convention Special Account will be used to cover expenses that cannot be covered by the ordinary budget of the Council of Europe. The activities that will not receive additional contributions will not or partially be implemented.

The Council of Europe is expected to provide around € 356,674 in 2019 (€ 164,100 for financing the programme of activities including overheads, and € 192,574 for staff, office, and administrative management costs).

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2019

	Meeting	Date	Place
1	Meeting of the Group of Specialists on the EDPA	5-6 March	Strasbourg
2	1 st annual meeting of the Bureau	18-19 March	Strasbourg
3	Group of Experts on the Conservation of birds + Joint meeting of Bern SFPs IKB and CMS MIKT	8-10 May	Italy (tentative)
4	Emerald Network biogeographical Seminar	End April/Beginning of May	Minsk, Belarus t.b.c.
5	Emerald Network bilateral evaluation Seminar	End of May	Andorra
6	Workshop on Reporting under Res. 8 (2012)	Beginning of June	Paris, France t.b.c.
7	Group of Experts on IAS	Beginning of July	Venue t.b.c.
8	2 nd annual meeting of the Bureau	9-10 September	Strasbourg
9	Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles	End September/Beginning October	Venue t.b.c.
10	Joint meeting of the Group of Experts on Climate change and the Group of Experts on Protected areas and Ecological Networks	3-4 October	Norway
11	Emerald Network biogeographical Seminar	November	Budapest (tentative)
12	39 th Standing Committee meeting	3-6 December	Strasbourg