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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

40th meeting
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2020

**MANDATE OF THE BERN CONVENTION INTER-
SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON FINANCES**

*Memorandum of the Secretariat
established by the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

DRAFT MANDATE OF THE BERN CONVENTION INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON FINANCES

Background

At its 39th meeting held on 3-6 December 2019, the Standing Committee decided to establish an inter-sessional working group on finances to further develop, with the support of the Secretariat and the Bureau, proposals on Option 1 and Option 3 as contained in document [T-PVS\(2019\)1rev](#) for the future financing and development of the Bern Convention, namely:

- The inclusion of financial clauses by amending the articles of the Bern Convention;
- The establishment of a Partial Agreement.

In its [Resolution No. 9 \(2019\)](#), the Standing Committee complemented the decision above by stating that the inter-sessional working group on finances shall with the support of the Secretariat and the Bureau in pursuance of options 1 and 3, draft full proposals for amending the Convention and for a Partial Agreement concerning financing. Both proposals shall be made available to Parties four months before the date of the 40th Standing Committee, for discussion, possible adoption, and possible submission of either or both proposals for approval by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

For the records

Following the approval of the Committee of Ministers, the amendment of the Convention will require **all** Contracting Parties to formally accept the amendments before they enter into force. Should the Partial Agreement be preferred, a **threshold** number of Contracting Parties will be required to confirm their willingness to become members of the agreement before it can start. Consequently, the inter-sessional working group on finances should also address the financing of the Bern Convention until the chosen option starts.

Proposed mandate of the inter-sessional working group on finances

Considering the decisions of the Standing Committee at its 39th meeting, the inter-sessional working group on finances, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the Bureau, should:

1. Prepare comprehensive proposals for the inclusion of financial clauses by amending the articles of the Bern Convention and for the establishment of a Partial Agreement;
2. Present the above-mentioned proposals at least four months before the 40th meeting of the Standing Committee (i.e. by 31 July) in order to be considered at the meeting;