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**T-PVS/DE (2019) 13**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

39<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 3 – 6 December 2019

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**Group of Specialists on the  
European Diploma for Protected Areas**

5 – 6 March 2019  
Agora Building, Strasbourg, Room G05

**MEETING REPORT**

*Document prepared  
by the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

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**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

The Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas met in Strasbourg on 5 and 6 March 2019. The Standing Committee/Bureau is invited to:

- Take note of the meeting report of the Group of Specialists;
- Welcome the application of the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato;
- Express its concern regarding the deteriorating situation in the Scandola Nature Reserve (France);
- Consider forwarding the draft Resolutions renewing the Diploma to 11 areas (see document [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)10](#)) to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption;
- Take note the of 17 on-the-spot appraisal visits to be carried out in 2019;
- Welcome the new designed [dashboard](#) of the European Diploma;
- Welcome the update of the database of the European Diploma and the mapping of the multiple designations/certifications hold by Diploma awarded areas;
- Take note of the outcomes of the discussion on possible ways to rise the attractiveness of the European Diploma.

## **1. WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The meeting was opened on Tuesday 5 March 2019 by the Chair of the Group of Specialists, Mr Jan Plesnik (Czech Republic). He welcomed the participants and thanked them for their contribution as well as the Secretariat for the preparation of the meeting and of the working documents.

The Chair informed the members of the Group that Joe Sultana passed away in 2018 and acknowledged his dedication. Jo Sultana contributed to the European Diploma as independent expert for many years.

## **2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

The Group adopted the draft agenda (see document [T-PVS/Agenda\(2019\)03](#))

## **3. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES PRESENTING AN INTEREST FOR THE WORK OF THE GROUP**

### **3.1 SHORT PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE GROUP IN 2018 AND OF THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE LAST YEAR**

The Chair briefly wrapped up the outcomes and conclusions of the 2018 meeting of the Group of Specialists. He insisted that the European Diploma is a prestigious label whose importance is underestimated.

### **3.2 FOLLOW UP BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE 2018 MEETING OF THE GROUP OF SPECIALISTS**

Iva Obretenova, Secretary of the Bern Convention, informed the members of the Group of Specialists that their meeting was the first taking place within the frame of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bern Convention. She stressed that the European Diploma was one of the monitoring tools of the Convention but the only one which reaches out the work of the Convention to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

She reported on the follow up given to the decisions of the Group of Specialists at its meeting in 2018. She highlighted that the Committee of Ministers formally adopted the resolution renewing the European Diploma to 20 areas. She also informed the participants that the Secretariat further developed the monitoring tools of the Diploma with the creation of dashboard, the setting up of scoring system, and the individualisation of the annual reporting templates. The update of the database of Diploma holding areas and the mapping of the multiple designations held by Diploma awarded areas were also underway.

## **4. APPLICATION TO THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF THE REGIONAL PARK GALLIPOLI COGNATO**

The application to the European Diploma of the Gallipoli Cognato ([T-PVS/DE\(2019\)06](#)) was presented to the Group of Specialists by Ms Angela Ciliberti.

The Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato Piccole Dolomiti Lucane covers an area of almost 27,000 hectares, within the border of the municipalities of Accettura, Calciano and Oliveto Lucano in the Province of Matera and Castelmezzano and Pietrapertosa in the provinces of Potenza.

The Park protects an area located just in the middle of Basilicata with relevant naturalistic, landscape, historical and ethno-anthropological values: the forest of Gallipoli Cognato, the wood of Montepiano, the sandstone rocks of the Dolomiti Lucane in Castelmezzano and Pietrapertosa, the ruins of the fortification of an ancient city built during the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. on the top of Mount Croccia.

The presence of waterways in the form of seasonal streams and springs is a characteristic of the Park. The protected area is also characterised by the presence of a wide green scrubland made of variegated arboreal and shrub species, alternated with old-growth forest of centuries-old trees that, at high altitude reach huge size.

The park encompasses 4 Natura 2000 sites designated for the conservation of more than 300 flora species, 15 priority habitats, and many rare fauna species such as the Black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), the Italian hare (*Lepus corsicanus*), the European wildcat (*Felis silvestris*), the Grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), the Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*), the Short-toed snake eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*).

The regional Park is also recognised for its rich cultural heritage, especially the traditional festival called “Maggi” (May feasts), unique expression in Italy of the close relationship between the local population and the surrounding environment, representing both the rebirth of nature in spring and the vow to a divinity to obtain prosperity in agriculture.

The members of the Group of Specialists welcomed the application of the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato and considered that the area is of exceptional European interest justifying the award of the Diploma.

The Group of Specialists declared the application admissible and entrusted the Secretariat to undertake an on-the-spot expert appraisal to confirm the European interest and assess the efficacy of existing conservation measures.

The application should be re-examined in 2020 in the light of the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit.

## **5. RESULTS OF THE ADVISORY VISITS, DISCUSSION AND PROPOSALS TO THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

In line with the decision of the Group of Specialists in 2018, an on-the-spot appraisal visit to the French National Park of Ecrins should have been carried out and its conclusions should have been presented to the Group of Specialists in 2019. The Secretariat informed the Group of Specialists of the decision of the French National Park of Ecrins administration not to seek for the renewal of the European Diploma in 2020. According to the authorities the European Diploma awarded in 1990 had little added value and was less in line with their priorities. The authorities also informed the Secretariat that they introduced an application to become part of the IUCN Green List which according to them represents additional benefits and partnership opportunities.

The National Park of Ecrins will therefore be removed from the list of Diploma holding areas in 2020.

The Group of Specialists examined the on-the-spot appraisal visit reports of 12 areas, whose European Diploma will expire in 2019. The Group also discussed the opportunity to renew the Diploma of 2 areas which did benefit from an on-the-spot appraisal visit.

### **5.a Scandola Nature Reserve (France)**

The independent expert, Mr Olivier Biber, presented the outcomes of his on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Scandola Nature Reserve to the members of the Group of Specialists (report [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)02](#)). Based on his findings he informed the members of the Group that the conditions for the renewal of the European Diploma to the Scandola Nature Reserve in 2020 are not met yet as the conservation of the site significantly deteriorated since the award of the European Diploma in 1985.

The members of the Group of Specialists agreed with the expert’s proposal to condition the renewal of the European Diploma in 2020 to the extension of the Nature Reserve and to the creation of a marine park by 31 January 2020 at the latest to enable the Group to re-examine the opportunity of the renewal of the Diploma in 2020.

The Group of Specialists mandated the Secretariat to liaise with the managing authority, to inform UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee of the alarming situation, to monitor the extension of the Nature Reserve, the establishing of the marine park, the setting up the regulations and their control mechanism and to report back to the Group of Specialists at its annual meeting in 2020.

### **5.b Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve (Germany)**

The independent expert, Mr Robert Brunner, presented the outcomes of his on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve to the members of the Group of Specialists (report [T-PVS/DE\(2018\)12](#)). Based on his findings he suggested the renewal of the European Diploma of the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve for an additional period of 10 years.

The members of the Group of Specialists agreed with the expert's proposal and following their discussion endorsed a draft resolution attaching three conditions and six recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma of the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve as reflected in the document [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)10](#).

The Group of Specialists entrusted the Secretariat with the follow up on the endorsement of the draft resolution by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and its possible official adoption by the Committee of Ministers in 2019.

### **5.c Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve (Germany)**

The independent expert, Mr Robert Brunner, presented the outcomes of his on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve to the members of the Group of Specialists (report [T-PVS/DE\(2018\)13](#)). Based on his findings he suggested the renewal of the European Diploma of the Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve for an additional period of 10 years.

The members of the Group of Specialists agreed with the expert's proposal and following their discussion endorsed a draft resolution attaching one condition and six recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma of the Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve as reflected in the document [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)10](#).

The Group of Specialists entrusted the Secretariat with the follow up on the endorsement of the draft resolution by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and its possible official adoption by the Committee of Ministers in 2019.

### **5.d Triglav National Park (Slovenia)**

On behalf of the independent expert, Mr Pierre Galland, the Secretariat presented the outcomes of his on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Triglav National Park to the members of the Group of Specialists (report [T-PVS/DE\(2018\)16](#)). Based on his findings the expert suggested the renewal of the European Diploma of the Triglav National Park for an additional period of 10 years.

The members of the Group of Specialists agreed with the expert's proposal and following their discussion endorsed a draft resolution attaching one condition and twelve recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma of the Triglav National Park as reflected in the document [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)10](#).

The Group of Specialists entrusted the Secretariat with the follow up on the endorsement of the draft resolution by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and its possible official adoption by the Committee of Ministers in 2019.

### **5.e De Oostvaarderplassen Nature Reserve (Netherlands)**

The independent expert, Mr Maurice Hoffmann, presented the outcomes of his on-the-spot appraisal visit to the De Oostvaarderplassen Nature Reserve to the members of the Group of Specialists (report [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)11](#)). Based on his findings he suggested the renewal of the European Diploma of the De Oostvaarderplassen Nature Reserve for an additional period of 10 years.

The members of the Group of Specialists agreed with the expert's proposal and following their discussion endorsed a draft resolution attaching three conditions and seven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma of the De Oostvaarderplassen Nature Reserve as reflected in the document [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)10](#).

The Group of Specialists entrusted the Secretariat with the follow up on the endorsement of the draft resolution by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention and its possible official adoption by the Committee of Ministers in 2019.

#### **5.f National Park Weerribben-Wieden (Netherlands)**

The independent expert, Mr Maurice Hoffmann, presented the outcomes of his on-the-spot appraisal visit to the National Park Weerribben-Wieden to the members of the Group of Specialists (report [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)09](#)). Based on his findings, he suggested the renewal of the European Diploma of the National Park Weerribben-Wieden for an additional period of 10 years.

The members of the Group of Specialists agreed with the expert's proposal and following their discussion endorsed a draft resolution attaching one condition and eight recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma of the National Park Weerribben-Wieden as reflected in the document [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)10](#).

The Group of Specialists entrusted the Secretariat with the follow up on the endorsement of the draft resolution by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and its possible official adoption by the Committee of Ministers in 2019.

#### **5.g Purbeck Heritage Coast (UK)**

The independent expert, Ms Ana Rainho, presented the outcomes of her on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Purbeck Heritage Coast to the members of the Group of Specialists (report [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)01](#)). Based on her findings, she suggested the renewal of the European Diploma of the Purbeck Heritage Coast for an additional period of 10 years.

The members of the Group of Specialists agreed with the expert's proposal and following their discussion endorsed a draft resolution attaching two conditions and six recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma of the Purbeck Heritage Coast as reflected in the document [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)10](#).

The Group of Specialists entrusted the Secretariat with the follow up on the endorsement of the draft resolution by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and its official possible adoption by the Committee of Ministers in 2019.

#### **5.h Minsmere Nature Reserve (UK)**

The independent expert, Ms Blanca Ramos, presented the outcomes of her on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Minsmere Nature Reserve to the members of the Group of Specialists (report [T-PVS/DE\(2018\)14](#)). Based on her findings, she suggested the renewal of the European Diploma of the Minsmere Nature Reserve for an additional period of 10 years.

The members of the Group of Specialists agreed with the expert's proposal and following their discussion endorsed a draft resolution attaching one condition and four recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma of the Minsmere Nature Reserve as reflected in the document [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)10](#).

The Group of Specialists entrusted the Secretariat with the follow up on the endorsement of the draft resolution by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention and its official possible adoption by the Committee of Ministers in 2019.

#### **5.i Wachau Protected Landscape (Austria)**

The independent expert, Mr Peter Skoberne, presented the outcomes of his on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Wachau Protected Landscape to the members of the Group of Specialists (report [T-PVS/DE \(2019\)8](#)). Based on his findings, he suggested the renewal of the European Diploma of the Wachau Protected Landscape for an additional period of 10 years.

The members of the Group of Specialists agreed with the expert's proposal and following their discussion endorsed a draft resolution attaching one condition and nine recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma of the Wachau Protected Landscape as reflected in the document [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)10](#).

The Group of Specialists entrusted the Secretariat with the follow up on the endorsement of the draft resolution by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and its official possible adoption by the Committee of Ministers in 2019.

#### **5.j Boschplaat Nature Reserve (Netherlands)**

The independent expert, Mr Michael Usher, presented the outcomes of his on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Boschplaat Nature Reserve to the members of the Group of Specialists (report [T-PVS/DE \(2018\)15](#)). Based on his findings, he suggested the renewal of the European Diploma of the Boschplaat Nature Reserve for an additional period of 10 years.

The members of the Group of Specialists agreed with the expert's proposal and following their discussion endorsed a draft resolution attaching six recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma of the Boschplaat Nature Reserve as reflected in the document [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)10](#).

The Group of Specialists entrusted the Secretariat with the follow up on the endorsement of the draft resolution by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and its official possible adoption by the Committee of Ministers in 2018.

#### **5.k Teide National Park (Spain)**

The independent expert, Mr Michael Usher presented the outcomes of his on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Teide National Park to the members of the Group of Specialists (report [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)03](#)). Based on his findings, he suggested the renewal of the European Diploma of the Teide National Park for an additional period of 10 years.

The members of the Group of Specialists agreed with the expert's proposal and following their discussion endorsed a draft resolution attaching eight recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma of the Teide National Park as reflected in the document [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)10](#).

The Group of Specialists entrusted the Secretariat with the follow up on the endorsement of the draft resolution by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and its official possible adoption by the Committee of Ministers in 2018.



### **5.1 Cretan White Mountains National Park (Greece)**

In 2018 the Group of Specialists felt that an on-the-spot appraisal visit ahead of the renewal of the European Diploma was not necessary. However, in the light of the last annual reports, little progress in complying with the 3 recommendations attached to the last renewal was reported on.

As there are shortcomings in the fulfillment of the only 3 recommendations attached to the Diploma, the Secretariat was not keen on proposing new recommendations or conditions with a view to the renewal of the Diploma without prior consultation of experts knowing the area and its actual situation or even carrying out an on-the-spot appraisal visit for a thorough assessment of the area.

The members of the Group of Specialists agreed with the suggestion of the Secretariat to carry out an on-the-spot appraisal visit before considering the renewal of the European Diploma to the Cretan White Mountains National Park.

Since the European Diploma is due on 13 September 2019, the visit should take place during the first 2019 semester and its conclusions circulated electronically to the members of the Group of Specialists for their consideration.

### **5.m Desertas Nature Reserve (Portugal)**

Like for the Cretan White Mountains National Park, the Group of Specialists decided in 2018 to assess the opportunity to renew the European Diploma to the Desertas Nature Reserve based on the annual reports received.

The Desertas Nature Reserve was awarded the European Diploma 5 years ago. 2 conditions and 7 recommendations were attached to the decision.

While the annual reports show that most of the recommendations are being addressed, the conditions remain challenging. One of them has no chance to be achieved even in the future.

The Secretariat also alerted the members of the Group of Specialists on the fact that the annual reports since 2015 are strictly the same which is definitively an obstacle for measuring the progress made in the field for complying with the recommendations and the conditions.

The Secretariat felt that renewing the European Diploma for 10 years without a thorough assessment of the area would be hazardous.

The members of the Group of Specialists agreed with the suggestion of the Secretariat to carry out an on-the-spot appraisal visit before considering the renewal of the European Diploma to the Desertas Nature Reserve.

Since the European Diploma is due on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019, the visit should take place during the first 2019 semester and its conclusions circulated electronically to the members of the Group of Specialists for their consideration.

## **6. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORTING RESULTS BY THE SECRETARIAT AND THE GROUP OF SPECIALISTS**

### **6.a Analysis of the annual reports**

The Secretariat reminded the objectives of the annual report and the Group's mandate, which are defined by the Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

The Secretariat has continued to improve the monitoring tools of the European Diploma. Until now it was often difficult to identify in the annual reports the actions undertaken by the managing authorities to comply with the conditions and recommendations attached to the award or renewal of the Diploma. To address this issue, the Secretariat prepared nominative reporting templates integrating the conditions and recommendations of each area in the templates and sent the templates individually to each area manager.



As a result, the area managers submitted more relevant reports in 2018. The reports were also shorter with a better targeted focus on the conditions and the recommendations.

It is difficult to measure the extent to which the 2018 decisions of the Group of Specialists 1. to set a scoring system which acknowledges the compliance with the annual reporting obligations and 2. to amend the preamble of the Resolutions awarding or renewing the European Diploma to stress the necessity to comply with the regulations of the Diploma and in particular the annual reporting had on managing authorities, but the 2018 results of the annual reporting are exceptional. A submission rate of 95.89 % with 70 reports received out of 73 Diploma holding areas was reached, representing an increase of 9.6 % compared to 2017.

As in previous years, Members of the Group were involved in the assessment of the annual reports by using the assessment forms. The document [T-PVS/DE \(2019\) 12](#) provides the conclusions of the Group for each Diploma holding area.

The Group of Specialists welcomed the results of the 2018 annual reporting and thanked the managers of the Diploma holding areas for complying with the reporting obligation, the members of the Group of Specialists for their contribution to the analysis of the reports and the Secretariat for the huge effort in developing and running the European Diploma monitoring tools.

#### **6.b Follow up on the areas identified in 2018 as requiring particular attention**

- **Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve (Germany)**

The area is under scrutiny because the regional authorities (Landkreis Heidekreis) are planning the Volkwardingen Wind Park which would spoil the unique landscape and biodiversity of Lüneburger Heide, block an important migration corridor for the black grouse and the black stork and destroy an important habitat for bats and birds.

While in 2014, the Higher Administrative Court of Lower Saxony declared the planning document inaccurate and removed the zoning for Volkwardingen Wind Park, the regional authorities pursued the works on a zone for wind energy in the same area.

In 2016, the Group of Specialists expressed concern over the allegedly ongoing windmill zoning for the Volkwardingen Wind Park despite the court's decision of 2014 to remove it. It asked the authorities to report on the issue and to keep it under review.

In the 2017 annual report, the authorities reported facing quite significant difficulties with the implementation of the recommendations attached to the Diploma. There were indeed shortcomings in almost all the 13 recommendations.

In 2018 as a follow up on the decision of the Group of Specialists, the Secretariat wrote to the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in June to ascertain that the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve receives the necessary support from the regional and federal authorities to be in a position to continue meeting the provisions of the European Diploma and especially to comply with the 13 recommendations which were attached to the renewal decision of 2012.

The Federal Ministry replied in September that the relationship with the Lüneburg Nature Reserve was constructive but acknowledged that the discussions about the creation of the Volkwardingen Wind Park were still on-going. In the meantime, the managing authorities of the Lüneburg Heath Reserve also wrote to the Secretariat calling for the support of the Council of Europe to apply to the European Commission for a thorough assessment of environmental impacts under the EU Nature Directives.

The 2018 annual report confirms that the regional planning authority (District Heidekreis) still supports a zone for wind energy in "Borstel" right in the center of an important ecological corridor.

On 16 January 2019, the Secretariat received an e-mail from the managing authorities of the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve complaining that they have been asking for the support of the Council of Europe since 2016 by the means of their annual reports to prevent Volkwardingen Wind Park and calling for the

Standing Committee to the Bern Convention to apply to the European Union to protect one of the oldest European Diploma holding areas by all legal means.

The Secretariat forwarded to the authorities the extract of the 2017 and 2018 reports of the meeting of the Group of Specialists and invited them to make use of the case file system under the Bern Convention as well as to alert the EC of their concerns and explore the feasibility of a full assessment of environmental effects in accordance with the Habitats Directive.

The Group of Specialists expressed again its deep concern regarding the still existing plan for a wind energy park.

The Group of Specialists entrusted the Secretariat to inform the Bureau of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention.

- **Abruzzo Lazio and Molise National Park (Italy)**

The main issue continues to be the official adoption of a new management plan, due by 2013.

In 2016 the Group of Specialists exhorted the authorities to adopt the management plan for the Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park and to define the contiguous areas.

In 2017 the Group of Specialists urged the authorities to speed up the adoption process of the Management Plan.

According to the 2017 annual report, the Management Plan was still in the approval process. The management plans for the Natura 2000 sites located within the National Park were either not approved.

In accordance with the 2018 annual report, the management plan is always still not approved as it requires the agreement of the authorities of three regions. While conservation measures were defined for the 5 Natura 2000 sites within the National Park their implementation is still pending the approval of the management plan.

Regarding the monitoring scheme of the Marsican brown bear there was very little information provided in the 2017 annual report. It was stated that a budget of 100 000 € was allocated to the monitoring programme of the Marsican brown bear in 2017 but the objectives and expected outcomes of the programme were not mentioned.

In 2018, the monitoring of the Marsican brown bear continued. As part of the budget of the Park, 375 000 € were allocated to the Scientific Department and for the management of the Marsican brown bear but no monitoring results were reported on.

The Group of Specialists acknowledged the efforts of the managing authorities for bringing the approval process of the management plan to a positive end.

- **De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve and the National Park Weerribben-Wieden (the Netherlands)**

In 2018 the Secretariat was approached by Dutch environment activists regarding the development of an existing small aviation airport into a “Holiday” airport in the vicinity of the two Diploma holding areas.

A combined on-the-spot appraisal visit was carried out in 2018 and the Group of Specialists already agreed on the renewal of the Diploma to both areas provided there are no low flight paths or holding tracks over both areas.

- **Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park (Germany/Luxembourg)**

In 2016 the Group of Specialists decided to carry out an on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park in order to assess the opportunity of the renewal of its European Diploma in 2018. The visit was first postponed from 2016 to 2017 because no suitable time slot could be identified and in 2017 the authorities informed the Secretariat that the park was not seeking for the renewal of the Diploma anymore.

At its 2018 meeting, the Group of Specialists decided not to renew the European Diploma of the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park until an on-the-spot appraisal visit can take place and confirms that the European interest of the area was maintained since the last renewal of the Diploma.

On 20 September 2018, the authorities of the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park informed the Secretariat that the conditions were met to host an on-the-spot appraisal visit.

The Group of Specialists welcomed the decision of the managing authorities to host an on-the-spot appraisal visit and entrusted the Secretariat with its organisation in 2019.

- **Doñana National Park**

On 24 January 2019, the Secretariat was informed that the European Commission was referring Spain to the Court of Justice of the EU over a failure to take adequate measures to protect the groundwater bodies that feed the Doñana Wetlands, as required by the EU Water Framework Directive. Spain was also failing to take adequate steps to prevent the deterioration of protected habitats in these wetlands, in breach of the EU Nature Directives.

The Doñana wetlands are among the largest in Europe with a great biological diversity. They host a considerable array of fauna and flora, including critically endangered species, such as the Imperial eagle or Iberian lynx. Due to its strategic location, Doñana is also a part of the migratory route of millions of birds each year.

An on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Doñana National Park is planned in 2019. The Group of Specialists should examine the conclusions of the independent expert consistently with the on-going procedure initiated by the European Commission.

The Group of Specialists expressed its concern regarding the illegal pumping and overexploitation of water in the National Park and encouraged the authorities to extend the Diploma holding area to the Natural Park.

- **Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve**

Beginning of February 2019, the Secretariat was informed that, because of the very dry and hot 2018 summer, the authorities of the Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve were envisaging to excavate a gravel bank to allow safer ship manoeuvres in low water times on the Danube which would constitute a threat to rare fish species and wildlife species living on the banks.

The Group of Specialists expressed its concern regarding the excavating plans and urged the authorities to respect the shipping regulations in force.

## **7. ON-THE-SPOT APPRAISAL VISITS IN 2019**

The Secretariat referred to the document [T-PVS/DE\(2019\)4](#) presenting the Diploma holding areas whose Diploma is due in 2020 and could therefore benefit from an on-the-spot appraisal visit in 2019.

The 2018 on-the-spot appraisals and especially the case of Scandola have shown that in the absence of annual reporting and without a regular field monitoring the conditions of the areas can deteriorate to an extent which can question the renewal of the European Diploma. To address this situation the Secretariat suggested to visit all the areas whose Diploma is due in 2020 pending the availability of financial resources and informed the Group of Specialists that a few visits were already planned.

In addition to the areas listed in the document T-PVS/DE (2019) 4, the Group of Specialists already agreed on an on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park, to the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato, to the Cretan White Mountains National Park and to the Desertas Nature Reserve.

The Group of Specialists agreed to carry out the on-the-spot appraisal visits to the areas listed in the document [T-PVS/DE \(2019\)4](#) as well as to Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park, to the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato, to the Cretan White Mountains National Park and to the Desertas Nature Reserve.

The Group of Specialists entrusted the Secretariat with the organisation of the 17 appraisal visits.

## 8. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA

### 8.a Dashboard of the European Diploma

In 2018, the Group of Specialists agreed on the design of a dashboard for the Diploma holding areas as an alternative to a reporting tool. The dashboard is aimed to bring together in a single place the information available for each Diploma holding area such general data, application forms, appraisal reports, resolutions and annual reports.

The Secretariat presented the [dashboard](#) to the members of the Group of Specialists. The limitations of the IT solution available at the Council of Europe conditioned the layout of the dashboard. The areas are presented by countries and the navigation in the long list requires to scroll down a lot. Filters enable to launch queries on the award date, on the year of the next on-the-spot appraisal visit, on the country and on the annual reporting year.

The annual reports of the last 6 years, if available, are now directly accessible as well as the reports of the on-the-spot appraisal visits.

The introductory part of each area dedicated webpage was taken from existing webpages. The information, weblinks, contact details will be updated in liaison with the managers of the Diploma holding areas.

The Secretariat also presented the scoring system represented in the dashboard through green, orange and red small flags. It reflects whether annual reports were timely delivered.

The Group of Specialists welcomed the [dashboard](#) very much and appreciated the efforts deployed for gathering the significant amount of information and documents by the Secretariat. The Group of Specialists valued the dashboard as a useful tool for all stakeholders.

The members of the Group of Specialists entrusted the Secretariat with making the dashboard public and with exploring the feasibility to add the management plans or other strategic documents when available in English as well as a map of the Diploma holding areas.

### 8.b Database of the Diploma holding areas

In 2018 the Group of Specialists gave the Secretariat the mandate to initiate the update the database of the Diploma holding areas with the view to explore with the European Environment Agency the upload of the database on the Common Database of Designated Areas (CDDA) and as a second step on the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

To this end, the Secretariat sent the managing authorities of each Diploma holding area an extract of the existing database and ask them to update the tabular data. Authorities were also required to provide spatial data which were missing so far and which are a prerequisite for the database being downloaded on the World Database of Protected Areas.

The first results were quite positive since:

- 59 areas replied: 57 with tabular data
- 2 areas delivered only site boundaries
- 22 areas delivered spatial data in a complying format

Marc Roekaerts presented to the members of the Group of Specialists the resulting updated database. It has significantly improved in terms of data regarding the species and habitats occurring in the Diploma holding areas and the relation with the Appendices of the Bern Convention and the Resolutions No 4 (1996) and No. 6 (1998) is straighter forward.

The database is not completed as the tabular data from 16 areas and the spatial data from 51 areas are still missing. A targeted update request will be addressed to the area managers who did not provide or provided incomplete information.

The Group of Specialists welcomed the updated the database and its potential use for raising awareness and for improving the visibility of the European Diploma holding areas.

The Group of Specialists mandated the Secretariat to liaise with the area managers who did not supply at all or submitted incomplete information and to inform the European Environment Agency of the progress.

### **8.c Mapping of the multiple designations / certifications of the Diploma holding areas**

In 2018, following on a suggestion from the expert Pierre Galland, the Group of Specialists mandated the Secretariat with the inventory of the other certifications and designations held by the Diploma holding areas.

To this end, the Secretariat prepared the document [T-PVS/DE \(2019\)7](#) which lists for all the areas the multiple national and international certifications or designations.

57 out of 73 Diploma holding areas provided a feedback regarding their other certifications or designations. The Secretariat will follow up and target the areas which did not reply so as to have a complete map of the multiple designations and certifications.

The aim of Pierre Galland's request was to ensure coherence and the consistency in the monitoring of the European Diploma in line with other international labels and to develop possible synergies with other international organisations/institutions in charge of the monitoring of the labels concerned.

The Group of Specialists welcomed the mapping the multiple designations as presented in the document [T-PVS/DE \(2019\)7](#) which should be used for the preparation of on-the-spot appraisal visits and be brought to the attention of the Bureau of the Standing Committee in the case members are invited to international convention/organisation meetings.

The Group of Specialists mandated the Secretariat to liaise with the area managers who did not supply information and to explore how the monitoring reports related to areas holding several designations/certifications can be shared among the monitoring bodies of the designations/certifications concerned.

### **8.d Attractiveness of the European Diploma**

2018 was marked by the decision of the French National Park of Ecrins to resign from the European Diploma because of its lack of added value compared to other designations such as the IUCN Green List.

At its 2018 annual meeting, the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention raised its concern regarding the possible competition between international certifications or designations and asked the Group of Specialists to investigate how to rise the attractiveness of the Diploma.

The application of the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato shows that protected areas still have an interest in the European Diploma and the mapping of the multiple designations and certifications discussed previously shows that the certifications/designations can co-exist and aim together to the overarching goal of nature conservation and landscape protection.

The members of the Group of Specialists and experts had a lively discussion on the ways to revitalise the European Diploma and most of all insisted that the European Diploma is a label of excellence

acknowledging exemplary management and exceptional natural values. The label should be marketed to raise the awareness of public in general. It was also reminded that the managers of the Diploma holding areas should be further federated and feel that they are part of a community facing similar challenges and sharing the same objectives and values.

The Group of Specialists mandated the Secretariat to prepare a concept paper on the revitalisation and the future of the European Diploma taking stock of the outcomes of the discussion which will be discussed at the 2020 annual meeting of the Group of Specialists.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

## **10. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The Secretariat will notify members of the date of the next meeting, to be held in 2020, in due course.

## **11. CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING**

The Chair thanked the representatives from Hungary, Italy and Sweden whose mandate as members of the Group of Specialists has come to an end for their dedicated work and their support to the European Diploma, the members of the Group of Specialists, the independent experts, the management authorities of the European Diploma holding areas and the Secretariat for their huge efforts and declared the meeting closed.

**Appendix 1 – Agenda**

		<b>Documents</b>	<b>Expected results</b>
<i>Tuesday 5 March</i>			
<b>9.30</b>	<b>1. Opening of the meeting</b>  <i>Mr Jan Plesnik (Czech Republic), Chair of the Group of Specialists</i>		
	<b>2. Adoption of the agenda</b>	Meeting agenda T-PVS/Agenda(2019) 3  <b>For adoption</b>	Members of the Group of Specialists are informed of the aims of the meeting and adopt the agenda.
	<b>3. General information on activities presenting an interest for the work of the Group of Specialists</b>		
	3.a Short presentation of the report of the meeting of the group in 2018 and of the activities undertaken during the last year  <i>Mr Jan Plesnik (Czech Republic), Chair of the Group of Specialists</i>	Report of the 2018 meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas T-PVS/DE (2018) 11  <b>For information</b>	The salient points of the 2018 meeting of the Group of Specialists are recalled.
	3.b Follow up by the Secretariat on the conclusions of the 2018 meeting of the Group of Specialists  <i>Presentation by the Secretariat</i>	Extract from the list of decisions and adopted texts on the European Diploma for Protected Areas, at the 38th meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention T-PVS/DE (2019) 5	Members of the Group of Specialists are informed of the follow up given to the outcomes and decisions of the 2018 meeting of the Group of Specialists.



		<b>For information</b>	
	<p><b>4.</b> Application to the European Diploma of the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato</p> <p><i>Presentation by Ms Angela Ciliberti</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to exchange views on the application of the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato and its possible follow up.</i></p>	<p>Application form of the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato T-PVS/DE (2019) 6</p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>The relevance of the application of the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato is assessed and the opportunity of an on-the-spot appraisal visit is agreed on.</p>
	<p><b>5. Results of the advisory visits, discussion and proposals to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe</b></p>		
	<p>5.a Scandola Nature Reserve (France)</p> <p><i>Presentation by Mr Olivier Biber</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit report and to exchange views on possible follow up.</i></p>	<p>Report on the assessment visit to the Scandola Nature Reserve T-PVS/DE (2019) 2</p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree on the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit and entrust the Secretariat with the follow up on the creation of the Marine Park.</p>
	<p>5.b Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve (Germany)</p> <p><i>Presentation by Mr Robert Brunner</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit report and to exchange views on possible follow up.</i></p>	<p>Report on the assessment visit to the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve T-PVS/DE (2018) 12</p> <p>Draft resolution regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-</p>	<p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree on a draft resolution renewing the European Diploma to the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve which will be sent to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption.</p>

		Gnadensee Nature Reserve T-PVS/DE (2019) 10  <b>For discussion and decision</b>	
	5.c Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve (Germany)  <i>Presentation by Mr Robert Brunner</i>  <i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit report and to exchange views on possible follow up.</i>	Report on the assessment visit to the Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve T-PVS/DE (2018) 13  Draft resolution regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve T-PVS/DE (2019) 10  <b>For discussion and decision</b>	Members of the Group of Specialists agree on a draft resolution renewing the European Diploma to the Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve which will be sent to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption.
	5.d Triglav National Park (Slovenia)  <i>Presentation by the Secretariat</i>  <i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit report and to exchange views on possible follow up.</i>	Report on the assessment visit to the Triglav National Park T-PVS/DE (2018) 16  Draft resolution regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Triglav National Park T-PVS/DE (2019) 10  <b>For discussion and decision</b>	Members of the Group of Specialists agree on a draft resolution renewing the European Diploma to the Triglav National Park which will be sent to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption.
	5.e De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve (Netherlands)  <i>Presentation by Mr Maurice Hoffmann</i>	Report on the assessment visit to the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve T-PVS/DE (2019) 11	Members of the Group of Specialists agree on a draft resolution renewing the European Diploma to the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve which will be sent to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption.

	<p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit report and to exchange views on possible follow up.</i></p>	<p>Draft resolution regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve T-PVS/DE (2019) 10</p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	
	<p>5.f National Park Weerribben-Wieden (Netherlands)</p> <p><i>Presentation by Mr Maurice Hoffmann</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit report and to exchange views on possible follow up.</i></p>	<p>Report on the assessment visit to the National Park Weerribben-Wieden T-PVS/DE (2019) 9</p> <p>Draft resolution regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the National Park Weerribben-Wieden T-PVS/DE (2019) 10</p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree on a draft resolution renewing the European Diploma to the National Park Weerribben-Wieden which will be sent to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption.</p>
	<p>5.g Purbeck Heritage Coast (UK)</p> <p><i>Presentation by Ms Ana Rainho</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit report and to exchange views on possible follow up.</i></p>	<p>Report on the assessment visit to the Purbeck Heritage Coast T-PVS/DE (2019) 1</p> <p>Draft resolution regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Purbeck Heritage Coast T-PVS/DE (2019) 10</p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree on a draft resolution renewing the European Diploma to the Purbeck Heritage Coast which will be sent to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption.</p>

	<p>5.h Minsmere Nature Reserve (UK)</p> <p><i>Presentation by Ms Blanca Ramos</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit report and to exchange views on possible follow up.</i></p>	<p>Report on the assessment visit to the Minsmere Nature Reserve T-PVS/DE (2018) 14</p> <p>Draft resolution regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Minsmere Nature Reserve T-PVS/DE (2019) 10</p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree on a draft resolution renewing the European Diploma to the Minsmere Nature Reserve which will be sent to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption.</p>
	<p>5.i Wachau Protected Landscape (Austria)</p> <p><i>Presentation by Mr Peter Skoberne</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit report and to exchange views on possible follow up.</i></p>	<p>Report on the assessment visit to the Wachau Protected Landscape T-PVS/DE (2019) 8</p> <p>Draft resolution regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Wachau Protected Landscape T-PVS/DE (2019) 10</p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree on a draft resolution renewing the European Diploma to the Wachau Protected Landscape which will be sent to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption.</p>
	<p>5.j Boschplaat Nature Reserve (Netherland)</p> <p><i>Presentation by Mr Michael Usher</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit report and to exchange views on possible follow up.</i></p>	<p>Report on the assessment visit to the Boschplaat Nature Reserve T-PVS/DE (2018) 15</p> <p>Draft resolution regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Boschplaat Nature Reserve T-PVS/DE (2019) 10</p>	<p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree on a draft resolution renewing the European Diploma to the Boschplaat Nature Reserve which will be sent to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption.</p>

		<b>For discussion and decision</b>	
	<p>5.k Teide National Park (Spain)</p> <p><i>Presentation by Mr Michael Usher</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit report and to exchange views on possible follow up.</i></p>	<p>Report on the assessment visit to the Teide National Park T-PVS/DE (2019) 3</p> <p>Draft resolution regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Teide National Park T-PVS/DE (2019) 10</p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree on a draft resolution renewing the European Diploma to the Teide National Park which will be sent to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption.</p>
	<p>5.1 Cretan White Mountains National Park</p> <p><i>Presentation by the Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the opportunity of the renewal of the European Diploma of the Cretan White Mountains National Park in the light of the outcomes of the annual reports and in the absence of conclusions resulting from an on-the-spot appraisal visit.</i></p>	<p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree to carry out an on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Cretan White Mountains National Park before considering the renewal of its European Diploma which is due on 13 September 2019.</p>
	<p>5.m Desertas Nature Reserve</p> <p><i>Presentation by the Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the opportunity of the renewal of the European Diploma of the Desertas Nature Reserve in the light of the outcomes of the annual</i></p>		<p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree to carry out an on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Desertas Nature Reserve before considering the renewal of its European Diploma which is due on 1 July 2019.</p>

	<i>reports and in the absence of conclusions resulting from an on-the-spot appraisal visit.</i>	<b>For discussion and decision</b>	
	<b>6. Presentation of the reporting results by the Secretariat and the Group of Specialists</b>		
	<p>6.a Analysis of the annual reports</p> <p><i>Introduction by the Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to share their comments on and discuss the outcomes of the annual reports and exchange views on possible follow up.</i></p>	<p>Compilation of the analysis of the annual reports T-PVS/DE (2019) 12</p> <p><a href="#">Link to the dashboard of the European Diploma for Protected Areas</a></p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>The compliance of the Diploma holding areas with the conditions and/or recommendations attached to the award/renewal of the European Diploma is assessed and possible areas at risk requiring a closer monitoring or even an exceptional on the-spot appraisal visit are identified.</p>
	<p>6.b Follow up on the areas identified in 2018 as requiring particular attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve (Germany)</li> <li>• Abruzzo Lazio and Molise National Park (Italy) De Oostvaardersplassen" Nature Reserve (the Netherlands)</li> <li>• National Park Weerribben-Wieden (the Netherlands)</li> <li>• Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park (Germany/Luxemburg)</li> <li>• Doñana National Park</li> <li>• Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve</li> </ul> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to exchange views on the situation of Diploma holding areas identified as requiring closer attention and to agree on follow up actions in the</i></p>	<p>Compilation of the analysis of the annual reports T-PVS/DE (2019) 12</p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Follow up on the monitoring of Diploma-holding areas requiring particular attention are agreed on.</p>

	<i>light of the 2018 annual reports and the information received by the Secretariat.</i>		
	<p><b>7. On-the-spot appraisal visits in 2019</b></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to exchange views on the on-the-spot appraisal visits to be carried out in 2019.</i></p>	<p>List of areas whose Diploma should be renewed in 2020 T-PVS/DE (2019) 4</p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Diploma holding areas whose Diploma is due in 2020 and for which an-the-spot appraisal visit is to take place are identified.</p>
	<p><b>8. Strategic Development of the European Diploma</b></p>		
	<p>8.a Dashboard of the European Diploma</p> <p><i>Presentation by the Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to exchange views on the further development of the dashboard and on the proposed scoring of the compliance with the reporting obligations.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Link to the dashboard of the European Diploma for Protected Areas</a></p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree on the use of the dashboard for overseeing the monitoring of the European Diploma.</p> <p>The scoring system of the compliance of Diploma holding areas with their reporting obligations is agreed on.</p>
	<p>8.b Database of the Diploma holding areas</p> <p><i>Presentation by Marc Roekaerts</i></p> <p><i>Members of Group of Specialists are invited to exchange view on the updated database of the Diploma holding areas, its further development and its use.</i></p>	<p><b>For discussion</b></p>	<p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree on the updated database of the Diploma holding areas and mandate the Secretariat to liaise with the European Environment Agency so as to upload it on to the Common Database of Designated Areas (CDDA).</p>
	<p>8.c Mapping of the multiple designations / certifications of the Diploma holding areas</p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to exchange views on the opportunity to explore how</i></p>	<p>Map of the multiple designations / certifications awarded to Diploma holding areas T-PVS/DE (2019) 7</p>	<p>Possible avenues to ensure a better coordination of the monitoring with the authorities in charge of the designations / certifications for protected areas overlapping with the European Diploma are identified.</p>



	<i>to streamline the monitoring mechanisms of other designations/certifications for protected areas and the one of the European Diploma.</i>	<b>For discussion</b>	
	8.d Attractiveness of the European Diploma  <i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to exchange views on possible means for improving the attractiveness of the European Diploma especially in the case of multiple and overlapping designations/certifications.</i>	<b>For discussion</b>	Possible means for promoting the European Diploma are identified.
	<b>9. Any other business</b>		
	<b>10. Date and place of the next meeting</b>		
	<b>11. Conclusions of the meeting</b>		
<b>12.30</b>	<b>Wednesday 6 March</b> <b>End of the meeting</b>		