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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

46th meeting,
7-11 December 2026,
Strasbourg

3rd Bureau of the Standing Committee

22-24 September 2026,
Strasbourg

Open File: 2017/02

**Negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park
candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructures developments
(North Macedonia)**

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of
Environment and Physical
Planning of the Republic
of North Macedonia*

Report dated August 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your message.

Apologies for the late submission of information regarding the Open File No. 2017/2 Negative impacts on Lake Ohrid and the Galichica National Park due to the development of infrastructure and urbanization in the Republic of North Macedonia.

In connection with the request of the Secretariat of the Bern Convention dated of 15 May 2026 concerning Open File No. 2017/2 Negative impacts on Lake Ohrid and the Galichica National Park due to the development of infrastructure and urbanization (Recommendation No. 221/2023)

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning as the competent state body for monitoring the implementation of the Bern Convention hereby inform you of the following :

New Law on Nature (Public Consultation Phase)

The draft Law on Nature has entered the formal public consultation process. In the upcoming period, a public hearing will be organized to engage civil society organizations, scientific institutions, local communities, and key stakeholders. This session will provide an opportunity to present core legislative updates, address public feedback, and ensure broad participatory decision-making.

Law on the Declaration of Studenchishte Wetland as a Protected Area (Institutional Consultation Phase)

The draft Law on the Declaration of Studenchishte Wetland (Studenčiško Blato) is currently undergoing institutional consultations across relevant ministries and administrative bodies. Once inter-departmental alignment and regulatory reviews are complete, the legislative proposal will be officially submitted for governmental adoption procedure.

The Municipality of Ohrid submitted email/letter dated (No. 09-9789/1 dated 20.07.2026)

Regarding the handling of illegal buildings in the Galicica National Park, the Municipality of Ohrid after concluding an agreement with an authorized company for the demolition of illegal buildings, began the demolition of illegal buildings on the shore of Lake Ohrid and the Galicica National Park.

It is also noted that the Municipality of Ohrid working dedicated on the implementation of the measures and activities envisaged in the Management Plan for the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region (2020-2029) and the Strategic Recovery Plan for the Revitalisation of the Ohrid Region.

Report dated February 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your message.

Apologies for the late submission of information regarding the Open File No. 2017/2 Negative impacts on Lake Ohrid and the Galichica National Park due to the development of infrastructure and urbanization in the Republic of North Macedonia.

In connection with the request of the Secretariat of the Bern Convention dated of 19 december 2025 concerning Open File No. 2017/2 Negative impacts on Lake Ohrid and the Galichica National Park due to the development of infrastructure and urbanization (Recommendation No. 221/2023) Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning as the competent state body for monitoring the implementation of the Bern Convention hereby inform you of the following :

- prepared and submitted to the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia is the Draft Law on the Proclamation of Studenčishlo Blato as a Protected Area - Nature Park.

- The Municipality of Ohrid submitted email/letter dated 13.02.2026

- regarding the handling of illegal buildings in the National Park Galicica, after several attempts to engage a company through public procurement for the removal of illegally constructed buildings, **this year** a contract was concluded with a company for the demolition of illegal buildings and it has already started with the demolition of illegal buildings located on the shores of Lake Ohrid and the National Park Galicica Galicica.

- It is also noted that the Municipality of Ohrid working dedicated on the implementation of the measures and activities envisaged in the Management Plan for the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region and Strategic Recovery Plan.

Kind regards,

Mrs.Marija Dirlevska –Chaloska

National Focal Point for Bern Convention

Head of biodiversity and GMO Unit

Department of Nature

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

Republic of North Macedonia