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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

41st meeting
Strasbourg, 30 November – 3 December 2021

Other Complaint: 2018/6

**Presumed threats to Emerald Network sites
“Olmanskiye bolota” (BY0000012) and
“Topila Bog” (BY0000083)
(Belarus)**

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus*

Unofficial translation

The Bern Convention Secretariat

Subject: Complaint No. 2018/6: Other complaint: Belarus: Presumed threats to Emerald Network sites Olmanskiye bolota (BY0000012) and Topila Bog (BY0000083)

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus extends its appreciation to the Bern Convention Secretariat and would like to provide information regarding the issues indicated in the letter of the Secretary of the Bern Convention dated 30 September 2020, in addition to the information presented in the letters of the Ministry dated 25 June 2019 No. 10-2-11/241-июн and 31 July 2020 No. 10-2-11/234-июн.

According to the updated information, the Unitary Enterprise “Belgiproles” carried out an environmental impact assessment (hereinafter – EIA) for Forest road No. 1 in 2011, public discussions of the EIA report have been carried out (minutes of 28 November 2011 No. 07-463), positive conclusion of the state ecological expertise of 11 March 2012 No. 19 on the design documentation was obtained.

All unauthorized open-pit mining of widespread mineral deposits within the boundaries of the Emerald Network site “Olmanskiye bolota” have been recultivated, acts of acceptance and transfer of recultivated lands were approved by decisions of the Stolín District Executive Committee of 19 April 2018 No. 724 and of 7 August 2018 No. 1483.

On the issue of transfer of habitats of wild animals, we would like to inform that the State Research and Production Association “Scientific and Practical Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Bioresources” from the autumn of 2018 to January 2021 carried out a set of research work, including field surveys, within the framework of preparation of the documents for the transformation of the Republican Reserve “Olmany mires”, the development of an updated management plan for this reserve and a joint management plan for the transboundary Ramsar site “Olmany – Perebrody”.

There were no facts of transfer from the Emerald Network site of habitats (previously put under protection of land users based on decisions of the Stolín District Executive Committee) of wild animals included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus.

Projects of documents to transfer under protection of 24 newly identified habitats of wild animals within the boundaries of the Republican Reserve “Olmany mires” are currently being developed.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to the Bern Convention Secretariat the assurances of my highest consideration and to express hope for further cooperation.

Sincerely,

Baliaslau Pirshtuk

First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus