



Strasbourg, 14 May 2019
[tpvs04e_2019.docx]

T-PVS(2019)4

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

39th meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2019

Meeting of the Bureau

Strasbourg, 18-19 March 2019

- MEETING REPORT -

*Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, Ms Jana Durkošová, opened the first annual meeting of the Bureau to the Bern Convention for 2019. She reminded that 2019 is the year of the 40th anniversary of the Convention, thanked the Secretariat for the hard work on preparing the meeting and launching activities as foreseen in the Programme of Activities. She further thanked all Bureau members for being present at the meeting, including through a video conference link and wished them a productive 2-day meeting.

The meeting agenda was adopted with no amendments (appendix 1).

2. 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERN CONVENTION

The Secretariat presented the latest developments in relation to the 40th anniversary celebration, namely:

- the development of a dedicated logo;
- the launching and results of a slogan competition to accompany the logo;
- the planned communication campaign currently being developed - to be released on 19 September, the date of the signature of the Convention; and
- the organisation of small side event at the 39th Standing Committee meeting, to mark the occasion.

The Secretariat further presented in details the proposals received in the frame of the slogan competition and submitted these for a discussion and decision on the winner by the Bureau.

The Bureau considered all submitted slogan proposals and thanked their authors for their participation, creativity and enthusiasm. After long deliberations, the Bureau has chosen the slogan *Healthy nature for healthy Europeans*, considering that this particular slogan describes well the link between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human health and well-being, and ultimately human rights. It advised the Secretariat to consider using some of the other slogan proposals for other activities connected to the celebration, if and where relevant. A press release presenting the Slogan should remind national authorities of the possibility of using it during their national/regional/local events on nature conservation.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to contact the Finnish authorities, which will be ensuring the EU Presidency in the second semester of 2019, and check their availability for contributing, including financially, to the organisation of a side event during the 39th Standing Committee to mark the 40th anniversary of the Convention. The Bureau wished that the Side Event is also the occasion for remembering past achievements and discussing current challenges facing European biodiversity. It advised that previous Chairs of the Standing Committee are also invited to the event. A photo exhibition of 40 years of work of the Convention and portraits of the people who shaped it was also proposed.

3. FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION

3.1 Inter-sessional working group on financing: membership, working methods and draft working documents

Bureau members were updated on the political and financial situation at the Council of Europe, and the degree to which the withholding of the Russian Federation's payment could heavily impact on the programme of activities. To cope with this uncertain situation, a Contingency Plan for the Council Europe has been prepared and, if adopted, some operational sectors could be cut of 50%. The details of the Contingency Plan will be discussed by the Committee of Ministers in May-June 2019. The Secretariat will keep the Bureau informed on any development.

The Secretariat further presented the progress of the work of the inter-sessional group on finances. The mandate of the group is now final and Mr Øystein Størkersen was approved as Chair. The following Parties are members of the group: Czech Republic, Finland, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Slovak Republic, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

A document detailing the legal aspects of several options for the development of an obligatory financial contribution's mechanism for the Convention was also shared with the working group. It was prepared jointly by the Secretariat and the Council of Europe Treaty Office/Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law and is aimed at collecting the initial comments and suggestions of the Group. A revised version of the document will be produced, together with a draft Resolution, as requested by the Standing Committee.

The Bureau discussed the current financial situation of the Convention and future financial prospects and options. It expressed its great concern and recognised that currently the existence of the Convention is at stake. It reminded that to maintain the Convention would require first the maintenance of its Secretariat and staff, which is very small but productive.

The Bureau appreciated the efforts of the NGO community to raise awareness on the importance of the Convention and request the Council of Europe's highest authorities to safeguard its budget in the current financial crisis.

The Bureau further welcomed the progress in the work of the inter-sessional working group on finances, thanked the eight Parties closely involved in the group. It recognised that the response brought to the current situation will have to be twofold:

1. a short-term solution through the adoption of a Resolution providing a basis for increased suggested voluntary contributions based on a scale which could be adjusted ahead of the 39th Standing Committee, taking into account the most recent information on the budget allocation of the Council of Europe to the Convention for 2020-2021;

2. a mid- to long-term one, through a decision by the 39th Standing Committee and based on the legal analysis document and conclusions of the inter-sessional working group, on the best legal option for the establishment of a system of compulsory financial contributions. The mechanism for putting in place a new compulsory financial contributions system will be a sliding mechanism, firstly choosing the best legal option and the required level of contributions and then allowing for a period for adopting the new legal option and the modalities for its entry into force (number of ratifications).

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to:

- revise the document on the legal aspects on different options for the establishment of a compulsory financing system for the Convention, according to the inter-sessional working group comments by end April 2019;
- develop the text of the Resolution and circulate it to the Group in May 2019 for comments;
- provide the EU Presidency and Focal Point for the Bern Convention with both documents, as developed by the inter-sessional working Group, by mid-May 2019;
- beginning of September 2019, all Parties will have to be informed that they are expected to make important decisions regarding the financial situation of the Convention and its future at the upcoming 39th Standing Committee meeting.

Eventually, the Bureau agreed that it will address Focal Points to the Bern Convention, through a letter by the Chair to remind of the difficult situation and advise them to seek support at national level through their own channels to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and representatives to the Council of Europe.

3.2 Contribution by the Bern Convention to the current and future post-2020 global biodiversity framework: planned activities and progress

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that it is still considering the way a Bern Convention contribution to the processes can be launched and organised. Taking into account the number of processes taking place with the same objectives, through the EU and OECD for example, the added value of Bern Convention process and its practical organisation has to be carefully considered.

The Bureau discussed the outcomes of the COP 14 of the CBD in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, and the state of affair regarding the preparations for the post-2020 strategic framework, the 2050 vision, the Strategy format, parameters etc. The consultation process foresees that following the initial consultations, a new discussion paper will be made available on 15 May 2019, focusing on possible elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Comments on this paper will be expected between 15 May and 15 August 2019. An Open-ended Working Group will also be dealing with the preparation of the Strategy with a first meeting over the summer 2019.

The Bureau discussed the different options before the Convention for contributing to the process, taking into account the limited human and financial resources. It decided that the Secretariat and the Bureau will develop a short response once the notification of the availability of the discussion document is received in May 2019. A short information document on the Bern Convention's contribution to the 2020 Aichi targets is also going to be prepared and presented at the COP 15 in China in 2020. The information document should stress that the Bern Convention was one of the first Conventions to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the CBD and contributes with concrete actions and guidance on the core business of biodiversity conservation, species and habitats.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2019

[T-PVS/Inf(2019)6 – Calendar of 2019 meetings]

[T-PVS(2018)16 - Programme of Activities and budget for 2019]

The Secretariat informed that the Calendar of Activities was finalised end of February and all planned events have now found a host country or will be held at the Council of Europe premises in Strasbourg or Paris. All thematic issues covered through the Programme of Activities of the Convention for 2019 are detailed under the corresponding point under agenda item 4.

It further informed on two additional activities implemented since the beginning of the year. The first one is the finalisation of the narrative and financial reporting on the use of voluntary contributions paid for 2018 by Contracting Parties. These reports are going to be sent out to donors by the Council of Europe Directorate of Programmes, which is responsible for negotiating the contributions agreements with donors, by 31 March 2019.

Another point of information for the Bureau was the on-going coordination between the Secretariat, UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD). The coordination concerned the technical aspects of a possible transfer of UK's Natura 2000 database to the Emerald Network post-Brexit. An evaluation of the needs and possible issues has been carefully made and further coordination is now taking place at the level of the UK authorities.

4.1 European Diploma for Protected Areas: results of the meeting of the Group of Specialists and planning of the appraisal visits in 2019

[T-PVS/DE(2019)10 – Draft Resolutions on the Renewal of the European Diploma]

The Secretariat presented the outcomes of the annual meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas which took place on 5-6 March 2019 in Strasbourg, namely the draft Resolutions for the renewal of the Diploma to 10 areas, agreed by the Group. It further updated the Bureau on the upcoming on-the-spot appraisal visits scheduled for 2019, including a first appraisal visit for a newly received application for the Diploma from the Italian Regional Park Regional Park Gallipoli

Cognato. Considering the heavy agenda of the Group in the past few years, with a very high number of areas visited and assessed for a Diploma renewal, it was proposed that the meeting of the Group is extended to 2 days, if the financial situation of the Convention allows it and until a calmer period with less renewals on the agenda starts.

The Secretariat further informed of the launching of the EDPA new dashboard, where areas awarded the Diploma are presented by countries and 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. This is a major development for the Diploma, as it will allow for an easy access to the annual reports of the last 6 years for each area, as well as the reports of the on-the-spot appraisal visits.

Eventually, the Secretariat informed that three members of the Group of Specialists are going to leave the Group of Specialists at the end of 2019 - the experts from Hungary, Sweden and Italy. Considering the rotation principle, the past composition of the Group and an even geographical representation, the Secretariat proposed that the Bureau invites the following countries which host Diploma holding areas to kindly designate a member to be part of the Group of Specialists composition in the period 2020-2022 – United Kingdom, Spain and Greece.

The Bureau welcomed the important outcomes of the meeting and agreed to send to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, for formal adoption, the draft resolutions on the renewal of the Diploma to 10 areas. It congratulated the Secretariat on the creation of the dashboard of the European Diploma and agreed that the meeting is extended to 2 full meeting days in 2020, in the financial situation allows for it.

The Bureau further instructed the Secretariat to approach the national authorities of the United Kingdom, Spain and Greece and request they designate a member for the Group of Specialists for the period 2020-2022. Eventually, the Bureau warmly thanked the three outgoing members of the Group for their hard work and dedication to the European Diploma mechanism.

4.2 Invasive Alien Species: state of preparation of the Group of Experts' meeting

[T-PVS/Agenda(2019)6 - Draft agenda]

The Secretariat presented the state of play of the organisation of the 13th meeting of the Convention's Group of Experts on IAS. The meeting will take place in Batumi, at the kind invitation of the Georgian authorities. It will consist of 1.5 working days and 0.5 day field visit.

The meeting will have several objectives, namely to review progress in implementation of the European Strategy on the eradication of Invasive Alien Species, to assess the level of implementation of Bern Convention guidance (Codes on Conduct) focussing on different pathways for the spread of the species and discuss and agree on a Bern Convention Guidance document on IAS and e-commerce and on a Guidance on communicating on IAS. The IUCN Species Survival Commission and the European Commission will update participants on progress in their respective initiatives.

A reporting request will be sent to Bern Convention Contracting Parties and observers, ahead of the meeting, to collect information on the state of implementation of the Strategy and identify good practices in the use of the Codes of Conduct.

The Bureau welcomed the progress in the preparation of the meeting and acknowledged the kind invitation by the Georgian authorities to host the meeting. It noted that two guidance documents will be circulated to Parties for comments ahead of the meeting and that these might potentially be sent for possible adoption of endorsement by the Standing Committee at its 39th meeting.

4.3 Illegal killing of birds: state of preparation of the joint Bern SFPs Network/CMS MIKT meeting

[T-PVS/Agenda(2019)5 - Draft agenda]

The Secretariat presented the progress in the meeting organisation and praised again the fruitful and smooth cooperation between the Bern Convention and the CMS on the IKB phenomena in the last 2 years, since the launching of the joint Scoreboard.

The meeting is going to take place at Castel Porziano in Rome, at the kind invitation of the Italian authorities. The main objective of the meeting is to present the results of the first reporting exercise on the Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild bird. Reports were received from 27 Parties, although some were incomplete. The preparation of the analysis report was entrusted to an external consultant who is working in close cooperation with both Convention's Secretariats. Necessary amendments to the Scoreboard will also be debated at the meeting in Rome.

The other priority of the meeting will be a discussion on the future Bern Convention Strategy, post-2020, on IKB, which should follow-up on the Tunis Action Plan 2016-2020 (TAP). Preparatory work, including a SWOT analysis of the TAP and other initiatives has taken place in 2018. The draft Strategy document was circulated to the Special Focal Points network of the Convention and to partners, including CMS MIKT Taskforce, at the beginning of 2019. Discussions on the Strategy are expected to take place at the meeting in Rome and possibly continued throughout the year with a view of the adoption of the Strategy at the upcoming 39th meeting of the Standing Committee to the Convention. The opportunity of adopting a joint Bern/CMS Strategy on IKB will also be discussed in the coming months between the two Convention's Secretariats.

The Bureau welcomed progress in the preparations for the meeting, thanked the Italian authorities for the kind hosting of the event and looks forward to hearing more about the meeting results at its second meeting in September 2019.

4.4 Conservation of birds: state of play of the draft Programme of Work

The Secretariat reminded that the last time the meeting of the Group of Experts took place in Malta, back-to-back with the Joint Bern SFPs Network and MIKT Task Force meeting in 2017. The meeting allowed for a discussion of the added value of the Convention on bird species conservation and the necessity to prepare a draft programme of Work for the group of Experts was agreed on. The Secretariat informed that not much progress was achieved so far in this respect and that there are hopes this work can pick up again in 2019 and be followed up in 2020.

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat and instructed the Secretariat to seek further cooperation with Birdlife Europe, who were traditionally co-leading this Group of Experts to develop alongside the Secretariat of the Convention. The Bureau further advised that urgent issues facing bird species conservation should be considered by the Group, for example:

- the issue of disappearance of common species - grassland and farmland species in particular;
- the development of guidance on practical measures which can be put in place in relation to agricultural practices, including the use of pesticides;
- the issue of sustainable use of bird populations and sustainable use principles in general or how to reach maximum sustainable use of huntable birds;
- the wetlands and bird species conservation in respect of climate change;
- the development of a manual/guidance document on bird conservation and the Convention and present its added value, the results of its cooperation on IKB issues and wind energy and birds, etc. and advertise this publication outside Europe.

4.5 Setting-up of the Emerald Network: state of play and activities planned for 2019

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that new data deliveries regarding the Emerald Network were received from Georgia, Norway and Ukraine. While the data were not processed yet, it appears that Ukraine has proposed almost 50 additional new Emerald Network sites.

The Secretariat also informed the Bureau of its on-going discussions with representatives from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) regarding the transfer of UK's Natura 2000 sites under the Emerald Network.

Regarding the Emerald Network sites proposed by Andorra in December 2018, the Secretariat confirmed that they would be evaluated on 11 April.

Finally, the Bureau members were informed of the extension of the cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA) within the framework of the ENI SEIS East II project funded by the EU. Two biogeographical evaluation seminars involving the Eastern Partnership countries will be organised in June and October 2019 to complete the second evaluation round.

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat and welcomed the commitment of Ukraine and Andorra to the implementation of the Emerald Network. The members of the Bureau also welcomed the continuation of the cooperation with the European Environment Agency and thanked EEA for its continuous support to the Emerald Network.

4.6 Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on conservation status of species and habitats: state of play of the development of tools and capacity building activities

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the development of the reporting tool initiated beginning of January 2019 reached the test phase. Six Parties were involved and required to provide feedback by the end of March. The tool is expected to be made public beginning of April.

The Secretariat further informed the Bureau members that within the framework of the extended cooperation agreement with the European Environment Agency (EEA), a third training workshop on reporting was scheduled on 23 May. Contracting Parties will be invited to prepare reports on 6 features ahead of the training workshop. Experts will assess the reports and provide feedback during the training workshop.

The Secretariat will explore in the coming weeks the extent to which the EEA and the European Topic Center on Biological Diversity can assist the Secretariat with processing and analysing the data reported in a timely manner so that the outcomes can provide some pointers on the conservation status of species and habitats at pan-European level and possibly be considered in the preparation of EU's report on the State of Nature.

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat and expressed strong support to the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012). The Bureau welcomed the progress in the development of the reporting tool and invited all non-EU Contracting Parties to attend and take advantage of the third training workshop and to begin without delay the preparation of their reports.

4.7 Climate Change and Biodiversity and Protected Areas and Ecological Networks: state of preparation of the joint meeting of the Groups of Experts

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the joint meeting of the two groups of experts is going to take place in Trondheim (Norway) at the kind invitation of the Norwegian Environment Agency. The concept note of the meeting is still in preparation. The initial idea of the Secretariat, also considering the

results of the survey implemented in 2018 on the needs of Parties in terms of management of protected areas in the face of climate change, is to dedicate the event to both adaptive management and mitigation. The latter is still important to raise the profile of PAs and nature conservation on climate change.

The meeting should be an opportunity for exchanging experiences and good practices in adaptive management, but to also discuss challenges and find common solutions. Some Diploma holding areas can be good case studies for the occasion, taking into account their experiences and initiatives, and could be showcased. In addition, the Secretariat is in contact with the EUROPARC Federation, a long-term partner of the Convention, as they have also launched a project in the field including a survey of their members.

The Bureau welcomed the ideas advanced so far for the meeting and instructed the Secretariat to continue with the meeting preparations. It considered that it might be useful that the report prepared on climate change and protected areas, 10 years ago, on behalf of the Convention is carefully investigated, as well as the IPCC and UNFCCC reports and special chapters on protected areas. The work adaptive management being the key of the meeting, the issues of the assessment of ecosystem integrity and landscape connectivity are also to be considered.

4.8 Conservation of amphibian and reptile species: state of affairs

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that a meeting of this Group of Experts, although planned in the programme of work for 2019 is not going to take place, due to the restrictions in spending and the uncertainties regarding the financial situation of the Convention.

However, work on issues identified as relevant by the Group of Experts at its previous meeting was initiated, following up on the work done by the group since 2015 on pathogens and native fauna.

Both the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles and the one on IAS agree that pathogens are by far the most important aliens and pose a threat for both wildlife and humans. A key problem is the important knowledge gap on wildlife pathogens in general and the misunderstandings on what is alien and what endemic, how to deal with species becoming vectors, how reintroduced animals are screened, etc. A study was therefore commissioned to an expert, to clarify the issues at stake in relation to alien pathogens and pathogens spread by alien species and to identify the gaps in knowledge, science and possibly legislation, including EU one. The study, to be ready by the end of the summer should be organised as a basis for a larger discussion in the relevant scientific bodies of the Convention, of the conservation actions and possible policy and legislative measures that could be promoted by the Convention. As soon as a draft of the study is ready, by end June 2019, it will be circulated for comments to both relevant Groups of Experts on IAS and Amphibians and Reptiles.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the progress in the thematic field of work of the Convention and noted that a meeting is not planned for 2019 due to the financial uncertainties. It welcomed the idea to collect the opinion and comments of both Groups of Experts on the draft of the study.

4.9 European Conference for the conservation of the lynx in West and Central Europe: state of play

The Secretariat informed that already in 2018 it has been approached by the IUCN Cats Specialists Group regarding a planned European Conference aimed at reviewing the status and the conservation challenges of the Eurasian lynx populations in Central and Western Europe and mapping the ongoing and planned conservation projects for the species.

The main outcome of the event could be a long-term strategy or principles for the recovery and maintenance of the lynx metapopulations on continental Europe.

Some financial support to this long-term partner of the Convention was planned in the Programme of Work for 2019. The event is going to take place with the support of the Council of Europe in Bonn on 17-18 June. More information on the event will follow in due time.

The Bureau took note of the expert conference which is aimed at coming up with science-based recommendations on coordinating the conservation of the lynx in the region, whose implementation will depend on the range country authorities. The Bureau looks forward to the results of the event.

4.10 Review of the European Plant Conservation Strategy: coordination with Planta Europa

The Secretariat informed the Bureau on progress in the discussions between the Secretariat and Planta Europa regarding the development of a review of the European Plant Conservation Strategy.

A coordination meeting was held with the current Chair of Planta Europa and it appeared that the association now has an official status in France and can benefit from financial support, participate in call for project proposals, etc. Therefore, the small financial support for the review of the Strategy, freshen in the programme of Work of the Convention would be provided officially to Planta Europa, although many details should still be cleared, mainly administrative ones.

The plans of Planta Europa are to work closely with PlantLife (UK), long-term partner of the Convention too, and to join efforts and expertise to ensure work starts as soon as possible on the review and achieve to finalise, at least a draft, by the end of 2019. Regarding the data to be used for the Strategy, the initial plans are to use the data from the 6th national reports to the CBD and in particular the section on the Global Plant Conservation Strategy. The Secretariat mentioned the possibility for the collection of additional information that might be needed for the review through the Bern Convention channels. This option is still being considered by Planta Europa.

The Bureau welcomed the progress in the initiative to prepare the review of the Strategy, because of the importance of the topic at the global and pan-European levels. It instructed the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with Planta Europa and to keep the Bureau informed of progress.

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

5.1 Biennial reporting request and submissions

5.2 ORS and EU Member States obligations

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the development of the ORS questionnaires for the biennial reports 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 is taking some time and that support from UNEP WCMC is necessary again due to many bugs and impossibility by Focal Points to submit their reports.

In addition, the Secretariat informed that DG Environment at the European Commission consulted the Secretariat on the features which could be included in the future on-line dashboard on reporting on derogations using Habides+ online tool.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the updates and wished that the cooperation with UNEP WCMC on solving the ORS bugs is quickly ensured in order to allow for the creation of the 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 biennial reporting questionnaires and for a quick reporting request to Parties.

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION: CASE-FILES

[T-PVS/Notes(2019)1 – Summary of open and possible case files]

[T-PVS/Notes(2019)2 – Summary of other complaints]

[T-PVS/Notes(2019)3 – Summary of complaints on stand-by]

[T-PVS/Inf(2019)5 – Register of Bern Convention's case-files]

As an introduction to the agenda item the Secretariat presented latest developments in relation to the [Guidance on detecting, reporting, assessing and responding to changes in the ecological character of Emerald Network sites](#). This document was prepared with the aim to fill in a gap in the guidance of the Bern Convention and to support Contracting Parties in taking necessary steps to detect, report on and respond to changes in the ecological character of Emerald Network sites. The document is also expected to facilitate the work of the Bureau in relation to case files which concern adopted Emerald network sites. Their important increase in the past years has been an indication that there is a strong need for the development of such Guidance.

The Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks assessed the document in 2018 and it was also presented to the Standing Committee at its 38th meeting. The document is also going to be circulated for additional consultations at national level on its applicability in the various national contexts.

To help assess document, the Secretariat has prepared a flowchart, which presents a step-by-step approach of what is prescribed by the 15 guidelines and what the authorities are expected to do. At every step, the flowchart points to a particular guidance number to be consulted in the full document on ecological character.

In addition to the circulation of the full Guidance document and its flowchart to all Parties, the Ukrainian authorities have kindly accepted to test it using one or more of its pending case-files focussing on Emerald Network sites when assessing their action and reporting to the Bureau.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the work on the flowchart and considered that this shortened and prescriptive version of the guidance document is welcome and should facilitate the work at national level. The Bureau also thanked the Ukrainian authorities for accepting to test this flowchart and Guidance document. The Bureau will also try and use the flowchart when assessing progress on complaints/case-files at its second annual meeting for 2019, scheduled for September 2019.

6.1 Open files

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

[T-PVS/Files(2019)21 - Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Complainant Report]

The Bureau thanked the national authorities of Bulgaria for the timely and detailed report on the implementation of the recently adopted Recommendation No. 200 (2018) on the windfarms planned near Balchik and Kaliakra, and other wind farm developments on the Via Pontica route (Bulgaria). It regretted the lack of report by the complainant organisation.

The Bureau took note of the progress in the implementation of the various operational paragraphs of Recommendation No. 200 (2018) and noted the authorities are pro-active and committed to their implementation.

It advised the authorities to involve closely all relevant stakeholders during all phases of preparation of the comprehensive independent assessment of the impact of operational windfarms, as prescribed in operational paragraph 1 of the Recommendation. Such careful planning and consultation would ensure the large acceptance of the assessment and any eventual compensation measures. The Bureau looks forward to receiving updated information on further progress and how stakeholders are consulted and involved, also through data-sharing and other ways as prescribed in the Recommendation.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to approach the European Commission and request information on their own processes in relation to the case, for its second annual meeting in September 2019.

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

[T-PVS/Files(2019)26 - Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files(2019)28 - Complainant Report]

The Bureau thanked the national authorities of Turkey for their short report and welcomed the actions planned for implementing the two relevant Recommendations and for ensuring a successful and undisturbed 2019 nesting season. The Bureau noted however that most of the activities planned concern research, monitoring and conservation studies and are limited to the upcoming nesting season.

The Bureau reminded the Turkish authorities that finding and implementing a long-lasting solution to all issues dealt with in both Recommendations would require strategic planning. It proposed that the authorities prepare a detailed action plan on the implementation of the Recommendations and submit a draft version for comments and advice by the Bureau, at its second annual meeting in September 2019, together with a detailed report on the implementation of the actions planned for this nesting season. The final version of the action plan would then have to be finalised for the upcoming 39th Standing Committee to the Convention.

➤ **2013/1: North Macedonia: Hydro power development within the territory of Mavrovo National Park**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Complainant Report]

The Bureau thanked again the national authorities of North Macedonia for their letter sent in November 2018 and requesting advice 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 Bureau also noted that the Secretariat had, on instruction of the Committee, proposed the organisation of an expert visit (2 days) to the country and Mavrovo NP are in late spring/early summer 2019 and composed of a representative of the Bern Convention, an expert in protected areas' management and zoning and possibly of an expert in the planning and implementation of SEAs could also be foreseen.

The Bureau regretted that a response from the authorities on this offer is still pending, instructed the Secretariat to reiterate the offer and hoped that progress could be quickly achieved and progress presented at its upcoming second annual meeting for 2019 in September.

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

[T-PVS/Files(2019)25 - Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files(2019)20 - Complainant Report]

The Bureau thanked the Albanian authorities for their report on planned activities in view of implementing Recommendation No. 202 (2018) on the planned hydro-power plant developments on the Vjosa river (Albania).

The Bureau agreed that the pressure on rivers and their ecosystems in the Balkans from hydro energy is particularly high and that strategic planning and assessment of impact is particularly relevant. It reminded the national authorities of Albania of operational paragraph 11 of Recommendation No. 2020 (2018) requesting "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".

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request that the authorities provide the schedule and programme of work foreseen in the Recommendation for its second annual meeting in September 2019, along with a report on further progress in the Recommendation's implementation, a short progress report on the setting-up of the Emerald Network and a feedback on the complainant report submitted (document T-PVS/Files (2019)20).

The Secretariat reminded that there are two case-files in the category 'Open files' which will be discussed directly at the 2nd annual meeting of the Bureau:

- 1995/6: *Cyprus: Akamas peninsula*
- 2010/5: *Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias*

6.2 Possible files

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

[T-PVS/Files(2019)22 - Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files(2019)23 - NGO Report]

The Bureau thanked both the authorities and the complainant organisation for their timely reports and took note of the information.

After a long discussion, the Bureau agreed that in the expectation of a decision by the European Commission (JASPERS) on the application package for EU funds for Lot 3.2, the next progress report by the authorities should inform on:

- the 7km access road construction and exploratory drillings in the NATURA 2000 site "Kresna-Iindenci", their state of execution, relevant permissions and whether these roads are included in the land use planning for the area;
- on the mitigation and compensation measures planned in relation to the alternative chosen for LOT 3.2., as requested by the Standing Committee at its 38th meeting.

The Bureau further requests a more detailed report by the complainants to back their allegations on the negative impact of the new 'preparatory' road and other infrastructure they reported on.

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

[T-PVS/Files(2019)27 - Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files(2019)24 - Complainant Report]

The Bureau thanked both the authorities and the complainant association for their reports and welcomed progress by the authorities on the implementation of Recommendation No. 201 (2018). It welcomed the information that the draft Spatial Plan for the National Park was withdrawn from Parliamentary procedure due to important quality issues.

The Bureau will continue to closely monitor progress in the implementation of the recommended actions and advised the national authorities to seek additional financial resources, including external ones, for improving its administration capacities and ensuring the follow-up of the current project on Natura 2000. This project provides valuable information also for the setting-up of the Emerald Network to be developed.

The Secretariat reminded that there is one case-file in the category 'Possible files' which will be discussed directly at the 2nd annual meeting of the Bureau:

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

6.3 Complaints on stand-by

- **2014/3: Serbia: Presumed deliberate killing of birds & 2016/3: Alleged deliberate killing of birds of prey**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)8 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)14 - Complainant Report]

The Bureau thanked both the Serbian authorities and complainants for their constant and timely reporting on the files.

The Bureau acknowledged that the national authorities are putting a lot of efforts in the fight against illegal bird killing and to deal with toxic substances and wastes still used illegally. The Bureau strongly encourages the authorities to continue the good work and focus on law enforcement, monitoring and strengthening prosecution, using the Guidance documents developed under the Convention.

The Bureau advised the authorities to be particularly vigilant on threats towards threatened and critically endangered species and species listed in the Convention's appendices. National authorities and the NGOs -including the complainants- are strongly encouraged to cooperate and share data with the aim of finding solutions, encourage their implementation and strengthen law enforcement.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request a new report to both the authorities and complainants for its first meeting annual meeting in 2020, to allow for the autumn migration to take place and facilitate reporting.

The complaints remain in stand-by.

- **2014/8: Greece: Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Complainant Report]

The Bureau noted the lack of reports by both the authorities and the complainant.

It expressed its continuous concern regarding this case and recognised its complexity in terms of law enforcement by the authorities. It regretted that the authorities have not informed on their plans on how they plan to deal with this issue during the upcoming tourist season.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request a new report to both the complainants and the authorities on situation during the 2019 tourist season, in view of formulating a decision regarding the future of the complaint.

The complaint remains in stand-by.

- **2015/2: North Macedonia: Possible impact of wind-farm developments on bats**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Complainant Report]

The Bureau noted the lack of reporting by the authorities. It urged them to provide a report on the results of the post-construction monitoring and instructed the Secretariat to keep consulting and cooperating with EUROBATS once the next report by the authorities is submitted.

The complaint remains in stand-by.

➤ **2016/6: Serbia: Presumed risk of national extinction of great bustards (*Otis tarda*)**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)7 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)11 - Complainant Report]

The Bureau thanked the national authorities and complainant for their constant and timely reporting.

The Bureau noted the progress on the file in terms of efforts by the authorities. However, it noted that the ex-situ breeding of the great bustard is difficult and stressed the importance of creating and maintaining a landscape mosaic composed of various habitats, including grassland, to attract the species for breeding and wintering. It also warned the authorities on the negative impact fences can have for the return of the species.

The Bureau requested the authorities to provide a new report for its upcoming second annual meeting in September 2019 and to clarify:

- what is the management regime for the protected area as well as its zoning;
- what are the regulations for the use of the area;
- what is the status of the 1-year management programmes implemented in the area and why a longer-term document does not seem to be adopted, which will most probably be more adapted and useful;
- clarify what the last winter census results are.

The Bureau strongly encouraged the authorities to carefully plan its next steps for what looks like the last chance for revival of the population.

The complaint remains in stand-by.

➤ **2016/9: Georgia: Possible threat to “Svaneti 1” Candidate Emerald Site (GE0000012) from Nenskra Hydro Power Plant development**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)12 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Complainant Report]

The Bureau thanked the national authorities for their report and recognised their hard work and efforts on the complaint and excellent progress in the overall setting-up of the Emerald network.

The Bureau noted there are a few remaining points for consideration, namely how good the compensation for the initial site is in quality terms. It invited the authorities to complement, as planned, their studies and to seek to identify and designate an additional site with freshwater habitats to compensate the loss and to further work towards the completeness of the Emerald network in Georgia.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request a new report by the national authorities for its first annual meeting in 2020 and to invite the NGO to comment on the authorities work and progress in the frame of the complaint.

The complaint remains in stand-by.

6.4 Other complaints

➤ **2017/2: North Macedonia: Alleged negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructure developments**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Complainant Report]

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to seek cooperation with the World Heritage Committee, to request progress reports to both the authorities and the complainant organisation and hopes to be able to discuss the case at its next meeting in September 2020 and to find a way forward for the complaint.

This complaint is moved to the category on stand-by.

➤ **2017/3: Serbia: Possible negative impact of a harbor's construction on the confluence of the Sava into the Danube**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)6 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)13 - Complainant Report]

The Bureau thanked the national authorities of Serbia and the complainant organisation for their timely and complete reports.

The Bureau noted that the results of the feasibility study on the new harbour project location are still pending.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request a new report to the national authorities once the results of the study are available or in case of any new and relevant development. It requested a new report by the complainant organisation on their opinion on the new project location for its second annual meeting in September 2019.

This complaint is moved to the category on stand-by.

➤ **2017/4: Ukraine: Presumed threat to Emerald site Tarutino (UA0000137) from cultivation developments**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)18 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)2 - NGO Report]

The Bureau thanked the national authorities of Ukraine and the complainant organisation for their detailed reports.

The Bureau appreciated the efforts of the authorities to provide an adequate protection status and regime for the area and the threatened steppe habitats and reminded of the authorities' responsibility over the now adopted Emerald sites in the country.

The Bureau strongly encouraged the competent authorities to find solutions to the remaining issues in close collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and other relevant actors.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request a new progress report to the national authorities for its second annual meeting in September 2019.

This complaint is moved to the category on stand-by.

➤ **2017/6: Iceland: Possible negative impact on Breiðaffjörður Nature Reserve's authentic birch woods from new road infrastructure**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)5 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)9 - Complainant Report]

The Bureau thanked the national authorities and complainant for their detailed reports.

It expressed its strong concerns that this important site is compromised, also in view of its potential Emerald Network designation in the future and in view of the World Heritage application. The choice of the new road infrastructure routing appears to be compromising the area and is recognised as a non-optimal routing solution in the presence of alternatives less harmful for the environment.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request a new progress report to the national authorities for its second annual meeting in September 2019 on:

- who is in charge of the choice and approval of the road alternative selection and how the opinion of the main agencies and institutes of the country are taken into account;
- updated information on the status of the road construction;
- progress in the setting-up of the Emerald network, namely, information on planned calendar for the submission of proposed sites database.

Eventually, the Bureau stressed that the lack of any progress in the setting-up of the Emerald Network in Iceland, in the past 20 years, is compromising many high value biodiversity areas such as the one of concern in this file.

In this respect, the Bureau decided to place the file in the category on stand-by and to make a decision on moving it further for consideration by the Standing Committee in its next meeting.

➤ **2017/07: Austria: Alleged threat to the Raaderwald Forest**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files(2019)10 - Complainant Report]

The Bureau thanked the complainant for his report. It decided that throughout 2018 it achieved to establish a contact between the local actors and the government and that the case is no longer for the Convention to deal with.

The complaint was dismissed.

➤ **2018/1: Ukraine: Presumed threat to Emerald site “Polonina Borzhava” (UA0000263) from wind energy development**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)16 - Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files(2019)15 - Complainant Report]

The Bureau thanked the national authorities and complainant for their detailed reports.

It welcomed the Environment Impact Assessment realised according the Ukrainian law adopted in December 2017 and took note that its results are currently debated in public hearings.

The Bureau encouraged the authorities to ensure fair and transparent consultations and to reflect the arguments and comments of layers of stakeholders.

The Bureau also invited the authorities to refer to the guidelines developed by the Bern Convention in cooperation with Birdlife International “Wind farms and birds: an updated analysis of the effects of wind farms on birds, and best practice guidance on integrated planning and impact assessment” and those developed by the European Commission in the framework of Natura 2000 “Wind energy developments and Natura 2000”.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request a new report to the national authorities reflecting the results of the public consultations on the EIA and to invite the complainant to comment on it for its second annual meeting in September 2019.

This complaint is moved to the category on stand-by.

➤ **2018/2: Ukraine: Presumed threat to Emerald site “Black Sea Biosphere Reserve” (UA0000017) from military trainings**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)17 - Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files(2019)3 - NGO Report]

The Bureau thanked the national authorities and complainant for their detailed reports.

The Bureau expressed its strong concern over the possible damage from the military trainings of fragile coastal species and habitats, which are natural values of pan-European importance.

It thanked the national authorities for their concrete actions and encouraged them to continue their efforts, as the activities taking place in the area does not seem to be compatible with the protected status of the site.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request a new progress report to the national authorities for its second annual meeting in September 2019.

This complaint is moved to the category on stand-by.

➤ **2018/4: Turkey: Alleged threat to Bodrum Tilkicik Bay from the development of a marine project**

[T-PVS/Files(2019)1 - Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files(2019)4 - Complainant Report]

The Bureau thanked both the national authorities and the complainant for their reports. It noted the concerns of the complainant over possible new development projects in the area but agreed that the Convention only deals with complaints presenting solid information on real threats and violations of the Convention.

Taking into account the confirmation of the cancellation of the project, the Bureau decided to dismiss the complaint.

7. FOLLOW-UP OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS AND CASE-FILES

The Secretariat presented two proposals for Recommendations whose implementation can be followed up by the Standing Committee at its upcoming 39th meeting:

- **Recommendation No. 190 (2016) on the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, specially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland**
- **Recommendation No. 199 (2018) on the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of the sturgeon**

The Bureau discussed the choices for Recommendations to be followed-up by the Standing Committee and agreed on them. It further instructed the Secretariat to consider the Convention's Recommendations on climate change for follow-up by the Committee, as reporting on their implementation could be of interest for the joint meeting of the Groups of Experts on Protected Areas and on Climate Change.

Eventually, it welcomed the information provided by the Secretariat on discussions regarding the setting-up of a coordination and monitoring mechanism on the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of the sturgeon and instructed the Secretariat to the Bureau informed.

8. GEORGIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE: PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE LINKS BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT (APRIL, 2020)

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the preparations for the High-level event are progressing well. An inter-secretariat coordination group gathering the different institutions of the Council of Europe, inter-governmental cooperation, Commission on Human Rights, Registry of the European Court on Human Rights and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is set up and meets regularly to plan and prepare the event.

The main outcome of the event should be a Ministerial declaration which would eventually call on the Council of Europe to develop a non-binding tool, recommendation/Guidelines, on human rights and environment and responsibility of states for environmental harm arising from private industries and on fair compensation for environmental nuisance affecting property.

The Bureau welcomed the progress and instructed the Secretariat to keep them informed in progress in the organisation of the meeting, especially if its organisation can be announced at the 39th meeting of the Standing Committee to the Convention and if the Committee will be requested to have a specific role in respect of the event.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None were raised.

Appendix 1



Strasbourg, 15 March 2019

T-PVS/Agenda(2019)2

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

Bureau meeting

Strasbourg, 18-19 March 2019
(Room 15, opening: 9:00 am on 18 March)

AGENDA

1. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
2. **40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERN CONVENTION**
3. **FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION**
 - 3.1 **Inter-sessional working group on financing: membership, working methods and draft working documents**
 - 3.2 **Contribution by the Bern Convention to the current and future post-2020 global biodiversity framework: planned activities and progress**
4. **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2019**

[T-PVS/Inf(2019)6 – Calendar of 2019 meetings]
[T-PVS(2018)16 - Programme of Activities and budget for 2019]

 - 4.1 **European Diploma for Protected Areas: results of the meeting of the Group of Specialists and planning of the appraisal visits in 2019**
[T-PVS/DE(2019)10 – Draft Resolutions on the Renewal of the European Diploma]
 - 4.2 **Invasive Alien Species: state of preparation of the Group of Experts' meeting**
[T-PVS/Agenda(2019)6 - Draft agenda]
 - 4.3 **Illegal killing of birds: state of preparation of the joint Bern SFPs Network/CMS MIKT meeting**
[T-PVS/Agenda(2019)5 - Draft agenda]
 - 4.4 **Conservation of birds: state of play of the draft Programme of Work**
 - 4.5 **Setting-up of the Emerald Network: state of play and activities planned for 2019**
 - 4.6 **Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on conservation status of species and habitats: state of play of the development of tools and capacity building activities**

4.7 Climate Change and Biodiversity and Protected Areas and Ecological Networks: state of preparation of the joint meeting of the Groups of Experts

4.8 Conservation of amphibian and reptile species: state of affairs

4.9 European Conference for the conservation of the lynx in West and Central Europe: state of play

[Concept Note]

4.10 Review of the European Plant Conservation Strategy: coordination with Plata Europa

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

5.1 Biennial reporting request and submissions

5.2 ORS and EU Member States obligations

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION: CASE-FILES

[T-PVS/Notes(2019)1 – Summary of open and possible case files]

[T-PVS/Notes(2019)2 – Summary of other complaints]

[T-PVS/Notes(2019)3 – Summary of complaints on stand-by]

[T-PVS/Inf(2019)5 – Register of Bern Convention's case-files]

6.1 Open files

- 2004/2: Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica
[T-PVS/Files(2019)21 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Complainant Report]
- 2012/9: Turkey: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs
[T-PVS/Files(2019)26 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)28 - Complainant Report]
- 2013/1: North Macedonia: Hydro power development within the territory of Mavrovo National Park
[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Complainant Report]
- 2016/5: Albania: Presumed negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Vjosa river
[T-PVS/Files(2019)25 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)20 - Complainant Report]

N.B. Open files to be discussed directly at the 2nd annual meeting of the Bureau:

- 1995/6: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula
- 2010/5: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias

6.2 Possible files

- 2001/4: Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge
[T-PVS/Files(2019)22 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)23 - NGO Report]
- 2016/4: Montenegro: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site
[T-PVS/Files(2019)27 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)24 - Complainant Report]

N.B. Possible files to be discussed directly at the 2nd annual meeting of the Bureau:

- 2017/01: Norway: Lack of legal protection for Northern goshawk and birds of prey

6.3 Complaints on stand-by

- 2014/3: Serbia: Presumed deliberate killing of birds & 2016/3: Alleged deliberate killing of birds of prey

[T-PVS/Files(2019)8 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)14 - Complainant Report]
- 2014/8: Greece: Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs

[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Complainant Report]
- 2015/2: North Macedonia: Possible impact of wind-farm developments on bats

[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Complainant Report]
- 2016/6: Serbia: Presumed risk of national extinction of great bustards (*Otis tarda*)

[T-PVS/Files(2019)7 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)11 - Complainant Report]
- 2016/9: Georgia: Possible threat to “Svaneti 1” Candidate Emerald Site (GE0000012) from Nenskra Hydro Power Plant development

[T-PVS/Files(2019)12 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Complainant Report]

6.4 Other complaints

- 2017/2: North Macedonia: Alleged negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructure developments

[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Complainant Report]
- 2017/3: Serbia: Possible negative impact of a harbor’s construction on the confluence of the Sava into the Danube

[T-PVS/Files(2019)6 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)13 - Complainant Report]
- 2017/4: Ukraine: Presumed threat to Emerald site Tarutino (UA0000137) from cultivation developments

[T-PVS/Files(2019)18 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)2 - NGO Report]
- 2017/6: Iceland: Possible negative impact on Breiðafjörður Nature Reserve’s authentic birch woods from new road infrastructure

[T-PVS/Files(2019)5 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)9 - Complainant Report]
- 2017/07: Austria: Alleged threat to the Raaderwald Forest

[T-PVS/Files(2019)XX - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)10 - Complainant Report]
- 2018/1: Ukraine: Presumed threat to Emerald site “Polonina Borzhava” (UA0000263) from wind energy development

[T-PVS/Files(2019)16 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)15 - Complainant Report]
- 2018/2: Ukraine: Presumed threat to Emerald site “Black Sea Biosphere Reserve” (UA0000017) from military trainings

[T-PVS/Files(2019)17 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)3 - NGO Report]
- 2018/4: Turkey: Alleged threat to Bodrum Tilkicik Bay from the development of a marine project

[T-PVS/Files(2019)1 - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2019)4 - Complainant Report]

7. FOLLOW-UP OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS AND CASE-FILES

- Recommendation No. 190 (2016) on the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, specially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland
- Recommendation No. 199 (2018) on the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of the sturgeon

8. GEORGIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE: PROGRESS IN THE REPARATIONS FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE LINKS BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT (APRIL, 2020)**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Appendix 2**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

Mr Jan PLESNIK, Adviser to Director in foreign affairs, Nature Conservation Agency (NCA CR)

ESTONIA / ESTONIE

Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI, Senior officer, Nature Conservation Department, Ministry of the Environment

NORWAY / NORVÈGE

Mr Øystein STØRKERSEN, Principal Advisor, Norwegian Environment Agency

SLOVAK REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUIE

Ms Jana DURKOŠOVÁ, Senior State Advisor, Division for Nature and Landscape Protection, Ministry of the Environment

SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE

Mr Peter SKOBERNE, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT

Council of Europe / Conseil de l'Europe, Directorate of [Democratic Participation](#) / Direction de la Participation démocratique, F-67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX, France Tel: +33 3 88 41 20 00. Fax: +33 3 88 41 37 51

Mr Gianluca SILVESTRINI, Head of Division, Division of Major Risks and Environment, Directorate of [Democratic Participation](#) DGII / Chef de Division, Division des Risques majeurs et de l'Environnement, Direction de la Participation démocratique DGII

Ms Iva OBRETENOVA, Secretary of the Bern Convention, Biodiversity Unit / Secrétaire de la Convention de Berne, Unité de la Biodiversité

Mr Marc HORY, Project support officer, Biodiversity Unit / Agent de soutien aux projets, Unité de la Biodiversité

Ms Véronique de CUSSAC, Administrative assistant, Biodiversity Unit / Assistante administrative, Unité de la Biodiversité

Ms Charlotte CROTEAU, Trainee, Biodiversity Unit / Stagiaire, Unité de la Biodiversité