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**T-PVS(2018)8**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

38<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2018

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**Meeting of the Bureau**

Strasbourg, 10-11 September 2018

**- 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, Mr Øystein Størkersen, opened the second meeting of the Bureau for 2018 and acknowledged the presence of all Bureau members. He noted that several important issues are on the agenda of the meeting, in particular the issue of the financing of the Convention and shared his view that with respect of the case-file system of the Convention, he saw more positive signals on the latest assessment.

He thanked the Secretariat for the work on the preparation of the meeting and wished all members a fruitful meeting. The meeting agenda was adopted with no changes (appendix 1).

## 2. FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION

*[T-PVS(2018)6 – Concept Paper on Financial Mechanism of the Bern Convention]*

The Secretariat presented a concept note on the financial mechanism of the Bern Convention, challenges and opportunities for 2019 and onwards, developed following the instructions of the Bureau. The document reminds of the current dual financial mechanism, a combination of a contribution from the ordinary budget of the Council of Europe and voluntary contributions received from Contracting Parties. It further details the current financial situation of the Council of Europe, trends in the voluntary contributions and ordinary budget allocation for the Convention and provides scenarios for a possible restructuring of the Convention activities, due to the recent cuts in the Convention's budget. The document also makes proposals for the celebrations to be held on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bern Convention in 2019.

The Bureau discussed the document and the various elements it provides, with a view to plan the debate on the concept note at the upcoming Standing Committee meeting. The Bureau also agreed on a few elements of opinion on the issue, which should be presented to the Standing Committee and thus ensure a more informed discussion at the Convention's decision-making body.

The Bureau:

- Welcomed the idea of presenting scenarios for the future development of the Convention;
- Considered that the 40th anniversary provides an opportunity to take a fresh look into the Convention's working methods and priorities ahead of planning the future;
- Agreed however, that the starting point of the discussion at the 38th Standing Committee meeting is to maintain its Secretariat at the level it currently exists as a strict minimum;
- Stressed again that Contracting Parties need to step up their voluntary contributions in order not only to maintain an adequate Secretariat for the Convention, but also to maintain the operational budget of the Convention at a level allowing for attractive and policy development stemming from up-to-date science and data;
- Stressed the need that budget discussions at the Standing Committee are initiated right after the opening of the meeting;
- Acknowledged that the discussions should take into account the proposal made 5 years ago when a system of fixed compulsory contributions was prepared taking into account the UN scale;
- Stressed the need in particular for a step up in the voluntary financial support by Parties representing major economies.

<p><b>DECISION:</b> The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to revise the concept note according to the comments and proposals made during the meeting and to send it out to Contracting Parties as soon as possible, reminding that they are expected to attend the meeting with a position on the issue.</p>
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### **3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2018 PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET ISSUES**

#### **3.1 Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas: follow-up of decisions**

*[T-PVS/DE(2018)11 –Meeting report]*

The Secretariat presented the latest developments since the annual meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas, namely the adoption, by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, of all 20 draft Resolutions for the renewal of the Diploma to 20 areas.

It further informed that 11 out of the 12 appraisal visits planned by the Group of Specialists were already carried out. In relation to areas requiring particular attention, the Secretariat updated the Bureau on the cases of the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park and Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve. In addition, on 27 July 2018, the Secretariat received information that the French National Park of Ecrins was not seeking a renewal of their Diploma in 2020. Such a development in relation to a Diploma holding area is unprecedented.

Eventually, the Secretariat further shared the excellent news regarding the preparations for the inclusion of the European Diploma designation for the awarded areas in the Protected Planet website. For this purpose, an official letter is going to be sent to the area managers, requesting the update of their site's database as well as the delivery of updated area boundaries.

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the efficient follow-up of the decision of the Group of Specialists and the positive news about the upcoming inclusion of the EDPA areas in the protected planet database. It instructed the Secretariat to raise the issue of the French National Park of Ecrins at the upcoming meeting of the Standing Committee and request the French national authorities to comment on this decision by the managers of the area.

#### **3.2 Invasive Alien Species: results of the meeting of the Select Group on IAS and future work plans**

*[T-PVS(2018)5 –Meeting report]*

The Secretariat informed on the outcomes of the meeting of the Select Group of Experts on IAS, which was held in Rome, on 19 April 2018.

The meeting, aside of providing the opportunity for an update on initiatives and actions at national level in the implementation of the European Strategy on IAS, was a relevant fora for brainstorming on possible future activities by the Group. Several possible avenues for the work of the Group were largely debated and proposals made and in particular:

- Advertising of existing Codes of Conduct and their translation into local languages
- An evaluation of the weaknesses and gaps in the implementation of the Codes of Conduct
- Biosecurity and pathogens in relation to IAS
- Methods to control invasive plants

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the overview of the discussions at the meeting and for the very relevant proposals for the future work of this Group.

The Bureau stressed that the general orientations on future Bern action can be further fine-tuned after the adoption of the post-2020 CBD strategy. However, it was the opinion of the Bureau that a strong consideration should be given to the assessment of the use made of voluntary tools of the Convention in the field, developed in the form of Codes of Conduct. It was considered it is high time that such an analysis is made, in order to allow careful planning for future work in filling the possible gaps. Such an assessment could be done through a combined analysis of the 6<sup>th</sup> national reports provided by Bern Contracting Parties to the CBD and a simple tick-the-box questionnaire to be developed by an expert.

### **3.3 Expert meeting on the eradication of the Ruddy Duck: results of the meeting**

The Secretariat informed that the annual meeting of experts on the eradication of the ruddy duck was particularly successful. All relevant countries reported a completed eradication or only sporadic bird sighting. The only exception is France, where a new LIFE project aimed at the eradication of ruddy duck starts now and will allow for the hiring of specialized staff, boats and guns at the *Lac de Grand Lieu*, where there are still wintering numbers of the bird.

**DECISION:** The Bureau welcomed the good news about the new LIFE project starting in France, which will hopefully allow for the Convention's eradication Action Plan to be completed.

### **3.4 Illegal killing of birds: launching of the IKB Scoreboard**

The Secretariat reminded the Bureau of the decision to postpone the next meeting of the Special Focal points for IKB to next year, following the cuts in the Convention's budget at the beginning of 2018. Notwithstanding this setback, the Secretariat continued with the implementation of planned actions and, jointly with the CMS, launched the IKB Scoreboard adopted at the last Standing Committee meeting. The 1<sup>st</sup> reporting exercise is particularly important, as it is aimed at setting a baseline against which all future reporting will be measured. The deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of October and reporting is applicable for all Parties.

In addition, the Secretariat, with the support of a consultant, developed a questionnaire and concept note aimed at proposing avenues for the future post-2020 strategy of the Convention in the field of IKB. A consultation is still on-going, launched through the Bern Network of Special IKB Focal Points, but also through the CMS MIKT Task Force, to assess countries and main actors' aspirations and views for the follow-up to be given to the Bern Tunis Action Plan 2020. This consultation is running until 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

**DECISION:** The Bureau welcomed the launching of the 1<sup>st</sup> reporting exercise under the Bern/CMS Scoreboard and urged all Contracting Parties to report within the deadline. A first assessment of the results of the Scoreboard is planned to be presented at the upcoming Standing Committee meeting.

### **3.5 2018 meeting of the Large Carnivores Initiative for Europe: results of the meeting**

The Secretariat informed that this year again the Bern Convention traditionally contributed to the organisation of the meeting of the LCIE. The meeting took place in Trento, Switzerland on 21-22 March 2018. The group produced maps containing detailed distribution of the different populations of Large Carnivores and the status of the different species, analysing change in the last 6 years. A new species of canid has been added to the list: the golden jackal (*Canis aureus*) which is rapidly spreading in Europe from East to West. Because of its small prey (mainly rodents) there is little conflict with people.

In terms of analysis of issues of importance for large carnivore conservation, the meeting discussed the wolf/dog hybridisation problem, in particular for Grosseto (Italy) and a small coastal population in Galicia (Spain). Now new genetic tools permit to identify hybrids very reliably. A paper will be produced by the LCIE, taking further Recommendation No. 173 (2014) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention.

In terms of elaboration of policy papers containing guidelines for governments and other stakeholders on matters of interest for large carnivores, the meeting discussed the issue of hunting removal of large carnivores to limit predation to livestock. No conclusions were reached on this issue as it generates conflict and extreme opinions.

The meeting however prepared a policy paper on artificial feeding, aiming to regulate and possibly discourage artificial feeding of large carnivores and their prey. The paper will be presented to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention for possible endorsement through a Recommendation.

**DECISION:** The Bureau welcomed the results of the 2018 LCIE meeting. It further noted that the finalisation of the policy paper on artificial feeding will be done in September and a draft Recommendation will be put forward for adoption to the Standing Committee. The Bureau further noted a proposal for down listing of *Canis lupus* to Appendix III of the Convention, submitted by Switzerland.

### **3.6 Setting-up of the Emerald Network: state of play**

The Secretariat informed on progress in the implementation of the Emerald Network Calendar 2020. The biogeographical evaluation Seminar on bird species for Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, which took place in Kiev in May 2018, produced very positive outcomes in terms of sufficiency improvements but also in terms of cooperation between national authorities and NGOs for the preparation of the seminar, particularly in Ukraine. The evaluation took place within the framework of the cooperation agreement with the EEA.

The Republic of Moldova informed of their decision to request the adoption of all the country's 52 candidate Emerald sites already at the 38<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting this year. At the same time Andorra, where the Secretariat has been paying visits and organising technical meetings, decided to propose one area on its territory for the Network and a second area is under consideration.

The Secretariat has also been active in exploring possible venues for cooperation with Montenegro and Serbia over the finalisation of their national Emerald Network. Discussions and preparations continue and are promising.

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the positive overview of progress on the Emerald network setting-up and warmly congratulated both the Republic of Moldova and Andorra for their decisions.

### **3.7 Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012): results of the 1st capacity building Workshop and state of preparation of the second one**

Following the adoption of the format for the reporting exercise in the frame of Resolution No. 8 (2012) focusing on the conservation status of species and habitats, the Secretariat has been organising training workshops to support countries in preparing for the exercise. These workshops are organised with the support of the EEA and its European Topic Centre for Biological Diversity.

Representatives of 12 non-EU Contracting Parties and Observer States to the Bern Convention attended the first training seminar which took place in Copenhagen. The training aimed to familiarise the participants with the reporting process by presenting the reporting form, sharing the lessons

learned by the European Commission from previous reporting cycles, sharing the experience of 2 EU Member States, and providing technical guidance and hands on training for creating distribution maps using a harmonised pan-European projection map.

Participants were required to prepare a trial reporting on 2 species (one bird and one non-avian species) and one habitat including the distribution maps for the second training workshop which is scheduled in Paris early November 2018. In addition, six Bern Convention Parties, from the so-called EU Eastern Partnership, region took part in a back-to-back training session focused on the development of an indicator on protected areas.

The second training workshop will follow up on the outcomes of the first workshop and build on the assessment of trial reports. It is hoped that the same participants will attend the second workshop to ensure consistency and enable further capacity building.

**DECISION:** The Bureau welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat to build capacities among the non-EU Parties to the Convention and to prepare them for the complex reporting on the conservation status of species and habitats. They acknowledged again the importance of this exercise for the preparation of a pan-European analysis of the status of conservation of species and habitats of European importance.

The Bureau strongly encouraged all non-EU Contracting Parties to participate in the training workshops aimed at supporting their future work.

### **3.8 Groups of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks: state of preparation of the meeting**

*[T-PVS/Agenda(2018)6 –Draft agenda]*

The Secretariat briefly exposed the main issues to be debated at the upcoming meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks. The meeting will aim at finalising and endorsing the supporting documents for the Resolution No. 8 (2012) Reporting. It will further discuss a proposal for defining marine regions in the pan-European biogeographical regions map. The Secretariat will introduce the refurbished and improved Emerald Network Reference Portal and will launch the newly prepared Reporting Reference Portal.

Another main issue to be debated at the meeting is the draft guidance describing the ecological character of Emerald Network sites, which is drawing inter alia on a review of the Bern Convention case files that relate to the change of ecological character of Emerald Network sites. The document will provide Recommendations on how to define appropriate practices for detecting, reporting, assessing and responding to changes and is expected to eventually be endorsed and forwarded to the Standing Committee for adoption.

Eventually, four new habitat proposals, presented by Ukraine for inclusion in the Resolution No. 4 (1996) will be presented and discussed. The assessment of these proposals operated by the ETC/BD recommends the inclusion of one of them into Resolution No. 4 (1996).

Last but not least, an assessment of progress in the sufficiency of the Emerald Network based on consolidated conclusions and reference lists database (updated for all Emerald countries) from the latest Emerald biogeographical assessments will be presented.

**DECISION:** The Bureau welcomed the latest developments to improve the Emerald reference portals and create a new Reporting Portal. It stressed the importance of the meeting for discussing and possibly agreeing on several important tools and guidance document for the network implementation.

The Bureau further welcomed the work on the ecological character of Emerald sites and the development recommendations on how to define appropriate practices for detecting, reporting, assessing and responding to changes to this character. It looked forward to hear more about the discussions of the Group around the proposals.

### **3.9 Group of Experts on Climate Change and Biodiversity: next steps**

The Secretariat reminded on the decision to postpone the organisation of a joint meeting between the Groups of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks and the Group of Experts on Climate Change in 2019. Prior to the joint meeting, the Secretariat wants to understand what are the needs and priorities of Contracting Parties for implementing climate adaptive management practices for the Emerald sites. A survey is therefore carried out among Contracting Parties and the results will be considered for the preparation of the joint meeting postponed to the second quarter of 2019.

Simultaneously, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Select Group of Experts on Climate Change, is trying to finalise a format for a biennial reporting (i.e. every second year) on the progress made towards implementing practical actions that address specific Recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee on Climate Change. Currently, there are still discussions around the focus of the reporting, the length of the questionnaire, the definitions attached, etc.

**DECISION:** The Bureau agreed that a needs assessment is a good approach ahead of the organisation of the joint meeting of the Groups of Experts. It wished that the meeting also aims at showcasing good examples with respect of habitat processes and climate change as according to latest analysis and studies, adaptation is not enough to respond to changes due to climate alterations.

### **3.10 Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of the sturgeon: results of the Vienna Conference and follow-up**

Following the announcement of the preparation of a Pan-European Action Plan for the Conservation of the Sturgeon at the first Bureau meeting, a strict calendar was followed in order to ensure the necessary consultation of parties.

In May 2018, a first communication was sent out to Parties on the preparation of a 1<sup>st</sup> draft by an expert group. At the same time, Parties received an invitation to attend the Conference on the conservation of the species organised under the auspices of the Austrian Presidency of the EU in Vienna on 7-8 July 2018. The second draft of the document was sent to Parties in July, with a deadline for comment set for 20 August 2018. A 3<sup>rd</sup> draft, incorporating comments from Parties to the Convention as well was sent to participants of the Conference for final comments before the end of September 2018. The draft document will be finalised at the beginning of October 2018 and included, together with a draft Recommendation, among the working documents for the Standing Committee meeting.

Ms Merike Linnamägi, who represented the Convention at the Vienna Conference, confirmed that one of the main issues raised at the meeting was the issue of the follow-up and coordination of the implementation of the Action Plan. The answer to the question was that such a coordination role can be ensured through the Bern Convention (through an expert group for example), but only if there is a specific request by the Standing Committee and if this is reflected in the Convention's programme and budget for 2019. A draft Recommendation on the Action Plan, to be prepared by the Secretariat, shall be prepared and submitted among the working documents of the Standing Committee.

**DECISION:** The Bureau welcomed the smooth process on the preparation of the Action Plan and its authors. It reminded that the discussions around the role of the Convention in the coordination of the Action Plan implementation have to be done in conjunction with the general discussion on the future priorities and budget of the Convention. It stressed that nevertheless, the Convention has experience in dealing with such work and this has always been done through the involvement of key partner organisations and Conventions, as well as of some countries which have a particular interest and responsibility in the process and can embrace a leader role in any expert group mandated to work on the issue.

### **3.11 Old Growth Forest Protection Strategy: follow-up of coordination with Wildlife Europe**

The Secretariat reminded of the circulation of the second draft Old Growth Forest Protection Strategy by the Wild Europe Initiative, where they invite countries to comment on the latest version of the document.

**DECISION:** The Bureau took note of the latest version of the Strategy and recognised the importance of efficient conservation of ancient and primeval forests.

It reminded that issue has been a long-term concern of the Convention and continues to be dealt with through the Convention's instruments such as the European Diploma for Protected Areas and the Emerald network of areas of Special Conservation interest.

The Bureau further considered that the contribution by the Bern Convention to the implementation of the strategy could be ensured through exchange of data on Emerald network areas which cover old growth forest for the benefits of Wild Europe Initiative's activities, when requested. However the Bureau felt that no further cooperation can be envisaged with the Initiative at this point.

Last but not least the Bureau encouraged Parties to be pro-active in the protection of these precious and threatened ecosystems.

### **3.12 Review of the European Plant Conservation Strategy: follow-up of coordination with Planta Europa**

The Secretariat informed that in April 2018 a meeting was held with Mr Philippe Bardin from the *Museum national d'Histoire naturelle* (MNHN), who is in charge of the organisation of the next Planta Europa Conference scheduled to take place in 2020. It also recalled that the Programme of Work of the Convention for 2018-2019 foresees a financial contribution to the Planta Europa Network for the review of the current Strategy in terms of progress in the achievement of its objectives.

The meeting discussed how exactly the Convention can support the Planta Europa Network in their work on the revision and in the organisation of their next Conference. During the meeting, it was agreed that it is crucial that the planned review is developed in view of supporting the reflection on and development of a new, revised and strengthened overarching document guiding plant species conservation beyond 2020. A letter in this sense was sent to all members of the Steering Committee of the Planta Europa Network.

At their latest meeting in May 2018, the Steering Committee of the Planta Europa Network decided to postpone to 2019 the initiation of the review of the Strategy due to the need for a reinforcement of the Planta Europa Network internally, including though a more permanent coordination structure and entity.



**DECISION:** The Bureau reiterated the Convention's interest in the review of the Strategy. It hoped that the assessment work can be initiated in 2019, also with the support of the Convention.

### **3.13 6<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, 16-19 October 2018, Poreč (Croatia)**

The Secretariat informed that, as foreseen in the Convention's Programme of Work for 2018-2019, a financial support is going to be provided for the organisation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles taking place in October this year. The Convention is traditionally contributing to the organisation of this conference together with RAC/SPA and the CMS.

**DECISION:** The Bureau wished the participants a fruitful meeting and looked forward to hear about its results.

## **4. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION**

### **4.1 State of affairs of biennial report submissions, ORS and EU Member States obligations**

The Secretariat informed on the positive results of a meeting held in Brussels with DG Environment in May 2018, where the issue of the reporting by EU Member States Parties to the Convention was discussed. The pending points regarding the compatibility of the HABIDES+ reporting with the Bern Convention reporting requirements was discussed and a joint conclusion was that the EU tool appears to correspond to the needs. In addition, The Bern Convention was invited to contribute to the future development of an online tool/viewer and to view and analyse the contents of the submitted biennial reports.

**DECISION:** The Bureau welcomed this initiative and agreed that the issue should be debated again at the upcoming Standing Committee meeting, in order to clarify again and to all Parties how the two systems are compatible with each other and what future cooperation and coordination between the Secretariat of the Convention and DG Environment can bring in terms of improved transparency on the reporting obligations and facilitation of the analysis of the reported data.

### **4.2 Amendment proposal by Switzerland: downlisting of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) to Appendix III of the Convention**

**DECISION:** The Bureau acknowledged the request for the amendment was received within the deadline of 2 months ahead of the Standing Committee and sent out, as required, by the Treaty Office of the Council of Europe. The request will thus be inscribed on the agenda of the upcoming Standing Committee meeting.

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION: CASE-FILES

### 5.1 Open files

*[T-PVS(2018)2 – Summary OPEN AND POSSIBLE Case Files]*

#### ➤ 1995/6: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)28 - Complainant Report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau expressed its concern that no report from the authorities had reached the Bureau and urged them to send their report ahead of the 38<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting of the Convention and to attend the meeting itself to report on progress in the implementation of Recommendation No. 191 (2016).

It instructed the Secretariat to request an update from the European Commission on their respective action on the issues at stake in the case-file.

#### ➤ 2004/2: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica (Bulgaria)

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)25 – On-the-spot appraisal report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau warmly thanked the Bulgarian authorities for hosting the OSA. It noted the progress achieved at national level, as noted in the OSA mission report.

The Bureau reminded the national authorities that an updated report on progress in the implementation of the OSA recommended actions is expected by 20 October 2018 (as provided for in the monitoring plan of the OSA report accepted by the authorities). The update will be assessed at the upcoming 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee to the Convention.

It instructed the Secretariat to request an update from the European Commission on their respective action on the issues at stake in the case-file.

#### ➤ 2010/5: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias

**DECISION:** The Bureau expressed its concern that no report from the authorities had reached the Bureau and urged them to send their report ahead of the 38<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting of the Convention and to attend the meeting itself to present a comprehensive and complete timetable of the actions planned to implement Recommendation No. 174 (2014).

It instructed the Secretariat to request an update from the European Commission on their respective action on the issues at stake in the case-file.

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

*[T-PVS/File (2018)26 – Government report]*

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)33 - Complainant Report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau noted the progress demonstrated by the national authorities in their updated report submitted for the Bureau. It invited the authorities to attend the upcoming 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee to the Convention and to provide further details on their plans for the implementation of the Recommendations and most importantly, to give a feedback on the information contained in the NGO's report on the same case.

- **2013/1: Hydro power development within the territory of Mavrovo National Park (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)**

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)14 – Government report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the national authorities for their commitment and efforts to accelerate the process of drafting the new Law for re-proclamation of the National park as protected area, ahead of the realisation of the SEA, as recommended in the Bern recommendation.

The Bureau invited the national authorities to attend the upcoming 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee to the Convention and to provide further details on their plans for the implementation of the Recommendation.

## 5.2 Possible files

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)15 – Government report]*

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)17 – NGOs report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the Bulgarian authorities and took note of information provided for their meeting, namely the Court decision on the appeal at national level regarding the alternative chosen for the LOT 3.2 of the Struma highway. The Bureau further took note of the opposing view expressed by the NGO in their report.

The Bureau considered that the reason behind the divergent views of the complainant and the authorities relates to the quality of the EIA implemented for the choice of the alternative for the construction of LOT 3.2 and on whether this choice respects of commitments made by the authorities in Recommendation No. 98 (2002).

The Bureau discussed whether it will be appropriate for the Convention to commission an external review of the EIA and its Recommendations. This opportunity should be considered by the Standing Committee at their upcoming 38<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Bureau invited the national authorities to attend the upcoming meeting of the Standing Committee and to present the latest developments in relation to the file.

The Bureau further invited all Parties, including the European Union to present their views on the file.

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)39 - Government Report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the national authorities for their timely report and acknowledged the initiation of the amendment procedure for the legislation loophole. It invited the authorities to attend the upcoming Standing Committee meeting and to present a progress report.

### 5.3 Complaints on stand-by

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)8 – Complainant report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2018)10 – Government report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the national authorities for their timely and complete update reports. It stressed gravity of situation with respect of IKB cases in the country irrespective of the efforts put in place by the authorities.

It underlined the need to continue the implementation of measures at national level to eradicate the use of toxic substances and well as the need to have a concrete plan to train prosecutors, inspectors and customs and to build a system of collection of toxic waste.

It urged the national authorities to continue the positive steps taken and looked forward to see concrete results. An update report will be expected for the 1<sup>st</sup> Bureau meeting for 2019 planned to take place in March 2019.

- **2014/6: Wind energy: Possible threats to an endangered natural habitat in Izmir (Turkey)**

**DECISION:** The Bureau noted the lack of new updated reports from the complainant. It also reminded the outcome of the last meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on Birds, where the case was discussed.

The Bureau decided to dismiss the case on the ground that the Convention has completed its work in guiding the authorities on measures and actions to take in this case.

It urged the authorities to follow the guidance provided by the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds and to strengthen cooperation with the NGO community at national level, include the local BirdLife International partner.

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)34 - Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2018)20 – Complainant report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the national authorities for their regular reports and for the positive steps undertaken on the case. It noted however, that since 2014 the same time recommendation was provided on the case by the Bureau and the need for continued and strengthened enforcement of the law is necessary, in particular in terms of controls and fines, as issues are still reported to the Convention, including from a second complainant that has joined the case-file.

It urged the national authorities to do more pedagogy, preventive measures and raise awareness, including of tourists.

It invited the authorities to prepare a written plan and strategy on the possible concrete actions to step up fines, ban advertisement on menus and raising awareness and to submit it to the Bureau for their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting for 2019 planned to take place in March 2019.

- **2015/2: Possible impact of wind-farm developments on bats (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)**

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)13 + Ann.1 + Ann. 2 – Government report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the national authorities for their updated report and the selection of the company which is currently performing the post-construction monitoring. It expressed its hopes that the monitoring, as planned and currently implemented takes into account the issues raised in terms of gaps identified in the respective Terms of Reference. It further invited the authorities to update on the results of the post-construction monitoring when these area available and instructed the Secretariat to cooperate with EUROBATS for commenting on those results.

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)2 + Ann. – Complainant report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau noted with satisfaction the organisation of a joint Bern/Ramsar OSA mission to Skadar Lake. It thanked the national authorities of Montenegro for hosting the mission. It further thanked the Secretariat for the oral report on the mission which is being finalised.

It took note that the preliminary recommendations of the mission indicate a high degree of concern and decided that there is a potential that this file could become an open case-file.

The Bureau found the issue being dealt with under this file as urgent and noted that a draft Recommendation following the OSA is put forward to the Standing Committee for possible adoption. The file has been moved to the category possible files.

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)19 – Complainant report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau noted with satisfaction the organisation of a Bern Convention OSA mission to Albania. It thanked the national authorities of Albania for hosting the mission. It further thanked the Secretariat for the oral report from on the mission which is being finalized.

It took note of the preliminary conclusions of the mission that although a rather complete and clear legal framework is in place regarding the procedures for the implementation of EIA/SEA in the country, there are indications that this framework is not complied with for the moment. The degree of concern on this file is also very high, in comparison with the complaint on the Skadar Lake. There is also a potential that this file could become an open case-file.

The Bureau found the issue being dealt with under this file as urgent and noted that a draft Recommendation following the OSA is put forward to the Standing Committee for possible adoption. The file has been moved to the category possible files.

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)1 – Complainant report]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)9 + Ann. – Government report]*

**Decision:** The Bureau thanked the national authorities of Serbia for their timely and detailed reports. It welcomed the authority’s decision and intent to join the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of middle-European population of great bustards (*Otis tarda*) and the revised International Action Plan for the Great Bustard population of the Western Palearctic.

The Bureau decided to await the signature by Serbia and its active participation in the Action Plan implementation. It also reminded Serbia of the importance of compliance with previous recommendations by the Bureau on the case.

It requested the national authorities to send an updated progress report for the Bureau's 1<sup>st</sup> annual meeting in 2019, planned for March 2019.

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)11 + Ann. + Ann.2 + Ann.3 – Complainant report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2018)7 – Government report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked both the complainant and the Georgian Government for their timely reports. It acknowledged that the authorities are progressing in the compensation for the reduction of the Svaneti 1 candidate Emerald site, although certain aspects of the compensation proposed are questioned by the complainant organisation.

The Bureau welcomed the decision by the authorities to request the official adoption of 35 candidate Emerald sites in the country, including the three proposed compensatory sites. It further noted that additional field inventories are currently taking place in country.

The file is kept as a complaint on stand-by until the process of compensation is finalized and the results of the on-going field studies are made available. The national authorities are invited to comment on the arguments put forward by the complainant organisation for its first annual meeting for 2019, scheduled for March 2019.

#### 5.4 Other complaints

➤ **2017/2: Alleged negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructure developments (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)**

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)3 + Ann. – Complaint form]  
[T-PVS/Files(2018)18 – Government report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2018)16 – Complainant report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the complainant for the updated report on the case. It noted with concern the on-going activities affecting the coastal regions of the Lake and the alleged lack of implementation of the WHC/IUCN Recommendations.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to approach again the WHC and to insist on a joint decision on the role the Bern Convention could play in this file.

The Bureau will revert to this case again at its upcoming meeting in March 2019. The national authorities and the complainant are requested to send updates on activities put in place to implement the WHC/IUCN Recommendations.

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)4 – Complaint form]  
[T-PVS/Files(2018)6 – Government report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the national authorities for their short report and took note of the slow progress on the preparation of planning documents, including a strategic assessment of the impact on the new port on the Danube.

The Bureau will revert to this case at its first annual meeting for 2019. The national authorities and the complainant are requested to send updated reports on the case, including a possible map of the area and to see the progress in the establishment of the protected area.

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)5 – Complaint form]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)12 – Government report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the national authorities for the detailed report and acknowledged the very positive steps taken for ensuring the protection of the Emerald site. The Bureau welcomed in particular the planned strengthening of the area protection status.

The Bureau requested the authorities to report back when the new developments are made in relation to the planned processes at national level and to provide a timeline for the implementation of the activities for the next meeting of the Bureau, scheduled for March 2019.

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)35 – Complaint form]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)22 – Government report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the national authorities for the report submitted in relation to the recent complaint.

After a deliberation on the case, the Bureau agreed that both the authorities and complainant should submit additional information, and possibly clearer maps, on the proposed routing of the new road infrastructure, on the natural values of the area, and to inform in detail on possible conflicts with currently existing protected areas in the country and possible Emerald network sites.

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)31 – Complaint form]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)32 - Government Report]*

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the national authorities for the report submitted on the newly received complaint.

The Bureau assessed the available elements in the complaint and the national authorities report and decided it was unable to have an informed opinion on the case. It instructed the Secretariat to contact the complainant and request he provides (1) more details and proof on the alleged threat and (2) tangible information on the exact activities planned and (3) exact timeline for their implementation.

The additional information should be provided for the next meeting of the Bureau, scheduled for March 2019.

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

[T-PVS/Files(2018)23 – Complaint form]  
[T-PVS/Files(2018)37 – Government report]

**DECISION:** Bureau thanked the national authorities for the report submitted on the newly received complaint.

The Bureau recalled that the designation of an Emerald site is not in conflict with wind energy developments. However, strict obligations are in place regarding the assessment of the impact these developments are going to have on the sites ahead of their implementation. In addition, a number of relevant guidance on the issue of wind energy development is produced by both the Bern Convention and the European Commission.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to contact the complainant and request they provide more details and proof on the alleged impact the development will have on the site and how the law on EIA/SEA in the country is respected.

The additional information should be provided for the next meeting of the Bureau, scheduled for March 2019.

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

[T-PVS/Files(2018)24 – Complaint form]  
[T-PVS/Files(2018)38 – Government report]

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the national authorities for the report submitted on the newly received complaint.

It recognised the potential for conflict with nature conservation, especially within an Emerald Network site, in case of multiplication and recurrence of military tests. It thanked the authorities for the positive steps undertaken for maintaining the integrity of the Emerald Network site and the Biosphere Reserve. The Bureau stressed again that all other sectorial Ministries, including the Ministry of Defense, should follow the management plan existing for the area and future management measures to be implemented for the Emerald Network sites.

It decided to revert to this case at its next meeting in March 2019 and invited both the authorities and the complainant organisation to submit updated reports on future developments and on the management of the area.

- **2018/4: Alleged threat to Bodrum Tilkick Bay from the development of a marine project**

[T-PVS/Files(2018)36 – Government report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2018)27 – Complaint form]

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the authorities for the report submitted on the newly received complaint. It recalled that the complaint focuses also on the protection of the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) and that Turkey is aware of the special concern for the species conservation status at European level.

The Bureau decided to request the national authorities of Turkey to take the current complaint into consideration when preparing their national report on the Closed file No. 2011/4: Threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) in Turkey and when analysing the current status of the marine and terrestrial ecosystems at stake. The report on the closed file is expected to be submitted for the upcoming 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and dealt with under item 6: Follow-up of previous recommendations and case-files.



## 6. FOLLOW-UP OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS AND CASE-FILES

- **Closed file No. 2011/4: Threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) in Turkey**

**DECISION:** The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to remind the Turkish authorities of the decision by the Standing Committee to review progress two years after the file was closed. A progress report is thus expected from the national authorities for the upcoming 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee.

- **Recommendation No.190 (2016) on the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, specially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland**

**DECISION:** The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to remind the Icelandic authorities of the decision by the Standing Committee to closely monitor progress in the implementation of the Recommendation and its decision to request a clear and detailed timeline of actions planned in this respect.

A progress report and a details timeline are thus expected from the national authorities for the upcoming 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee.

- **Recommendation No. 169 (2013) on the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland) in the frame of a case-file on stand-by 2011/5: France / Switzerland**

[T-PVS/Files(2018)41 – Government report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2018)30 + ann. + ann2 –NGOs report]

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the complainant and the national authorities of Switzerland for providing their updated reports on the case-file on stand-by. The follow-up of the case-file will be ensured at the upcoming 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee to the Convention where all actors in the case will be invited to present their progress reports.

The Secretariat was instructed to remind the French national authorities that their updated report on the implementation of the Recommendation is expected for the upcoming 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee too.

- **Recommendation No. 175 (2015) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 4 December 2015, on the monitoring of the agreement concluded in the frame of complaint No. 2013/5 (Lithuania)**

**DECISION:** The Bureau thanked the national authorities of Lithuania for their regular reports on progress in the implementation of Recommendation No. 175 (2015). The report will be made available for the Standing Committee at its 38<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

The Secretariat informed on the successful preparation for the second annual Social media campaign of the Convention which will focus on amphibian and reptile species conservation and the threat from alien pathogens for these species. The Campaign will be launched on the first day of the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee.

## **8. 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERN CONVENTION**

**DECISION:** The Bureau agreed with the main proposals made by the Secretariat for the celebrations of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention. It instructed the Secretariat to revise the document prepared for the Bureau meeting according to the discussions and suggestions made by its members. The document shall then be circulated to all Contracting Parties as a working document for the upcoming Standing Committee meeting.

Eventually, the Bureau agreed that the discussion of the scenarios to follow for the celebrations should be done in conjunction with the discussions on the financial situation of the Convention and its future strategic priorities.

## **9. 38TH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **9.1 Draft Agenda**

*[T-PVS/Agenda(2018)1 –Draft Agenda]*

The Bureau studied the draft agenda of the 38<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee, as proposed by the Secretariat and agreed with it, subject to the changes it recommended regarding the order of discussion of items and the inclusion of two new case-files, moved to the category possible files by the Bureau.

### **9.2 Draft Programme of Activities 2019**

## **10. AOB**

None were raised.

Appendix 1



Strasbourg, 10 September 2018



T-PVS/Agenda (2018)5

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee  
**Bureau meeting**

Strasbourg, 10-11 September 2018  
(Room 14, opening: 9:00 am)

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**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

1. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
2. **FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION**  
*[T-PVS(2018)6 – Concept Paper on Financial Mechanism of the Bern Convention]*
3. **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2018 PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET ISSUES**
  - 3.1 **Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas: follow-up of decisions**  
*[T-PVS/DE(2018)11 – Meeting report]*
  - 3.2 **Invasive Alien Species: results of the meeting of the Select Group on IAS and future work plans**  
*[T-PVS(2018)5 – Meeting report]*
  - 3.3 **Expert meeting on the eradication of the Ruddy Duck: results of the meeting**
  - 3.4 **Illegal killing of birds: launching of the IKB Scoreboard**
  - 3.5 **2018 meeting of the Large Carnivores Initiative for Europe: results of the meeting**
  - 3.6 **Setting-up of the Emerald Network: state of play**
  - 3.7 **Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012): results of the 1st capacity building Workshop and state of preparation of the second one**
  - 3.8 **Groups of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks: state of preparation of the meeting**  
*[T-PVS/Agenda(2018)6 – Draft agenda]*
  - 3.9 **Group of Experts on Climate Change and Biodiversity: next steps**

### **3.10 Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of the sturgeon: results of the Vienna Conference and follow-up**

### **3.11 Old Growth Forest Protection Strategy: follow-up of coordination with Wildlife Europe**

### **3.12 Review of the European Plant Conservation Strategy: follow-up of coordination with Plata Europa**

### **3.13 6<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, 16-19 October 2018, Poreč (Croatia)**

## **4. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION**

### **4.1 State of affairs of biennial report submissions, ORS and EU Member States obligations**

### **4.2 Amendment proposal by Switzerland: downlisting of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) to Appendix III of the Convention**

## **5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION: CASE-FILES**

*[T-PVS(2018)2 – Summary OPEN AND POSSIBLE Case Files]*

### **5.1 Open files**

- 1995/6: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)XX - Government Report]*

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)28 - Complainant Report]*

- 2004/2: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica (Bulgaria)

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)25 – On-the-spot appraisal report]*

- 2010/5: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)XX - Government Report]*

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)XX - Complainant Report]*

- 2012/9: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey)

*[T-PVS/File (2018)26 – Government report]*

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)33 - Complainant Report]*

- 2013/1: Hydro power development within the territory of Mavrovo National Park (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)14 – Government report]*

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)XX - Complainant Report]*

### **5.2 Possible files**

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)15 – Government report]*

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)17 – NGOs report]*

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)39 - Government Report]*

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)XX - Complainant Report]*

### **5.3 Complaints on stand-by**

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)8 – Complainant report]*

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)10 – Government report]*

- 2014/6: Wind energy: Possible threats to an endangered natural habitat in Izmir (Turkey)  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)XX - Government Report]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)XX - Complainant Report]*
- 2014/8: Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs in Greece  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)34 - Government Report]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)20 – Complainant report]*
- 2015/2: Possible impact of wind-farm developments on bats (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)13 + Ann.1 + Ann. 2 – Government report]*
- 2016/4: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site (Montenegro)  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)2 + Ann. – Complainant report]*
- 2016/5: Presumed negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Vjosa river in Albania  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)19 – Complainant report]*
- 2016/6: Presumed risk of national extinction of great bustards (*Otis tarda*) (Serbia)  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)1 – Complainant report]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)9 + Ann. – Government report]*
- 2016/9: Possible threat to “Svaneti 1” Candidate Emerald Site (GE0000012) from Nenskra Hydro Power Plant development (Georgia)  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)11 + Ann. + Ann.2 + Ann.3 – Complainant report]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)7 – Government report]*

#### 5.4 Other complaints

- 2017/2: Alleged negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructure developments (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)3 + Ann. – Complaint form]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)18 – Government report]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)16 – Complainant report]*
- 2017/3: Possible negative impact of a harbor’s construction on the confluence of the Sava into the Danube (Serbia)  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)4 – Complaint form]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)6 – Government report]*
- 2017/4: Presumed threat to Emerald site Tarutino (UA0000137) from cultivation developments (Ukraine)  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)5 – Complaint form]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)12 – Government report]*
- 2017/6: Possible negative impact on Breiðafjörður Nature Reserve’s authentic birch woods from new road infrastructure  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)35 – Complaint form]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)22 – Government report]*
- 2017/07: Alleged threat to the Raaderwald Forest in Austria  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)31 – Complaint form]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)32 - Government Report]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)XX - Complainant Report]*
- 2018/1: Presumed threat to Emerald site “Polonina Borzhava” (UA0000263) from wind energy development (Ukraine)  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)23 – Complaint form]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)37 – Government report]*

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

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)24 – Complaint form]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)38 – Government report]*

- 2018/4: Alleged threat to Bodrum Tilicik Bay from the development of a marine project

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)36 – Government report]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)27 – Complaint form]*

## **6. FOLLOW-UP OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS AND CASE-FILES**

- Closed file No. 2011/4: Threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) in Turkey

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)XX – Government report]*

- Recommendation No.190 (2016) on the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, specially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)XX – Government report]*

- Recommendation No. 169 (2013) on the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland) in the frame of a case-file on stand-by 2011/5: France / Switzerland

*[T-PVS/Files(2018)41 – Government report]*  
*[T-PVS/Files(2018)30 + ann. + ann2 –NGOs report]*

- Recommendation No. 175 (2015) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 4 December 2015, on the monitoring of the agreement concluded in the frame of complaint No. 2013/5 (Lithuania)

## **7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY**

## **8. 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERN CONVENTION**

## **9. 38<sup>TH</sup> STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **9.1 Draft Agenda**

*[T-PVS/Agenda(2018)1 –Draft Agenda]*

### **9.2 Draft Programme of Activities 2019**

## **10. AOB**

## Appendix 2

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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#### **ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE**

Ms Hasmik GHALACHYAN, Head, Division of Plant Resources Management, Agency of Bioresources Management, Ministry of Nature Protection

#### **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

### SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT

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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