

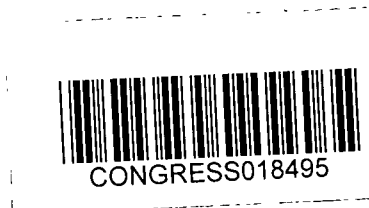
Council of Europe  
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Part II

**SECOND SESSION**

**(Strasbourg, 30 May-1<sup>st</sup> June 1995)**

**REPORT**

**on European Nature Conservation Year 1995**

**(Rapporteur: Mr Horst Lässig, Germany)**

## I. SPIRIT AND AIMS OF ENCY 95

The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers has designated 1995 as "European Nature Conservation Year" (ENCY 95). In so doing, it is continuing an established tradition. The first European Nature Conservation Year was held 25 years ago, in 1970. It was a successful campaign, fostering legislation on the creation of protected areas to benefit nature and landscapes in many countries. It also prompted several member States to create new ministries with special responsibility for environmental protection. The European Ministerial Conference on the Environment can also be traced back to this campaign, the main point of which was to make Europeans aware of the importance of nature conservation. Above all, it emphasised the need to set up protected areas. So the Council of Europe was already pioneering environmental protection at that time.

By contrast, European Nature Conservation Year 1995 has the aim of preserving nature as the basis of life for people, animals and plants "outside protected areas", bringing it back into towns with the slogan: "Look to the future, look after nature". This means showing more respect for nature in all activities and living in greater harmony with one's natural surroundings.

As it has become increasingly obvious that nature is particularly under threat in populated areas, European Nature Conservation Year is all about preserving and above all creating living space for animals and plants in areas of human settlement, such as residential or industrial areas, streets and demilitarised zones, in order to preserve biodiversity. Building, traffic systems and leisure pursuits must all give greater consideration to nature conservation. Obviously, the co-operation of local communities is particularly important in this respect. Examples are to be given to show how effective, nature-friendly zones can be maintained or created within urban areas, thus also helping to enhance the quality of daily life.

The campaign objective is harmony between mankind and nature. The exercise will convey the idea that wild animals and plants can actually survive and flourish in populated areas, particularly when they receive the necessary respect and attention. The theme encompasses areas where people live, work or spend their leisure time. It is especially geared to striking a balance of interests between nature "users" and nature conservationists. It is not a matter of running spectacular projects but of showing what can usefully be done. Inspiration is to be drawn from examples showing how nature conservation can go beyond its defensive role in urban areas. It should also become clear how everything is interlinked and that destructive acts in one place have repercussions elsewhere.

The basic intention is to make it clear that the right to an environment also entails the duty to protect and preserve nature. Otherwise, increasing numbers of plant and animal species will be under threat throughout the world. If humans do not mend their ways, it is estimated that 25% of all species will disappear within 30 years. Attempts must therefore be made to reverse that trend, if more species are not to disappear and more forests are not to be destroyed in the coming decades. Today's way of life is

decidedly no model for the future.

There are major threats hanging over our planet, demonstrated by climate change (greenhouse effect) and ozone depletion. Ecological disasters such as the destruction of the Aral Sea are legion. 70% of the earth's surface is polluted, one contributing factor being strong population growth; the world's population has doubled since 1957. We must oppose the idea that the destruction of nature is the price to pay for prosperity and progress. It is matter of rescuing what can be rescued. We must limit the damage and try to restore our environment.

It is in our interest, after all, to preserve nature, as we are dependent on it, particularly the Earth's natural resources. Preserving the planet is the most important political aspect of European Nature Conservation Year, and society must be called upon to pull together as a whole. We must be more mindful of our local environmental situation.

The campaign target audiences are:

- municipal, regional and national authorities
- environment "users", above all those who depend on the natural environment for their work or leisure pursuits, such as farmers, foresters, fishermen or hunters
- landscape "users", meaning all those who exploit natural beauty, such as tourists or property developers
- above all young people, as it is a question of maintaining the basis of their future lives. The future of our environment also depends on their commitment.

The safeguarding of biodiversity in urban areas also presupposes appropriate education on the environment, which is vital if the basis for life is to be preserved in urban areas. People have lost the respect for nature which characterised the Earth's earliest inhabitants, such as the North American indians.

42 States from the Atlantic to the Urals and from Lapland to the Mediterranean will join in European Nature Conservation Year by running their own projects. Notions of nature and environmental protection will therefore serve to consolidate European unity.

## **II. PREPARATIONS FOR EUROPEAN NATURE CONSERVATION YEAR**

The Council of Europe set up an International Organising Committee (IOC) in 1993 to prepare European Nature Conservation Year. The Committee has been meeting since September 1993 under the chairmanship of Professor Mario Pavan (Pavia). It brings together all the States taking part in European Nature Conservation Year as well as numerous observers from bodies such as the Parliamentary Assembly, the World Health Organisation, WWF, OECD, the European Investment Bank and also non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe has also been involved in preparations, through the rapporteur, from the very beginning.

The next step was to inform member States and urge them to participate. The general tone had to be set. In the meantime, representatives of national delegations reported back on their countries' plans and projects, making it clear that many States are engaging in considerable efforts to make European Nature Conservation Year a success. It must also be pointed out, though, that not all of the projects are fully geared to the theme of making urban areas more natural; in fact, all manner of nature and environmental protection schemes have been aired. Then again, they all benefit the environment.

The IOC has created the campaign logo (a broken maple leaf held together with a safety pin) and slogan "Look to the future, look after nature". Brochures and posters have also been printed in several languages and a most useful diary with campaign information for participating States and a 1995 calendar have been distributed. In addition, a video has been produced and a photo competition organised, with the best entries reprinted on a poster. Stickers have been distributed, as has a mini-compact disc, which takes the listener from a noisy town centre to the heart of a forest, through different noises produced by people and animals in urban and natural environments. These noises are intended to echo the different themes of European Nature Conservation Year.

Other campaign material includes a wooden pen, a ruler and a notebook made from recycled paper. A special issue of "Naturopa" magazine has been published, and some countries are bringing out commemorative stamps.

Plans are afoot to hold several international seminars and conferences, for example in Dijon (September 1995), Tirana (October 1995), and Graz (October 1995); Monaco, Portugal, Italy, Ireland and also Hungary and Belarus will be hosting similar events.

For its part, the IOC has convened an eight-member international co-ordinating committee, with the task of encouraging and co-ordinating campaign initiatives.

Furthermore, some 50 NGOs have set up a "task force" which will carry out its own initiatives during European Nature Conservation Year. The NGOs also wish to hold a congress in Strasbourg in October 1995.

The Council of Europe has set up an ENCY 95 Secretariat in the Centre Naturopa headed by Ms Glatz, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, telephone: (33) 88.41.22.78.

At national level, nearly all States have set up a national committee for the campaign, to prepare and co-ordinate national measures and schemes. Local authority association representatives sit on the national committees of most countries.

The project details supplied so far by national delegations to the Council of Europe's ENCY 95 Secretariat have been published in the relevant documents. These include numerous congresses, exhibitions, publications, posters, radio and TV broadcasts, and a great number of projects to create natural areas, develop flora and fauna, and

protect water, air, woods and agriculture. There are a number of measures aimed at promoting nature in connection with tourism and health.

Several examples will be described in section 5. Here we shall simply take a look at the situation which the rapporteur knows best, in the Federal Republic of Germany, where he is a member of the national committee. Over 550 projects are being co-ordinated under the auspices of the national committee. Over 500 organisations, operating either individually or in groups, have announced their participation in the campaign to protect nature outside protected areas.

Among these operations, the German national committee has selected a total of 49 "projects of the month" to generate public awareness and media coverage of the 2nd European Nature Conservation Year, forming Germany's contribution to ENCY 95.

At least one project is to be introduced each month, making at least one project for each "Land" in the Federal Republic. Attempts have been made to strike a balance between public schemes and private initiatives and to cover the full spectrum of nature conservation outside protected areas. The Federal President, Roman Herzog, has not only taken the German contribution to European Nature Conservation Year under his patronage but also awards certificates to each project of the month. The German campaign to mark European Nature Conservation Year 1995 was launched by a public event on 2 February in Konstanz, in the presence of the Environment Minister, Angela Merkel. Jean-Pierre Ribaut also spoke at the event on behalf of the Council of Europe.

### **III. CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE (CLRAE)**

Immediately after the founding of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, in June 1994, the member States' local authority associations received a letter drawing their attention to European Nature Conservation Year and asking them to encourage municipalities, districts and regions to participate by mounting suitable projects.

In December 1994, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe set up a Working Group to be responsible for preparing the CLRAE contribution to the European Nature Conservation Year. At the initial two meetings the members of the Working Group agreed to prepare a report for the annual plenary session of the Congress. Furthermore it is envisaged that a Conference be held in December 1995 in Bratislava (Slovak Republic), on the role of local and regional authorities in promoting nature conservation in towns and villages.

Participants at this conference, which will signify the closing of the ENCY, will include political representatives at local, regional and national levels involved in activities for nature conservation in towns and villages and specialists together with non-governmental organisations concerned with this subject.

The result of the conference will be presented in a brochure emphasising the most significant initiatives and particularly feature successful showcase projects aimed at protecting nature in urban areas during ENCY 95.

#### **IV. ORGANISATION OF EUROPEAN NATURE CONSERVATION YEAR**

The launch ceremony for European Nature Conservation Year took place on 31 January 1995 in Strasbourg. Speaking alongside the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Daniel Tarschys, were the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, Alecos Michaelides (Foreign Affairs Minister of Cyprus), the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Miguel Martínez, the President of the Chamber of Local Authorities of our Congress, Josef Hofmann, and keynote speaker, Professor J.M. Pelt.

There are also plans to give the campaign particular prominence at the European Ministerial Conference on the Environment in October 1995 in Sofia, entitled "Environment for Europe", by exhibiting a series of publications.

#### **V. MANIFESTATIONS ORGANISED AT LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL IN THE DIFFERENT STATES SUPPORTING THE EUROPEAN NATURE CONSERVATION YEAR**

##### **Albania**

National seminars on the management of protected areas and coastal areas, biodiversity and the environmental tax system are planned from June to October 1995 in Tirana. A seminar on the Ohrid lake organised jointly with the Ministry of the Environment of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will take place in May 1995.

##### **Andorra**

The National Committee includes public partners and NGOs in the Principality. During 1995 a programme for selective paper collection and recycling in administrations and schools will be implemented to safeguard forests. An awareness campaign will be carried out for hikers using the mountain refuge network in order to encourage them to respect nature and the environment.

3, 4 and 5 July 1995: Triennial Congress of the International Union of Professional Nature Wardens.

7 and 8 October 1995: the Association for the Protection of Nature (ADN), with the co-operation of the Secretariat of State for the Environment, will participate in European Migration Birdwatch '95, organised by BirdLife International. During these two days there will be activities on Andorran birds, bird migration, their identification and census. Within the framework of the Third Pyrenean Ornithological Colloquy a film on birds and nature will be shown in the evening of 7 October in the National Theatre in Ordino.

## **Austria**

The campaign was officially launched on 3 March 1995 in Vienna, and is now in full swing. Exhibitions on ENCY are to be organised from March to November in the various Austrian provinces. Promotional and educational material is available: brochures, posters and press files. A video and a song have been produced. An international colloquy on nature conservation is being prepared for the end of June in the Vorarlberg.

## **Belarus**

The Ministry for the Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, the Council of Europe and the Federation of Hunting Associations of the EEC (FACE) are jointly organising an international colloquy on the theme "Hunting, fishing and nature conservation", from 28 to 30 September 1995 in the area of the Waroch lake near Minsk.

A vigorous public awareness and information campaign is being launched: a special supplement on ENCY in the *Zvyasda* (daily newspaper), a press conference and round tables on television dealing with ecological problems in Belarus, meetings and work in consultation with the NGOs, an international fair and a conference entitled "Belarusecologie 95, Belarusenergia 95 and Belaruscontrola 95" in Minsk in October 1995.

## **Belgium**

The very many events planned at local and regional level include:

— In the Walloon region, information days are being organised for municipalities, regional authorities and administrators on the underground environment, forests, nature in the city, and the ecological management of roadsides. A film, *Ordinary Nature, ... like a little red poppy* and *The Big Book of Walloon Nature* have been produced to accompany these activities.

— In the Brussels region, the emphasis is being laid on nature in the city: a series of six posters on this theme, a Nature Notebook on the city of Brussels, theme-based brochures, etc.

— The Flemish region is intending to work on several different habitats: forest week in October 1995, public awareness campaigns on "Our community, Naturally" and "Nature to Order", a book reviewing the situation of nature, and a newsheet for 10- to 14-year-olds.

## **Bulgaria**

The Ministry of the Environment and the Council of Europe are jointly organising an exhibition on ENCY in the Sofia Conference Centre in October 1995, on the occasion of the 3rd European Ministerial Conference. Every state participating in the campaign will be presenting posters, photos, audiovisual material, etc.

## **Croatia**

The Ministry of Agriculture is planning to work on monitoring the consequences of acid rain and the rehabilitation of some of the areas burnt out during the war. The Republic's Union of Towns and Municipalities is concentrating on the rational use of water and the importance of green areas in the urban environment. The national NGOs will be focusing on monitoring the lynx and enhancing the surroundings of mountaineering huts and nature trails. Schools will be organising photography and art competitions known as "Ecological Regattas", Zagreb radio will be promoting ENCY and a "green telephone" service is available to members of the public, recording their suggestions for improving nature conservation.

## **Cyprus**

The campaign will be concentrating on the themes of water (water quality, pollution due to human activities, current legislation, and a water conservation and processing programme) and threatened species (endemic fauna and flora of the island, natural habitats and biotopes, and an environmental conservation and education programme). Various activities and events will be organised to attract public attention, including seminars and debates on wildlife, brochures on the aquatic environment and threatened species, a photography competition, a special postage stamp, stickers, new nature trails, rehabilitation of protected areas, a Cypriot Ecological Charter and media events.

## **Czech Republic**

In the course of its monthly meetings the Czech national committee has chosen fifty major projects to be included in ENCY. They include several conferences on landscapes (May 1995), and one on the army, military zones and the environment from 24 to 28 April 1995; seminars on the protection of forests, environmental education in schools, and marshlands and other wetlands; projects in co-operation with Nato and the Ministry of Defence on military areas; and scientific studies followed by practical action in favour of bats and the white stork.

A major information drive will be launched, with a wide variety of exhibitions, a film festival entitled "It's your business too" in the Uherské Hradiště region in November, and a video on *Frogs on the motorway*. An atlas of protected Czech mushroom species, maps of other protected species, publications on reptiles and amphibians, and posters, etc. will be produced. Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, has agreed to act as patron for ENCY.

## **Denmark**

ENCY will be officially launched in Denmark at the beginning of May 1995 by His Royal Highness Prince Henrik, who has agreed to act as patron for the campaign, and Mr Svend Auken, Minister for the Environment and Energy. The campaign will continue until June 1996, so that schools can join in throughout the school year and organise visits and excursions in spring 1996.



For summer 1995 the National Forestry and Nature Agency will be publishing a book entitled "Discovering the Cultural Landscape" in Danish and English, and a series of nature posters for schools, associations and guides. The main events will take place in August, September and October 1995, particularly the weekends of 28 August, 17 September and 8, 15 and 22 October, when transport to the sites will be laid on free of charge for visitors. The public will be able to learn more about nature, forestry and agricultural activities, and the changing Danish countryside. Activities will be organised on week-days for schoolchildren and older people. A large number of organisations and associations have become involved: for instance, the Cyclists' Federation is organising an excursion entitled "On your Bike out into Nature" for 21 March ("Bicycle Day"), and several museums are organising exhibitions on the cultural landscape, etc.

### **Estonia**

Several international events are planned for 1995, including the following:

- 2-6 May, Lääne region, meeting of the HELCOM working groups;
- 5-8 September, Pärnu, colloquy on biodiversity in the Baltic ecosystems;
- 12-15 September, Pärnu, Conference on "The Peat Industry and the Environment";
- 25-29 September, conference on bird numbers.

Other national or regional events will be held, including a seminar on the protection of Estonian coasts on 30 and 31 May.

### **Finland**

ENCY was officially opened in Lahti on 10 January 1995, but a national celebration in honour of the campaign will be held on World Environment Day, 5 June 1995. The programme is extremely busy:

From January to March: exhibition on "Culture in the countryside" in Helsinki, an information campaign on biodiversity, and publications for young people.

From April to June: a forest quiz for upper secondary school children and day trips into "urban nature".

From July to September: training courses, youth workshops, an ornithological conference, and mushroom picking.

From October to December: an environmental parliament for young people, research days, and a course on environmental education for Finnish scout leaders, etc.

### **France**

Two types of activity are being carried out:

- educational activities: books, colloquies, seminars, nature classes;
- field activities: rehabilitation of degraded zones, alpine meadows, gardens, setting-up of nature trails, hedge planting.

More than 50 projects, presented by associations (FNE, LPO, etc.), the Federation of Regional Natural Parks, the Ministry of Defence, the Hunters' Federation, Chambers of Agriculture, Environmental Information Centres, universities and schools, have received the international ENCY label.

## **Germany**

The official launch ceremony took place in Constance on 2 February 1995 in the presence of the Federal Minister for the Environment, Angela Merkel. A closing ceremony will be held at the end of 1995 in one of the north-eastern *Länder* of Germany. In 1994 the national committee received over 550 projects and schemes from public and private bodies throughout Germany. Fifty were adopted as pilot projects, including a vegetation planting campaign, "*Pflanzt mit*", in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in March, models for urban ecology (from 8 to 14 May in Bavaria), a pilot project, "the ecological village of the future", (10 June), several weeks in July and August on the cultural landscape in northern Westphalia, a week on the maintenance of landscapes of regional significance (23 August in Brandenburg), and activities in Berlin in September, including for children, on the theme "nature in the city", etc.

## **Greece**

The major themes of the national campaign will be protecting the coastline and nature conservation (wetlands, wildlife, landscapes, mountain and woodland areas and watercourses), and promoting the principles of biodiversity and nature in the urban environment. The campaign will be conducted under the aegis of the Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreou. A great many ministries, public institutions, NGOs and local authorities are involved. The 1995 programme is as follows:

- conferences on the protection of forests in March, the protection of watercourses in June in Athens, ecology and society and education;
- seminars on the management of coastlines in September, and environmental education for teachers and students;
- exhibitions on ENCY at the Thessaloníki international fair in September, and photo exhibitions on wetlands and coasts;
- schools' art competitions, a festival on birds in October, etc.

The extremely busy programme of events will be supported by leaflets on different themes (hedges, the agricultural environment, etc.), posters, films, press articles, special postage stamps and television adverts.

## **Hungary**

A 1995 programme of activities has been introduced for the various national target groups.

In February, "academies of nature conservation" will be held for local and regional authorities. Each region will deal with one theme: marshes and woodlands (Koposvár), alluvial plain, "puszta", in Debrecen, tourism and forests in Miskolc, wetlands in Kecskemét, and nature in the city in Budapest.

In March, competitions were launched for schools, NGOs and municipalities on the themes "A village — a meadow", "Conserving water" and "Protecting valuable geological sites".

This year, Earth Day will be subsumed under ENCY, and a conference on the management of protected areas will be held from 28 April to 2 May in the Kiskunság park.

During the summer over 300 nature conservation camps will be organised for young people. The Hungarian Ministry of the Environment and Regional Policy and the Council of Europe will be jointly organising an international seminar on the Carpathian basin in the Fertő-Hanság national park from 13 to 16 June 1995.

### **Ireland**

The year will be divided into three main periods, each preceded by "nature weekends" in February, June and September 1995. The programme is very busy: many competitions have been launched, e.g. a photography competition for children, amateurs and professionals and a competition aimed at creating a "natural" garden. Seminars and conferences will be held on the protection of birds and nature rambles. A tree festival is being organised from 6 to 12 March and a biological farming (agri-environment) week is planned from 1 to 7 May. A wide variety of publications have been distributed throughout Ireland to promote the campaign. Some of the activities are being financed by sponsors.

The Office of Public Works and the Council of Europe are jointly organising a symposium on peat bogs in the second half of the year (date to be decided), to be attended by specialist researchers on peat bogs throughout Europe.

### **Italy**

At the initiative of the various ministries involved in ENCY, many scientific congresses and conferences are to be held on biodiversity, environmental education, forests, and the management of military zones. NGOs (e.g. the Italian branch of the WWF and the Alpine Club) and the Regions are also involved in ENCY: the Abruzzi Region has just finalised a Charter on tourism and the environment, and the Province of Salerno, the municipality of Pollica and the Marenostrom association are to set up a laboratory/museum on the sea dedicated to ENCY in the Vinciprova Palace; it is aimed at providing information for the general public and also for training technical and scientific personnel dealing with the sea. Many publications on ENCY have been produced: *The Red Book of Threatened Flora and Fauna*, and an *Outline of a Policy for the Environment and Survival* by Mr Pavan, and also a series of magazines: *Italia Nostra*, *Verde Ambiente*, *Agip Review*, etc.

### **Latvia**

The Year was launched with a presentation of ENCY on Latvian television and the other media on 11 February 1995. An official opening ceremony was then held in March with the Minister for the Environment as guest of honour.

The campaign is backed by posters, thematic leaflets, a national postage stamp and a film. An exhibition is being held in the Latvian Nature Museum on "biodiversity in a traditional Latvian farm". Activities are also being organised for young people: schools' competitions and summer camps will alert them to the need for nature conservation.

## **Liechtenstein**

A calendar of nature conservation events was sent out to every home in Liechtenstein in December 1994, and the Government recently adopted new legislation on the subject. A symposium will be held in Vaduz on the occasion of the launch on 8 April 1995, when the Council of Europe travelling photo competition will be presented. NGOs are proposing a "Clean Mountain Day" (Alpine Club), a forest festival (forestry association, autumn 1995) and guided tours with the botanic and zoological association in summer 1995, etc.

## **Lithuania**

Young people are a priority target group: school activities on "The environment and me" are being planned, as are a competition and an exhibition on "My photos of nature". A book is also to be published for the young: *My Green Book*. An international conference on "Change in land ownership and nature conservation in central and eastern European countries" will be held from 5 to 8 June 1995.

Further conferences are planned on ecological agriculture, bird preservation in the Nemunas delta and biological diversity.

## **Luxembourg**

The activities concentrate on the following environments:

— the forest environment: encouraging forest owners to adopt "natural" methods of forestry management, developing educational nature trails in the valley of the Alzette, organising a tree day, taking stock of hazel grouse populations, etc.;

— the agricultural environment: participation in Ettelbrück agricultural fair from 14 to 16 July 1995, ecological management of the valley of the Troine, planting hedges at Lieler, and conservation and management of the Altenhoven orchard in Bettembourg, etc.;

— the industrial environment: management strategy for the industrial wasteland in the Reierbachtal, planting vegetation in the "Weiergewann" industrial estate in Contern and in the Steinsel industrial estate, and the ecological development of the Ettelbrück industrial estate;

— the urban environment: protecting bats nesting in bunkers, taking stock of bird habitats in the City of Luxembourg, and the ecological development of the roads in Gaspelch and a courtyard opposite the church in Hamm;

— the aquatic environment: redeveloping the lake at Echternach and restoring rivers such as the Sauerschläif to their natural state, etc.;

— the tourist environment: travelling exhibition in schools on nesting birds, developing educational nature trails, etc.

## **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

The launch took place on 21 and 22 January 1995 in the Parliament at Skopje in the presence of the President of the Republic. There will be several highlights during the year: regional seminars on nature conservation problems in the Balkans, to be held

in Skopje (April), ecological camps (July and August), and information campaigns for young people and NGOs (September and October), etc.

### **Malta**

ENCY began in 1994 with a photography competition and the publication of a nature diary in Malta. Some of the highlights of 1995 will be:

January: schools' competition "One world", initiated by the Maltese ornithological society, and distribution of a nature calendar to all schools in the islands.

March: the Prime Minister officially opened the campaign on 6 March. On that occasion a book was presented on the flora and fauna of the Maltese islands and exhibitions were opened, including that organised by the Council of Europe. A seminar on environmental education will take place shortly at the initiative of the Secretariat for the Environment.

Summer: a video for schools and an anthology of poems on the environment will be distributed.

September: symposium on the Maltese environment.

December: close and overall assessment of the campaign.

### **Moldova**

Some fifty projects are to be implemented, e.g. afforestation of areas exposed to landslides, the preparation of legislation on energy and drinking water, measures to reduce exhaust fume toxicity, construction of a system for draining off rainwater and waste incineration plants, etc.

There will be a special information drive: publication of an *Ecological Almanac*, brochures and books for children, an environmental dictionary, postage stamps and a *Red Book of the Republic of Moldova*, and the shooting of a short film entitled *Water and Health* and a television film on natural reserves.

### **Monaco**

An international conference on urban parkland in the Mediterranean area will be organised with the co-operation of the Council of Europe from 6 to 8 October 1995. An exhibition on "Water, Air and Waste Products" will be held on 29 and 30 November 1995. Operations will be undertaken with neighbouring communities in the catchment basin: reforestation, inventory of natural resources. Secondary schools will be preparing a "guide to correct behaviour", and young people will join in clean-up operations.

### **Netherlands**

The Dutch national committee is running over 600 projects at local, regional and national level. The Prime Minister officially launched ENCY on 2 February, when a seminar was attended by over 400 politicians and decision-makers. The Queen will be attending several of the events organised. Examples are landscape discovery weekends (May and June), weekends on tourism and nature (September), rehabilitation activities (October and November), travelling exhibitions (in 1 500 bookshops nationwide), a poster campaign in railway stations and an information campaign on the Baltic Sea. Local

initiatives have also been launched, e.g. the North Holland regional government is incorporating environmental conservation into the everyday work of the local authorities. Lastly, there is also a bilateral project with Germany to transform an old railway track into a veritable ecological corridor.

### **Norway**

Princess Märtha Louise and the Minister for the Environment officially opened the campaign on 21 January near Oslo.

Children are being offered a wide range of projects on biodiversity. Over 150 municipalities nationwide are co-operating in producing a conservation project. NGOs such as the ornithology league have set up nesting boxes in the towns and forests; the swallow has been declared bird of the year since it is a vulnerable species. The Ministry of the Environment is to organise four major conferences in different cities and help produce television programmes on nature.

### **Poland**

April and May 1995 will be devoted to afforestation, June to the protection of aquatic ecosystems, July to leisure activities compatible with nature conservation, and the autumn months to wildlife protection.

In order to publicise ENCY, a number of TV adverts have been made, as have a three-minute presentation film and a video clip with top rock musicians. There will be conferences on biodiversity and soils and a colloquy on "Nature, Landscape and Sustainable Development of Rural Areas", to be held in co-operation with the Council of Europe in Poznań in Autumn 1995.

### **Portugal**

The official opening took place on 15 February with the Minister for the Environment as guest of honour. An international symposium on Mediterranean lacertid lizards is to be held in April 1995, and a conference on Mediterranean coastal ecosystems is planned, in co-operation with the Council of Europe, for 15 to 19 November 1995. Poster exhibitions based on a schools' competition for 9- to 12-year-olds, and photo and naive painting exhibitions are travelling around the country. A calendar and postage stamps have been produced.

### **Romania**

A preliminary opening ceremony was held in November with the Minister for the Environment as the guest of honour and in the presence of NGOs and the press. The aim of ENCY is to prompt parliament to adopt legislation on the environment, water, the forestry code, nuclear safety and hunting, and to sign to the Bonn Convention. A large number of publications and exhibitions, including on philately, are planned for the general public.

## **Russian Federation**

The national themes taken on board for 1995 are: biodiversity, the relationship between ecology and economy in the agricultural, forestry, hunting, urban, educational, tourist and leisure sectors, and the relationship between ecology, defence and peace-keeping.

- from 9 to 15 April in Moscow: international conference on environmental education;
- April, in Perm: ecological Olympic Games for teenagers;
- May: international seminar on nature conservation in the Ryazan region, and a forum on ecology and peace-keeping in the Eurasian area, in Moscow;
- from 1 to 5 June in Moscow: environmental film festival;
- from 2 to 9 June: forum on ecology and economy in the Russian Federation;
- December: youth camps and information activities for children.

## **San Marino**

The national committee has drawn up the following programme:

- dissemination in the national press of material illustrating ENCY;
- publication of a book of photographs on the theme of "greenery and landscapes in San Marino";
- a series of postage stamps on the ENCY themes;
- seminar on 18 March on the theme of rehabilitating and restoring the *calanques* (deep Mediterranean creeks), and public meetings throughout the year;
- audiovisual production on the landscapes and natural habitats of San Marino;
- travelling photo exhibition on the theme of nature conservation;
- international competition for landscape and regional parkland development projects;
- art competition on nature for primary schools.

## **Slovak Republic**

There is a long list of events and activities in 1995. The opening ceremony took place in the presence of the Minister for the Environment in Bratislava on 25 February 1995, when the national philharmonic orchestra also gave a concert. A series of three special postage stamps and a special coin have been issued. Exhibitions include:

- Ekoplagat 95 (June and July), a review of ecological posters from over thirty countries;
- Ekofotografia (October-November), an international photography exhibition;
- Exhibition on Nature Motifs on Coins and Banknotes (from September to December).

A great many conferences are being planned: from 23 June to 6 July on "Ethnic Groups and Nature", and others on biosphere reserves in central and eastern Europe, the environment and health (September), tourism, transporting hazardous substances, etc.

## Slovenia

Over 150 events will take place, organised by seven ministries, eighteen NGOs, the national media, the Slovenian Church and the Regional Environmental Centre (REC):

- seminars on forests, landscapes, tourism and environmental conservation;
- protection of soils and motorway development, and protection of the brown bear and the wolf;
- leaflets, posters, postage stamps, a book on nature conservation and magazines;
- nature trail clean-up and tree-planting operations;
- six video films on threatened national species, and television and radio programmes (on flora, etc.).

A bilateral project is being implemented with Austria aimed at restoring the river Kučnica, straddling the border between the two countries, to its natural state.

## Spain

ENCY will be concentrating on the themes of forests, biodiversity, desertification and protecting and rehabilitating landscapes.

— Campaign for the restoration of the rural landscape: restoring the *cañadas*, or seasonal migration routes, protecting shores, reforesting eroded areas and encouraging young people and voluntary associations to conduct forest surveillance.

— Handbooks, posters, a video and a travelling exhibition on these problems.

Tree Days, World Forest Day and the National Environment Prize will all be linked up to ENCY. Campaigns on radio and television and in the general and specialist press will report on these activities run by the government, the regional authorities and the associations.

## Sweden

The programme of events for 1995 is as follows:

- January: publication of a book on agricultural landscapes and a leaflet on ENCY;
- March-April: publication of a book entitled *Swedish Landscapes* and information about WWF projects concerning the cultural landscape;
- 27 April: conference on flora and fauna;
- 11 May: day dedicated to the agricultural landscape: event with HRH King Carl Gustaf as guest of honour;
- summer: bird protection campaign;
- 12 July: exhibition on production techniques in a natural resource/environment-oriented farm;
- 10 September: national gardening day;
- 26 September: seminar on agricultural landscapes;
- 29 September-1 October: international youth forum on the environment (for 16- to 18-year-olds);
- 7-8 October: World Bird Watch.



## Switzerland

A variety of projects are being implemented with a view to:

- informing, heightening awareness and provoking thought: "open door to nature" campaign, cultural events on nature, etc.;
- acting to protect nature: promoting extensive farming, revitalising, integrating and networking biotopes, and educating;
- organising major events: launch conference in Romont on 3 February 1995, provisional assessment on 29 June and closing conference from 28 to 30 November in Lugano; special exhibitions at the Swiss stand at the Book Fair; a conference on biological diversity, etc.;
- promoting nature conservation: radio and television coverage, travelling exhibitions, *twenty-one* computer games and excursions.

## Turkey

President Süleyman Demirel officially launched the campaign at the beginning of February. As Prime Minister in 1970 he had also launched the Council of Europe's first nature conservation campaign. Several meetings will be organised, namely on 3, 4 and 5 June and 4 December in Ankara, in order to assess ENCY. All the provinces have received information on ENCY and exhibitions will be organised during the year to publicise the campaign.

## Ukraine

In January, the chairman of the Ukrainian national committee announced the campaign on television and radio and in the press. Articles on ENCY are regularly published in magazines. The *Red Book on Flora* was published in February.

The events planned include the following:

- March: forum on integrating ecology and the economy in Ukraine during the transition period;
- April: international seminar on ideas for the setting up of a European ecological network;
- September: NGO conferences and activities for nature conservation and afforestation in Ukraine;
- December: seminar on nature conservation in the urban environment.

## United Kingdom

Events will be held throughout 1995, including:

- from 17 to 26 March: national science and technology seminar, with over 1 000 projects;
- 6 and 7 April: colloquy on bees;
- in May: opening of an ecological gardening centre in Kent and an environment festival in Edinburgh;
- 8 June: World Ocean Day;
- 6 and 7 September: conference on freshwater at Stirling University and conference on the Welsh islands in Wales.

— October: children's conference on the environment and conference on biodiversity.

## **VI. MANIFESTATIONS SET UP BY NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS**

The Nature NGO Task Force has continued its work and maintained its contacts over the last few months. In addition to its informing and co-ordinating role, the Task Force has continued to represent the voluntary associations at the various ENCY decision-making levels. This desire on the part of the international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) to hold dialogues with the Council of Europe and participate in pre-decision discussions is increasingly conspicuous. It is to be found in all the Council's sectors of activity, such as the dialogue between the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Rural Centre on the drafting of the Charter of European Rural Areas. At the Task Force's last meeting, those INGOs present unanimously voiced their wish to be recognised not only as observers, as occasional interlocutors of the Council of Europe, but also as permanent partners for the various Council bodies. The INGOs could be represented in these various assemblies in the form of sectoral INGO groupings. Such permanent representatives should also be granted the same budgetary benefits as the official representatives.

Since the publication of the first issue of *Nature 95*, the Task Force has held two meetings in Strasbourg, on 21 October 1994 and 21 February 1995. New INGOs have joined the Task Force, bringing its membership up to forty-seven.

We shall set out below some examples of activities which the INGOs will be conducting in the next few months as part of ENCY. The contact addresses and additional information appear in Nature NGO Task Force Bulletin No. 5. Published by Rurality-Environment-Development with the support of Directorate-General XI of the European Commission (Environment, Consumer Protection and Nuclear Safety), this bulletin can be obtained faxing a request to the Task Force secretariat (address at the bottom of page 4).

A "NGO Nature Week" will be held from 16 to 20 October 1995 in the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg. It will comprise three colloquies organised by different NGOs with the help of the Council of Europe. The NGOs responsible for these colloquies have held two select meetings (9 December 1994 in Paris and 22 February 1995 in Brussels) in order to finalise the organisation and financing of these events. Following these preparatory meetings, the order of the colloquies during NGO Nature Week was reversed. The final programme is as follows:

— colloquy on "The major transport infrastructures and nature conservation", organised by the International Federation for Housing and Planning (16 and 17 October 1995). This event is aimed at incorporating the "nature conservation" aspect into the construction and operation of transport infrastructures and disseminating recent discoveries and methods in this field;

— colloquy "Habitat 2000" organised by the European Environmental Bureau (17 and 18 October 1995). This meeting is aimed at analysing the manner in which the Habitats Directive is currently being implemented in order to identify new proposals to protect biodiversity in Europe;

— colloquy on "Rural law and nature conservation", organised by the European Council for Rural Law in partnership with the international association Rurality-Environment-Development (19 and 20 October 1995). This colloquy will draw attention to the fact that rural law is not always consistent with the new nature conservation concerns.

## **VII. PROGRAMMES CARRIED OUT BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

### **1. Steering Committee for the conservation and management of the environment and natural habitats**

The Steering Committee for the Conservation and Management of the Environment and Natural Habitats (CDPE) is the Council of Europe body responsible for intergovernmental activities relating to the environment and natural habitats, while the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention is responsible for the functioning and implementation of this instrument. This makes the CDPE directly answerable to the Committee of Ministers, to which it proposes a number of draft texts (recommendations, reports, etc.), which are generally the culmination of specific activities, or else the broad lines of a European environmental management programme.

The Steering Committee has been mandated to organise European Nature Conservation Year (ENCY) and to set up the international structures responsible for implementing it. This task is very much in line with its usual work since it has always placed the emphasis on information.

Even though it is answerable to the Committee of Ministers as regards ENCY, the Steering Committee has delegated its powers to an International Organising Committee (IOC) made up of representatives of all the participating states. Nevertheless, it has appointed one of its members as rapporteur to give opinions and make proposals in the IOC.

ENCY will elicit wealth of information on the activities conducted by the various participants at national, regional and local levels, and by non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The CDPE will have to summarise this information and draw conclusions from it for short—and medium-term programmes. It will also have to analyse needs shared by the member states and decide the extent to which it can offer solutions usable by all. This in effect means that the CDPE's real work will begin when ENCY is ending.

## **2. The Naturopa Centre**

The Naturopa Centre, the Council of Europe's centre for documentation and information on the environment and nature, has organised many campaigns<sup>1</sup> since 1970 with a view to increasing public awareness of the natural environment. The Centre Naturopa is very actively participating in preparing ENCY and is making its various information facilities available for the campaign:

*Naturopa* magazine, which deals with a variety of themes, is published three times a year in four languages and is distributed throughout Europe. It devoted issue 76 at the end of 1994 to ENCY.

*Naturopa Newsletter* is a monthly bulletin which is published in ten languages and is also distributed throughout Europe. Since the end of 1993 each issue has comprised an ENCY section giving the reader information on the progress of the campaign.

*Environment Features* is an annual series of six articles published in French and English. The 1994 issues were all devoted to the campaign themes: nature conservation in the city (what can I do for nature conservation as a councillor or as a city-dweller?), in the agricultural environment (how can we reconcile agriculture and nature conservation?), in the leisure environments (mountain hikes, angling, ecological gardening), and how to protect the underground environment.

The Centre Naturopa's new 1995 calendar also illustrates the ENCY themes.

## **3. Production of a videocassette**

A 25-minute video entitled "*Look to the future, look after nature*" has been produced to present European Nature Conservation Year 1995 and the Council of Europe's activities in the environmental field over the past twenty-five years.

Directed by two film industry professionals, Henri Makowski (Hamburg, Germany) and Pierre Mann (Strasbourg, France), this video was funded by the Albert Toepfer Foundation F.v.S in Hamburg, Germany.

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### 1. Themes of the previous campaigns:

- European Nature Year, 1970
- Soil Conservation, 1972
- Freshwater conservation, 1974
- Conservation and development of wetlands, 1976
- Protection of wildlife and natural habitats, 1979
- Coasts, 1983
- Agriculture and wildlife, 1987-88

It is currently available for the National Organising Committees in English, French and German and is to be dubbed in other languages in order to secure as wide as possible a distribution in Europe.

#### **4. Special postage stamp issues**

Many officials from postal services in countries participating in ENCY — Andorra, Cyprus, Croatia, Spain, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland and the Holy See — have expressed a wish to support the campaign with a special stamp issue devoted to European Nature Conservation Year. Similarly, several ministerial departments from various countries have chosen a postmark caption for their mail relating to ENCY and its slogan "Look to the future, look after nature".

Lastly, a number of countries are still working on their projects. Philatelists, to your tweezers!

#### **5. A European travelling photo exhibition**

In 1994, as part of ENCY, the Council of Europe's Public Relations Service launched an international photography competition for both amateurs and professionals on the theme of "Nature Conservation outside Protected Areas". The idea was to depict the positive and negative effects of human activities on the natural environment.

The competition was extremely successful, and over 2 200 photographs were received from thirty-three countries. An international panel made up of professionals and media specialists met in October 1994 to award prizes to the top fifty entries.

On the basis of the photography competition, a special ENCY exhibition was presented at last January's session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. It comprises thirty-three photographs selected from among the prize-winners and is accompanied by a poster.

This exhibition is currently travelling around Europe. It has already been shown in Iceland, on the occasion of the national launch of ENCY, Spain and Ireland. It is also to go from Malta to Estonia, from Liechtenstein to the United Kingdom, from France to Slovenia, etc.

For further information on the exhibition, please contact the head of your country's national committee or the ENCY secretariat in the Council of Europe.

First prize: *They came and they went*, Sigrun Stefánsdóttir (Iceland)

Second prize: *Three foxes, a jay and a magpie, hanging*, Gerhard Stromberg (United Kingdom)

Third prize: *Paper recycling*, Sylvie Caharel (France).