

## STATEMENT

**By Øystein Størkersen, Chair of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention**

As Chair of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, I regret the decision of US President Donald Trump to withdraw his country from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Reaching this unprecedented international Agreement, adopted by consensus on 12 December 2015 in Paris, clearly showed the strong commitment of the entire international community and the humanity as a whole, to take decisive action against climate change. Up to date, 147 nations have already ratified the Accord.

The European continent has the opportunity to take on a leading role in the implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement. The Bern Convention, through its ambitious Programme of Work on Climate Change and Biodiversity, will continue to support its Contracting Parties in combatting climate change and adapting to its effects, in particular with the promotion of healthy ecosystems and nature based solutions. The Bern Convention's strong commitment to the achievement of the Paris Accord targets will continue.

Funchal (Madeira), 2 June 2017

