Strasbourg, 19 November 2026 **T-PVS(2026)09_rev**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee
46th meeting
7-11 December 2026

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Bureau meeting

22-24 September 2026
(G01, Agora Building and Room B4_06C, Agora Building)

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- MEETING REPORT -

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING & ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. Adoption of the agenda

Decision: The meeting agenda was adopted.

2. REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT

2.1. Staff announcements

The Secretariat welcomed new colleagues, Irina Spoiala (Administrative Assistant) and Francine Raveney (Deputy Secretary of the CDENV) who joined the Secretariat on 1 September.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the information provided.

3. FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION

3.1. Reykjavík process and the environment

The Chair informed the Bureau about his participation in the Committee of Ministers Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C) on 30 June 2026.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the Council of Europe's participation in COP 17 (Yerevan, October 2026) and COP 31 (Antalya, November 2026). Participants praised the work of the Secretariat and highlighted the importance of ensuring that the Bern Convention's work is visible at the global level.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the information provided.

3.2. Working Group on the draft Protocol amending the Bern Convention

[T-PVS/Inf(2025)42 - Terms of Reference Working Group on exploring sustainable financing options for the Bern Convention]

The Secretariat informed participants about the ongoing dialogue with the EU focal point and shared information provided by the European Commission on negotiations concerning the outstanding elements of the draft Protocol, namely the majority versus unanimity principle and the EU contribution rate. The Chair of the Working Group presented the current state of play, and the Bureau exchanged views on possible ways forward. The Bureau acknowledged and accepted that the Working Group meeting had not taken place before the Bureau meeting due to the lack of progress in negotiations with the EU.

Decision: The Bureau members requested that a follow-up meeting be held between the Council of Europe Secretariat, the European Commission Secretariat and the Chair of the Working Group on the draft Protocol amending the Bern Convention, ahead of the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee.

3.3. Voluntary contributions received in 2026: state of play

[T-PVS/Inf(2026)31- Table of the voluntary contributions received in 2026]

The Secretariat informed the Bureau of the state of play regarding voluntary contributions received since the beginning of 2026, as well as contributions expected before the end of the year.

As of the date of the meeting, nine voluntary contributions had been received from Andorra, Belgium, Cyprus, the European Union, the Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Switzerland, amounting to approximately €120,000.

The Secretariat further reported that additional contributions were expected before the end of 2026, including the remaining €4,800 from Belgium, €15,000 from Luxembourg and €20,000 from the Netherlands.

The Secretariat emphasised that these figures remained provisional, noting that a significant proportion of voluntary contributions were generally received during the second half of the year. It was highlighted that the amounts collected so far were broadly comparable to those recorded in September 2025 and that 2025 had been a particularly successful year in terms of voluntary funding. The Secretariat recalled that letters encouraging voluntary contributions had been sent at the beginning of the year and indicated that the situation would continue to be monitored ahead of the Standing Committee meeting in December.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for its presentation and underlined the importance of continuing to monitor the situation. It was also noted that sharing information on announced contributions at the forthcoming Standing Committee meeting could encourage further voluntary support from other Contracting Parties.

Decision: Bureau members took note of the information provided and requested that the Secretariat continue monitoring voluntary contributions, follow up on announced contributions and provide updated figures at the forthcoming Standing Committee meeting.

3.4. Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention

[T-PVS/Inf(2025)41 - Terms of Reference Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention]
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)17 – Briefing note – Criteria and procedures for amending Appendices to the Bern Convention]
[T-PVS(2026)8- Report of the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention]

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the meeting of the Working Group which took place on 8 September 2026 following the preparation of a briefing note by an expert. The next steps included feedback from the WG on the briefing note and further developing it for presentation at the Standing Committee meeting in December.

The Bureau discussed how to clarify Recommendation No. 56's criteria, including possible sub-criteria and suitable scientific sources, and how to adapt these to the European context. It also considered the scope, cost and timing of independent scientific reviews, including whether they should cover all Appendix amendments or only downlisting proposals.

Decision: The Bureau requested the Secretariat to finalise the briefing note for submission to the Standing Committee and agreed that a draft Recommendation would be prepared following the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee.

3.5. Working Group on overseeing implementation of the Strategic Plan

[T-PVS/(2026)01 – Report of the 4th meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan
[T-PVS/Agenda(2026)10– Draft agenda 16th meeting of the GoEPAEN jointly with the 5th meeting of the Working Group on supervising the implementation of the Strategic Plan]
[Indicator factsheets]

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that during the intersessional period Contracting Parties had been invited to submit national voluntary updates on the implementation of the Strategic

Plan. The Secretariat had received submissions from nine of the 49 Contracting Parties, compared with six submissions the previous year. Two Contracting Parties had submitted an update for the second time.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the next meeting of the Working Group, scheduled to take place in Georgia (29-30 September 2026), would be held jointly with the Group of Experts on the European Ecological Network and Protected Areas. The meeting would focus on finalising and agreeing on the indicator factsheets, prioritising indicators related to Resolution No. 8, case files and the Emerald Network, in line with the Bureau's decision. In particular, four indicators linked to Resolution No. 8 would be discussed. This work would inform preparations for the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan's implementation, scheduled for 2027.

Decision: The Bureau welcomed the update and looked forward to receiving the report on the Working Group meeting's conclusions at the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee. The Bureau emphasised the importance of Contracting Parties' continued efforts to implement the Strategic Plan and encouraged those that had not yet submitted a national voluntary update to do so.

3.6. Draft revised Rules of procedure of the Standing Committee

[T-PVS/Inf(2026)16 – Draft revised Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention]
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)18 – Suggested amendments_Rules of Procedure_explanatory note]

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the progress made on the amendments to the Rules of Procedure. The feedback received from the Parties was compiled into one table and carefully reviewed by the Bureau.

Decision: The Bureau decided to submit the revised Rules of Procedure for adoption by the 46th Standing Committee and requested the Secretariat to accompany the document with an explanatory note clarifying the rationale behind each amendment.

3.7. Ways ahead with the Bern Convention complaint system

[T-PVS/Inf(2026)06_rev – Secretariat reflection on further enhancements within the case-file system of the Bern Convention]

The Secretariat briefly presented the state of play of the reflection on optimising the case-file system of the Bern Convention in view of the large number of complaints, the increasing number of further submissions, the relatively few closed case-files and limited capacities of the Secretariat. While some operational changes that do not require the approval of the Standing Committee are envisaged by the Secretariat to increase efficiency, others necessitate revising the Case-file system Guide of Procedures (T-PVS/Inf(2022)27), including the complaint form. Should the revised Guide not be ready in time for consideration by the Standing Committee in 2026, its 46th meeting offers an opportunity to inform the Committee about the reflections and developments so far, including the proposed online reporting system, which could greatly enhance the efficiency of handling the update reports from the case-file parties.

Decision: The Bureau acknowledged the advancements in the reflection on optimising the case-file system of the Bern Convention, encouraged the Secretariat to pursue this work and requested it to present a revised information document to the Bureau and the Standing Committee.

3.8. Convention on the protection of the environment through criminal law: possible synergies with the Bern Convention

[Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (CETS No. 228)]

The Secretariat presented the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, adopted in 2025 and opened for signature on 3 December 2025. Not yet in force, the Convention had received eight signatures and its first ratification, by Latvia. Its entry into force requires ten ratifications, including eight by Council of Europe member states.

The Convention establishes common minimum standards for criminalising serious environmental offences and protecting Europe's natural heritage. It also provides for effective sanctions, liability of legal persons, international cooperation, and protection for victims, witnesses and whistleblowers. It calls for coordinated national policies, specialist training for investigators, prosecutors and judges, public awareness, civil-society involvement and improved data on environmental crime. The potential for the Convention to complement the Bern Convention was highlighted: while the Bern Convention sets conservation standards, the new Convention provides criminal-law tools to address serious violations, and could provide input into the case-files of the Bern Convention.

As an added value, for countries with stronger legal protections than those provided for under the new Convention, it establishes common legal standards and provides a framework for cross-border cooperation where no bilateral agreement exists.

Decision: The Bureau welcomed the presentation and encouraged the Secretariat to explore further synergies between the two conventions. It suggested including an exchange of views on the Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law on the agenda of the upcoming Standing Committee meeting.

4. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

[Calendar of meetings 2026]
[T-PVS(2025)12 - Programme of Activities and budget for 2026]

4.1 European Diploma for Protected Areas

[T-PVS (2026)02 - Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists 2026]

The Secretariat presented an update of the on-the-spot visits that took place in 2026, as well as a suggested approach for the 2027 and 2028 visits, including a proposed approach for the next meeting of the Group of Specialists.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the information provided and agreed on the importance of carefully considering the calendar of visits in 2027 and 2028. The Bureau also supported the decision to host the next Group of Specialists meeting at the EDPA site of Camargue in February 2026 as part of the celebration of the Centenary of the Camargue National Nature Reserve.

4.2 Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conversation Interest

[T-PVS/Inf(2026)10 - Legal analysis of the scope for authorising potentially harmful activities
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)11 - Revised Guidelines for explaining negative changes in Emerald Network proposed, candidate and adopted sites

[T-PVS/Inf(2026)19 - Draft Updated Standard Data Form guidelines]
[T-PVS/Agenda(2026)10– Draft agenda 16th meeting of the GoEPAEN jointly with the 5th meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan]

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the joint meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks (GoEPAEN) and the Working Group on overseeing implementation of the Strategic Plan would take place in Lagodekhi, Georgia, (29-30 September 2026) back-to-back with the European Diploma on-the-spot appraisal (30 September – 2 October 2026). The Secretariat outlined the main topics expected to be discussed.

The Bureau was informed that the Group would review the outcomes of Resolution No. 8 (2012) reporting, including changes made to species and habitats checklists by five Contracting Parties. The Secretariat noted that the Group would discuss how to proceed with these changes and ensure that the Resolution No. 8 (2012) checklists were aligned with the Emerald Network checklists.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that guidelines for the new Standard Data Forms (SDFs) had been prepared and circulated to Contracting Parties. Following circulation of a preliminary draft, comments had been received from the United Kingdom and incorporated as far as possible. The guidelines would be discussed by the Group. The Group would also be informed of a workshop, planned for 2027 in cooperation with the European Environment Agency, to prepare for the future submission of Emerald Network site SDFs through ReportNet3.

The Secretariat further informed the Bureau that, pursuant to a mandate from the Standing Committee, a legal analysis and a revised draft of the 2017 guidelines on negative changes to proposed candidate and adopted Emerald Network sites had been prepared and would be submitted to the Group for consideration.

The Group would also be informed of a TAIEX multi-country workshop on EU nature legislation, with a particular focus on the Birds and Habitats Directives, scheduled for 17–19 November for EU accession countries.

Decision: The Bureau welcomed the Secretariat's work during the intersessional period and its preparations for the upcoming meeting. It emphasised the importance of aligning the Resolution No. 8 (2012) checklists with the Emerald Network checklists, and of supporting Contracting Parties in using the new SDF format and preparing for ReportNet 3.

The Bureau also welcomed the Secretariat's preparation of the legal analysis and revised guidelines on negative changes to Emerald Network sites. It emphasised the importance of their review and endorsement by GoEPAEN before submission to the Standing Committee as information documents. The Bureau further welcomed the Secretariat's planned contribution to the TAIEX workshop for EU accession countries.

4.3 Group of Experts on Large Carnivores

[T-PVS(2026)03 - Group of Experts on Large Carnivores_24 March 2026]
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)24 - Report on the wolf protection status overview]

Katrina Marsden from Adelphi, LCIE member, co-author of the survey on the legal and management changes following the downlisting of the wolf, presented the context, scope and results of the survey included in the Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on Large

Carnivores. The survey allowed identifying which Contracting Parties have or are planning to change the legal wolf protection status and management following the downlisting, knowing what and when changes occurred or are to be implemented, and establishing a baseline for longitudinal monitoring of legal and management developments across the parties, to be repeated annually.

The data was submitted by 38 Parties in Europe through an online form between April and July 2026, completed by the national focal points and representatives on the Group of Experts on Large Carnivores. Identified trends have been presented as commented maps.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau of the work on draft recommendations concerning large carnivores: revised Recommendation No. 173 (2014) of the Standing Committee, on hybridisation between wild grey wolves (Canis lupus) and domestic dogs (Canis lupus familiaris), and two new recommendations – on wolf and bear problem behaviour, as per the Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts. The Group is expected to meet online in the autumn to further advance its work.

The Secretariat also informed the Bureau about the state of play with the preparation of the Conservation Strategy of the Carpathian lynx, developed in communication with the range states. The Strategy should be ready for endorsement by the 46th Standing Committee, following its expected adoption by the Carpathian Convention in early December 2026 and ahead of its presentation to the CMS in spring 2027.

Decision: The Bureau appreciated the report on the findings of the survey on wolf protection status, agreed to provide comments on the report, if any, within a fortnight, and took note of the other information presented.

4.4 Group of Experts on Conservation of Birds and addressing IKB

[T-PVS/Inf(2026)14 - Mid-term assessment Rome Strategic Plan]
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)20 - Report on motivations behind IKB]

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the Guidance on birds and renewable energies, edited as an ISBN publication, and a brochure promoting the Guidance and presenting its main elements. These online resources would be presented at a side-event during the COP 31 in Antalya, subject to confirmation.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about developments in relation to IKB, in particular the finalised mid-term assessment of the Rome Strategic Plan and the report on motivations behind IKB in the MIKT members (Serbia and Türkiye), commissioned by CMS to BirdLife International. A geographical extension of the study was considered but could not be launched this year due to limited capacities of the experts in charge of the report. Both documents would be presented at the online meeting on IKB co-organised with CMS MIKT on 22 October 2026, and discussed in greater detail at the Joint meeting on IKB, to be held in-person on 15-17 June 2027 in Croatia. The results of Scoreboard 2026 were also expected to be presented on that occasion. The results would not be available in time for consideration by the 46th Standing Committee, following the delay in launching the data collection due to unavailability of the CMS ORS, which had been used for previous scoreboards. It was stressed that the scientific basis of all the above-mentioned data should be clearly indicated and explained, to ensure transparency and accountability.

The in-person meeting of the Group of Experts on Wild Birds is to be held on 18 June 2027, back-to-back with the Joint meeting on IKB in Croatia. In view of the heavy workload of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Group of Experts on Birds it was considered preferable to postpone the online meeting of the Group planned for later this year to early 2027, so that it

precedes the above-mentioned in-person meeting of the Group and prepares it, among others to elaborate draft Terms of Reference of the Group.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the updates and agreed on postponing the online meeting of the Group of Experts on Wild Birds, planned for 2026, to early 2027.

4.5 Groups of Experts on Invasive Alien Species, on Amphibians and Reptiles

The Secretariat considered holding a meeting of the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species (IASs) still in late 2026. The Vice-Chair of the Group of Experts, Merike Linnamägi, suggested inviting an expert who was compiling good practice on eradicating invasive alien species like alien fish and crayfish from water bodies where they affect local amphibians. That work could give way to a Bern Convention guidance document. Another focus could be on Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans (Bsal), also intersecting with the scope of the Group of Experts on amphibians and reptiles. The latter group could meet next in 2027.

If an in-person meeting of the Group of Experts on IASs takes place, it could also bring together experts on eradicating the Ruddy duck. The experts also requested to meet in person – like in 2020 in the UK, when a new Action Plan was adopted. The two groups, if not merged, could meet back-to-back.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the updates and directions proposed for the future work of respective Groups of Experts.

4.6 Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck

[Recommandation No. 209 (2020) on the eradication of the ruddy duck (Oxyura jamaicensis) in the Western Palaearctic by 2025]

[T-PVS/Agenda(2026)17 - draft agenda of the Expert Meeting on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck]

The Secretariat reminded the Bureau that the Standing Committee had extended the Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck until the end of 2026.

The Secretariat reported that the national questionnaires for Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 countries had been updated and circulated to Contracting Parties, with reports requested by mid-September. Fifteen reports had been received by the deadline. Following consultations with the respective experts, the Secretariat planned to assess implementation of the Action Plan for 2020–2025, as extended to 2026, and progress towards the eradication of the Ruddy Duck in Europe.

The Bureau was informed that work on the eradication of the Ruddy Duck would continue, and that a new Action Plan for 2027–2031 would be prepared to help sustain the results achieved by Contracting Parties. An online meeting of the Working Group was planned for 16 October to review progress and discuss the proposed objectives and targets of the new plan. The Secretariat planned to circulate a draft Action Plan to the Group of Experts for review and endorsement before submitting it to the Standing Committee for adoption.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's intersessional work and the receipt of national updates from fifteen Contracting Parties. It welcomed the planned review of progress and preparation of a new Action Plan for 2027–2031 to be submitted to the Standing Committee for adoption, subject to endorsement by the Group of Experts.

4.7 Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of Sturgeons

[T-PVS/Inf(2018)6 - Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons]
[T-PVS/Agenda(2026)16 - draft agenda of the third meeting of the National Focal Points for the PANEUAP]

The Secretariat reminded the Bureau that the last meeting of National Focal Points for the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons had taken place in 2024, and that a further online meeting was scheduled for autumn 2026, with exact date to be confirmed, in keeping with the Group's usual biennial schedule.

Decision: The Bureau welcomed the planned third meeting of the National Focal Points for the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons and encouraged Contracting Parties to continue implementing the Action Plan and contributing to its forthcoming evaluation.

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

5.1 Biennial reporting and new Online Reporting System

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the 2023-24 reporting launched last spring in the new ORS, which was built upon many of the recommendations stemming from the 2022 scoping study, mostly focused on user-friendliness of the system. To date, the feedback on the new ORS was positive and by the deadline of 15 September 2026 seven submissions were received online and one – offline, five further contributions were in progress. While the EU countries' submissions on exceptions from the Birds and Habitats Directives are counted as reporting on the Bern Convention Article 9, several other countries are still invited to submit their data.

It is proposed to commission a report, in which the author of the scoping study could analyse single-country data, compile an overview of the information collected and formulate suggestions for further enhancements to ORS and reporting, to further facilitate the data submission and make it more compelling.

Decision: The Bureau welcomed the information on the biennial reporting for the period 2023-24 so far, the proposal to analyse the data collected and ways of further facilitating the reporting on Article 9 within the new ORS, as well as encouraged further submissions of the Contracting Parties.

5.2 Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the conservation status of species and habitats

[T-PVS(2026)07 - Report of the meeting of the Working Group on reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012)]

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that based on the national reports submitted by eight Contracting Parties, the main data gaps concerned habitats, although the data quality had improved compared with the first reporting cycle in 2019. Overall, the conservation status and trends of species and habitats remained concerning.

The Secretariat also reported on work towards pan-European assessments, based on data submitted by Contracting Parties. Due to time constraints, only the Nordic countries' salmon assessment was expected to be ready for COP17; the remaining assessments would be prepared later. The Secretariat noted significant data gaps in some regions and the need to work with the European Environment Agency to analyse EU and non-EU data together.

National summaries had been prepared for Contracting Parties that submitted reports and were under review. National dashboards were also ready for publication, pending the addition of explanatory information. The Secretariat planned to update the Resolution No. 8 (2012) webpage by the end of the year so that Contracting Parties could review their progress.

The Secretariat reaffirmed its intention to support additional countries in submitting their reports and informed that the deadline for submission is end of November. A comprehensive overview of the reporting exercise would be presented to the Standing Committee.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the progress made in assessing the national reports submitted under Resolution No. 8 (2012) and encouraged Contracting Parties that had not yet submitted their reports to do so by the end of November. It also welcomed the ongoing work on pan-European assessments, national summaries and dashboards.

6 46TH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

6.1 Draft Agenda and tentative order of business

[T-PVS/Agenda(2026)15 – Preliminary draft agenda]

The Secretariat presented the draft agenda, highlighting the most relevant points and outstanding questions. It also outlined the proposed order of business for the meeting and invited the Bureau to provide feedback and guidance.

Decision: The Bureau agreed to structure the order of business so that discussions on case-files would begin on the first day, ensuring a more balanced distribution of case-files and other agenda items throughout the week.

6.2 Programme of activities 2027

[T-PVS(2026)13 – Preliminary draft programme of Activities and budget for 2027/2028]

The Secretariat introduced the document and highlighted that the version presented is largely based on the current functioning of the Bern Convention, while considering possible changes to the dates of the Standing Committee meeting in 2027. The Secretariat underscored that the final programme would need to reflect the decisions taken by the Standing Committee meeting.

As with the 2026 Programme of Activities, the 2027 Programme of Activities highlights potential priorities in orange. In view of fluctuations in human resources and uncertainty regarding the level of resources available for the coming year, the Secretariat emphasised the need to maintain flexibility and identify priority areas.

Decision: The Bureau agreed on the proposed programme of activities and requested the Secretariat to finalise the document for submission to the 46th Standing Committee meeting.

7 COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONVENTION

7.1 Information regarding the planned Gonio Development Project located at Chorokhi Delta (GE0000054) site

[T-PVS/Inf(2026)03 – Resolution of the Participants of the Conference on the Alienation of Krtsanisi–Gonio]

The Secretariat provided an update on the notification received from the Georgian authorities and outlined possible next steps in accordance with the requirements of article 4.3 of Resolution No. 5 (1998).

Decision: The Bureau decided to request an update from the Georgian authorities concerning the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Gonio Development Project ahead of its Bureau meeting in **spring 2027**.

7.2 Request to support a meeting on the Genus Zingel

The Secretariat provided an update on the meeting on the Genus Zingel, organised by ProNatura with the support of the Bern Convention on 18 September 2026. The meeting gathered experts from several countries where the genus is present in a wide variety of environments and may be monitored using diverse methods, which were shared during the meeting. There appeared to be no consensus on the reasons for the species decline in most of the areas, with the factors considered varying from water pollution and temperature to the presence of local and alien predators and the abundance of other fish species. The situation in North Macedonia and Romania, where the endemic (sub)species of the genus were still present but in decline, was considered particularly alarming.

It was regretted that some national authorities' representatives were not present, possibly as they not been invited to the technical meeting.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the information presented and asked for clarification on the implication of the parties concerned by the stand-by case file Recommendation No. 169 (2013) on the Rhone streber (Zingel asper) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland).

8 CASE-FILES

8.1 Open files

[T-PVS/Notes(2026)7 – Summary of open case files]

- 1986/08: Greece: Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of *Caretta caretta* in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos - OSA

[T-PVS/Files(2026)1986-08_gov - Government Report]
[[T-PVS/Files(2026)1986-08_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for the submission of their respective reports.

Welcomed the forthcoming signature of the presidential decree establishing the marine park of the Ionian Sea.

Welcomed the efforts of the national authorities to strengthen management and enforcement measures, including the increased cordoning of nesting areas, the installation of new and additional signage, and the greater presence of wardens during the day.

Noted the continuing concerns expressed by complainant NGOs regarding the increasing tourist presence, marine traffic, the limited presence of enforcement officials at night, persistent fireworks and vehicle tracks on the beaches.

Noted the complainants' concerns regarding hydrocarbon exploration and the authorities' response that the operations had not affected, and could not have affected, the nesting beaches, nests or hatchling paths, first, because they involved no terrestrial

or coastal intervention and, second, because they had been carried out entirely outside the nesting and incubation period.

Noted the proposal of the Greek authorities to hold the on-the-spot appraisal during the first half of June 2026, but recommended the end of June, in the nesting and touristic season.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, focusing on the issues above.

The status of the file remains **open**.

➢ 2010/05: Greece: Threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias - OSA

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2010-05_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2010-05_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for the submission of their respective reports.

Welcomed the signature of the presidential decree establishing the marine park of the South Aegean 1 – South Cyclades and requested the authorities to ensure its effective implementation and enforcement, and to urgently prepare and implement a management plan in cooperation with the protected areas management unit.

Welcomed the approval of a management study for protected habitat types and its ongoing implementation, including the construction of walkways and fencing, access restrictions, the installation of new information signs, dune stabilisation at 34 locations, and the removal of *carpobrotus edulis*.

Noted the persistent and increasing threats to Thines Kyparissia, including new illegal coastal construction, the spread of alien plant species, the degradation of sand dunes, unrestricted vehicle access via illegal roads, illegal camping, poorly managed beach furniture, light pollution and fishing.

Noted the proposal of the Greek authorities to hold the on-the-spot appraisal during the first half of June 2026, but recommended the end of June, in the nesting and touristic season.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, focusing on the implementation of Recommendation No. 174 (2014) and other issues mentioned above.

The status of the file remains **Open**.

➢ 1995/06: Cyprus: Sea turtles at Akamas peninsula

[T-PVS/Files(2026)1995-06_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)1995-06_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their reports but noted that the report from the complainant had very little additional information.

Noted that the complainant and the Government continue to have drastically opposite views on the implementation of the 13 points included in Recommendation No. 191 (2016).

Commends the authorities for the positive steps taken towards the establishment and operation of the National Forest Park, but regretted the standstill in relation to the declaration of Akamas Peninsula as a National Park, according to point 1 of Recommendation No. 191 (2016), and urged the Cypriot authorities to reconsider its position comply with point 1 of the recommendation.

Welcomed the Government's information that all Sites of Community Importance have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation, that 15 SACs have already had Ministerial Decrees published establishing conservation objectives and measures, and that all 37 SACs are expected to have such decrees by the end of 2026. Requested that the next Government report updates on the situation.

Took note that the European Commission has filed an application on 18.02.2026 for a referral to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) with regards to the management of the Natura 2000 Network protected areas in Cyprus. Requested that both Parties and the EU Commission send updates on the procedures regarding the referrals against the Republic of Cyprus to the ECJ, as well as on the various ongoing infringement procedures (Ref. 2018/2058, 2021/2064, 2019/2303).

Welcomed the reporting that the government took into account the concerns raised by NGOs regarding the construction of the road. Requested that the next Government report provide further information on the final design. Recalled that developments likely to increase visitors to the area and urged that development should be avoided in turtle-nesting areas.

Regrets that the concerns about the refreshment kiosks have not been addressed. Requested that the Government clarify the legal status of these facilities and provide information on the enforcement measures taken.

Concerning the possible expansion of the quarry in the Androlikou area requested details on the mitigation measures conceived for the site and of the arrangements for monitoring and enforcing their implementation.

Concerning the Limni Bay Project, noted the Government's information that the project proponent has sold its rights, including the permits and land, that no further building permits or applications for construction have been submitted and that development has effectively halted. Also noted that any renewal of the permits would be subject to a renewed environmental assessment. Recalled, however, that the planning permits remained in force until 08.02.2025, with a possible extension until 08.02.2031, and remained concerned about the potential impact of any future development on the Limni area.

Recalled its decision from the April meeting and, requested that the Secretariat liaise with the Cypriot authorities to convene a meeting with the complainant and the relevant stakeholders in order to facilitate dialogue between the parties and to make decisive

advances in the resolution of this case file and consider the possibility of an on-the-spot appraisal in order to develop more up-to-date recommendations for the site.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, focusing on the implementation of Recommendation No. 191 (2016) and the marine turtle initiative.

➢ 2000/01: Türkiye: Green turtle in Kazanli

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2001-01_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2001-01_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked the complainant and the Government of Türkiye for their updated reports and the information provided on the implementation of Recommendation No. 95 (2002).

Noted with appreciation the progress achieved since the reopening of the file, including the removal of the illegal building in section K1, the demolition of the municipal wedding hall, the continuation of awareness-raising activities, the implementation of wastewater management measures, and the establishment of a scientific coastal erosion monitoring programme in co-operation with Middle East Technical University (METU).

Welcomed the continued monitoring of industrial discharges and hazardous waste management at the Şişecam Chemicals Mersin Kromsan Plant, as well as the efforts undertaken to address light pollution and beach clean-up activities.

Noted, however, with concern that several key recommendations remain only partially implemented, in particular the removal of greenhouses from the nesting beach, the continued presence of plastic pollution affecting the beach, the long-term presence of substantial quantities of hazardous waste awaiting treatment and disposal, and the continued existence of residential buildings within the coastal zone.

Further noted that, despite ongoing conservation measures, concerns persist regarding the overall effectiveness of actions taken to improve nesting conditions for marine turtles and to address the cumulative impacts of pollution, coastal development and habitat degradation.

Encouraged the authorities to accelerate the removal of remaining greenhouse structures and the restoration of the affected dune habitat, to strengthen measures addressing marine litter, and to provide a clear timetable for the completion of hazardous waste disposal activities.

Requested the Government to report on the long-term presence of substantial quantities of hazardous waste awaiting treatment and disposal, the outcomes of the coastal erosion monitoring programme, progress in implementing the remaining recommendations of Recommendation No. 95 (2002), and any measurable improvements in nesting habitat conditions and turtle breeding success.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, providing information on progress made towards the implementation of Recommendation No. 95 (2002), in particular on the issues mentioned above.

The status of the file remains **Open**.

➢ 2012/09(a): Türkiye: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye SPA

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2012-09-a_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2012-09-a_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their reports.

Noted with concerns that both parties have drastically opposite views on the situation in Fethiye's SPA.

Noted in particular that while the complainant considers that scientific studies indicate a continuing decline in nest numbers in Fethiye, the Government argues the contrary. Consequently, requested the parties to provide the scientific evidence to which they refer, covering the entire 8-km-long nesting beach at Fethiye.

Was reminded that the Fethiye nesting area is immediately adjacent to an urban settlement with a permanent population of approximately 200,000 people and that this population increases considerably during the tourism season, coinciding with the peak nesting and hatching period.

Was concerned that, according to the complainant, tourism development has continued to encroach on nesting habitat with new permanent structures continuing to be built, including lifeguard towers, water sport facilities with associated storage, a boat hauling and mooring site at the State Hydraulic Works (DSİ) canal between Karataş Beach and the main section of Yanıklar, and new parking facilities at Akmaz Beach. Was also concerned that new landscaping and planting beyond the beaches' natural vegetation has also taken place; that sunbed and umbrella zones have expanded in Section A of Çalış Beach and in the hotel district of Yanıklar Beach, while the relevant ministry has allocated new areas on Karaot Beach; that visitor traffic has risen sharply on Akgöl (Karaot) Beach, a site of high-density nesting, where an active campsite and a caravan parking area have also emerged; that most street lamps along the pedestrian walkway are positioned to shine directly onto the nesting beach; that no guards were observed anywhere in the protected area; and that human resources remain insufficient. Requested the Government to address all these concerns and to stop further development on the beaches.

Appreciated the public safety considerations raised by the Government in relation to implementing certain conservation measures and that the authorities plan to first introduce management measures in pilot areas, before expanding the successful practices. Nevertheless, stressed that implementation should not be unduly delayed and that the clearly negative effects on nesting habitat must be addressed without further delay. It further highlighted that numerous measures can be implemented without such delays, given that several best practices are already recognised as effective by the scientific community, as evidenced by the Guidance tool on the conservation of sea turtle nesting sites endorsed by the Standing Committee of the

Bern Convention in December 2023; it called upon the government to make use of them.

Acknowledged nevertheless the efforts of the Government to identify and address the violation of relevant legal standards in sand extraction, sand spreading, beach levelling, operation of heavy machinery, unauthorised business and structures, illegal planting of vegetation, illegal buildings, fences, railings, footpaths, beach furniture, showers, umbrellas, pergolas, gazebos, caravans, light pollution at night and illegal vehicle access. Despite the removal of some unauthorised businesses and structures, noted however that the efforts of the Government toward the relevant competent local authorities remained largely unsuccessful. Therefore, urged the Government to have the situation addressed by the local authorities to comply with their legal obligations.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, focusing on the implementation of Recommendation No. 183 (2015) and the other issues mentioned above.

The status of the file remains **Open**.

- 2013/01: North Macedonia: Hydro power development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park

[T-PVS/Files(2026) 2013-01_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked the complainant for their report and expressed regret over the absence of a report from the respondent, besides information that no new developments occurred. Again, stressed the importance of providing detailed, regular reports to the Bureau.

Reiterated the importance of completing the re-proclamation process, adopting a new Law for Mavrovo NP, and preparing an effective and comprehensive management plan for the park, as required by point 6 of Recommendation 211 (2021).

Asked again for clear information on the progress in preparing Water Law and Environment Law, including on enhancing the environmental impact assessments in national legislation, to ensure they meet international standards and address points 2, 5, and 9 of Recommendation 211 (2021).

Urged the Government to suspended or cancel all approved and planned construction concessions in National Parks, protected areas, World Heritage Sites, and other candidate Emerald sites, recalling point 1 of Recommendation 211 (2021).

Reiterated request for information on the Draft Methodology aiming to resolve issues arising from concluded concession agreements for the use of water for electricity production through the construction of small hydro-electric power plants located in NPs, prepared by the Office of the Prime Minister.

Expressed disappointment with lack of response from the authorities in what concerns organising on-the-spot appraisal visit in 2026. Recalled the 45th Standing Committee's decision on this matter and invited the Government of North Macedonia to host the OSA in 2027.

Recalled the proposal to hold a meeting with the Permanent Representation of North Macedonia to the Council of Europe to discuss this case and to gain a better understanding of the causes of the significant delays in implementing Recommendation 211 (2021).

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, providing information on progress made towards the implementation of Recommendation No. 211 (2021).

The status of the file remains **Open**.

- 2016/05: Albania: Presumed negative impact of developments on the Vjosa river including hydro-power plant and Vlora International Airport

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2016-05_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2016-05_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their reports.

Welcomed the ongoing dialogue with the Albanian authorities concerning existing and new development projects within the Vjosa-Narta Emerald candidate site.

Acknowledged the continuing concerns expressed by the scientific community, Albanian citizens and the diaspora regarding the new development projects.

Noted the information provided by the complainants on the construction of a new electricity station within the airport area and requested the authorities to provide further information in this regard. It reaffirmed that, although the authorities consider the airport area to be located outside the Pishë Poro–Nartë protected landscape, the cumulative impact of the airport's construction and the new development projects, including the effects of the construction works carried out in May 2026, on the remaining part of the site must be duly assessed.

Noted the information provided by the complainants concerning the lack of access to relevant information and documents, and requested the Albanian authorities to ensure timely and effective access to environmental information in accordance with international standards.

Took note of the National Environment Agency's decision of 15 May 2026 to request an in-depth Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and requested the Albanian authorities to provide the EIA's Terms of Reference, as well as the project's precise location and coordinates and its architectural plans, to the Bern Convention Secretariat.

It highlighted that the EIA's Terms of Reference should require the EIA to include an analysis of the impacts of development projects on protected species and habitats.

Noted the damage caused by the intervention carried out in the Zvërnec area in April–May 2026, and requested information on the possible restoration measures that the authorities plan to adopt.

Welcomed the ongoing research and data-collection activities undertaken in preparation for the submission to the Emerald Networkand reiterated its request that a new Standard Data Form (SDF) for the Emerald site be submitted, which is essential for understanding the ecological value and current protection status of its habitats and species. The Bureau encouraged close cooperation and constructive dialogue between the Bern Convention Secretariat and the Albanian authorities, particularly in preparing a new SDF for the Emerald Network in Albania.

Pending the submission of a new SDF, the Bureau recalled that the legally binding obligations of contracting parties under the Bern Convention are essentially the same for candidate and adopted sites in the Emerald Network.

Requested the Standing Committee to consider mandating an on-the-spot appraisal in 2027.

Requested both parties to submit their progress reports in time for consideration at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**.

The status of the file remains **Open**.

- 2017/02: North Macedonia: Negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructures developments

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2017-02_gov - Goverment Report]

The Bureau:

Acknowledged that the public consultation on new Law on Nature was launched and expressed hope it could still appropriately consider the inputs of all the relevant stakeholders: civil society organizations, scientific institutions and local communities, and include the provisions necessary for the implementation of Recommendation 221 (2023). Regretted that – as stated by the complainants, the draft new Law did not refer to the Emerald Network.

Requested information on the outcomes of the institutional consultation on the Law on the Declaration of Studenchishte Wetland as a Protected Area, and on the further steps in the legislative process.

Requested information on the state of play of the Law on re-proclamation of Lake Ohrid as a monument of nature.

Urged the authorities to implement the Management Plan for the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region 2020-2029 and the Strategic Recovery Plan for the Revitalisation of the Ohrid Region, with the involvement of representatives of the

environmental NGOs and academia; invited the Government to ensure public access to the information on the implementation.

Appreciated the information on demolition of illegal buildings on the shore of Lake Ohrid and the Galicica National Park but echoed the concerns of the complainants regarding execution of those removals, legalisation of 49 illegal constructions and emergence of new illegal constructions.

Invited the authorities to address polluters identified by the State Institute of Public Health.

Expressed concern over the further postponement of the deadline for implementing the UNESCO recommendations and its potential negative consequences for the unique natural treasure.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, providing information on progress made towards the implementation of Recommendation 221 (2023).

The status of the file remains **Open.**

- 2019/05: Türkiye: Habitat destruction in Mersin Anamur Beach

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2019-05_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2019-05_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their reports.

Welcomed the efforts of the authorities to implement Recommendation No. 226 (2024) and invited them to pursue them in cooperation with all the relevant stakeholders, including the Complainants, expressing hope that the efforts could bridge the apparent gap between the perceptions of the advancements achieved and further enhance the protection and nesting habitats of the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the Nile soft-shell turtle (*Trionyx triunguis*).

In particular, further decisive action is required to:

- rehabilitate the habitats of the Nile soft-shelled turtles to enable the local population's survival

- rehabilitate the nesting beach where it was altered

- sustainably enforce the regulations concerning the nesting beach, protection of the nests and hatchlings

- prevent developments that would further increase pressure on the species concerned

- safeguard state of the art, regular monitoring, including of Nile soft-shelled turtles.

Suggested organising unannounced inspections of the local businesses, to verify their compliance with the regulations concerning marine turtle protection.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, providing information on progress made towards the implementation of Recommendation No. 226 (2024) and other relevant developments during and after the nesting season 2026.

The status of the file remains **Open.**

- 2020/09: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva River

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2020-09_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2020-09_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their reports, noting that no changes in terms of implementation of Recommendation No. 217 (2022) occurred.

Took note of the renewal of the environmental permit for HPP Ulog, seemingly not drawing conclusions from the suffocation incident in September 2025 nor enhancing the environmental protection measures. Regretted the missed opportunity of enhancing mitigation measures and urged the authorities to properly assess, consider and communicate about the reasons for the mass suffocation of fish downstream from the HPP Ulog, to avoid it in the future.

Welcomed the progress towards designation of Mount Prenj as a protected area, including the upper Neretva River and a declared support of the competent authorities of the Republic of Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to further coordination on the implementation of Recommendation No. 217.

Appreciated that the upper Neretva, upstream of the Ulog HPP, remains intact, with no construction of the planned small hydropower plants undertaken; noted and the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology is seeking to terminate the hydropower construction concession and pursuing protection of the area under the applicable nature protection legislation.

Asked the Secretariat to pursue organising a meeting/technical workshop involving all the relevant stakeholders to discuss the Open File.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, providing information on progress made towards the implementation of Recommendation No. 217 (2022) and other relevant developments.

The status of the file remains **Open**.

- 2022/02: Austria: Alleged violation of the Convention in relation to deliberate killing of *Lutra lutra*

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-02_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-02_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Took note of the reports from the Carinthian authorities and the complainant.

Reiterated importance of plausibility assessment of Austria's report pursuant to Article 17 of the EU Habitat Directive, by the European Commission, that the Government is awaiting.

Noted the information provided by the authorities, explaining the link between presence of otters and decline of aquatic species in six locations with good hydromorphological state of river, stating that the trout decline cannot be linked to factors other than otter presence.

Noted that, according to the authorities' report, otter culling occurs in pre-selected areas, such as the trout and grayling region, in the vicinity of fish ladders, and in locations known for significant declines in fish biomass to protect the species rather than to protect interests of anglers and fishing industry, as alleged by the complainant, who provided that designating culling areas coincide with the prime habitats of brown trout, rainbow trout, and grayling to serve the interests of anglers and the fishing industry.

It further requested the authorities to provide data on the correlation between the number of otters culled and the population figures of endangered fish species, over the past five years, to determine whether culling otters in targeted locations has led to an increase in endangered fish populations.

Noted that publicly accessible tool was developed to illustrate utilisation of the culling annual quota of *Lutra lutra* and welcomed the information about the new regulation, according to which the Government plans that Conibear traps will be phased out after December 13, 2026, when the current regulation expires.

Asked the Government to provide official information about otter population as the report stated that it was growing, as well as the map(s) with polygons of otter culling locations and prime habitats of the above-mentioned fish species concerned (Danube salmon, brown trout).

Further requested the authorities to provide information on other measures to protect endangered fish species, including the possibility of restocking. The Bureau emphasised that the decline of fish populations should not, in itself, justify the killing of a strictly protected species, and invited the parties to consider whether other measures, including the possible translocation of otters, could be appropriate.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, focusing on the issues above.

The status of the file remains **Open**.

- 2022/03: Norway: Wolf culling policy

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-03_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-03_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their update reports.

Regretted lack of change in the wolf culling policy, undermining the survival of the tiny and genetically impoverished population, noting with great concern that the inbreeding coefficient increased again.

Acknowledged the update on the culling in 2025/26 season, alarmed that the extremely limited population target has not even been reached for the first time in 11 years.

Regretted the removal of the genetically significant migrant wolf, inconsistent with the guidelines for the management of genetically important wolves migrating to Norway.

Requested information on results of the risk assessment on introgression of parasites and diseases, due by mid-September this year.

Asked about the implications of transferring decision-making authority regarding wolf culling within the wolf management area for the winter of 2027 from the regional level to the Norwegian Environment Agency.

Urged the Government, who continue justifying the culling policy by an overriding public interest, to apply non-lethal measures, the most proven way of mitigating conflict. Invited the Government to research the social impact of the current approach.

Welcomed the Government's intention to carry out an external assessment of Norwegian wolf management in relation to *Best practices for management of large carnivores in Europe with respect to lethal and non-lethal management measures*. Asked to be informed of the timeline of the assessment and its conclusions.

Noted the conclusions of the group of legal experts who assessed Norway's obligations on preservation of large carnivores and the resulting unchanged provisions of Section 17 of the Norwegian Nature Diversity Act. Asked for more detailed information on the analysis.

Noted the information about the situation of the Swedish part of the Southern Scandinavian wolf population and interest in pursuing dialogue between the Governments in this regard, an obligation stipulated in the provisions of the Bern Convention.

Asked the Secretariat to organise a meeting with the relevant decision makers in the Government and/or the Parliament, the Complainants and the Bureau, to discuss an alternative approach to the culling policy in place.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, focusing on the issues above.

The status of the file remains **Open**.

8.2 Possible files

[T-PVS/Notes(2026)8 – Summary of possible and biennial follow up case files]

- 2001/04: Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2001-04_gov_comp - Joint Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their joint report and welcomed their efforts to continue working together towards resolving issues at the origin of the file.

Welcomed a series of positive developments that support the implementation of Recommendation 212 (2021) and follow the decision of the 45th Committee of the Convention. Congratulated the authorities and the complainant for their good cooperation which, through constructive negotiations, led to strong and sustained dialogue between the two parties and encouraged the continued cooperation.

Welcomed the resumption of the Permanent Expert Group's work following the change of government.

Welcomed that the Road Infrastructure Agency (RIA) signed a contract for "Preparation of a preliminary design to secure the Sofia–Kulata transport route in the Simitli–Kresna section outside the Kresna Gorge" and that the first stage of the contract was completed in early April 2026, which comprised a road-safety impact assessment, a preliminary design and survey activities, and a preliminary environmental analysis.

Noted that the parties agreed that the technical design of the "Eastern carriageway" as a whole (Lot 3.2.1 and 3.2.2) significantly reduces the impact area (by nearly 40%) and provides the necessary mitigation measures and defragmentation facilities, integrated with the Western carriageway; that the preliminary environmental analysis shows that it is possible to reduce the direct habitat damage to below 1% for the entire project; and that the Western carriageway can be immediately adjacent to the Eastern one, therefore achieving a minimal environmental footprint.

Noted that RIA provided a design for the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce the mortality of species on the existing I-1 road in the Kresna Gorge. Noted that the NGO representatives and the herpetologists insist for more than a year that all reptile fencing facilities should be removed from the measures and that only the fencing facilities providing local guidance of individuals towards the entrances of the defragmentation facilities should be retained. The Bureau requested further information on the fencing, including the locations where it will be retained and those where it has been decided not to include it and reiterated that an agreement on the changes to the design of the reptile fencing facilities is essential and that the measures must be implemented as quickly as possible afterwards.

Noted that the report contained no information on whether the harassment experienced by the NGO activists and initiated by private entities has continued or ceased, or on actions taken – if any – by the Government in this regard. Requested updated information in the next report.

Stressed the importance of conducting an appropriate assessment, noted that preparatory steps have been taken, but the procedure of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Natura 2000 Appropriate Assessment have not yet commenced, and requested to be kept informed of further developments.

Taking into account the good practice of presenting joint reports, the Bureau reiterated the decision adopted at the 45th Standing Committee meeting that the next report should be submitted to and presented before the Standing Committee in 2027, and every two years thereafter, at least until construction of both lanes begins outside the Gorge.

Invited both parties to submit updated reports for the **Bureau spring meeting in 2027**.

The status of the file remains **Possible**.

- 2016/04: Montenegro: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2016-04_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2016-04_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked the national authorities for their progress report and noted that no report had been submitted by the complainant.

Welcomed the preparation of the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for Skadar Lake National Park and invited the authorities to ensure that it complies with the requirements set out in Recommendation No. 201 (2018).

Noted that, following the adoption of the Spatial Plan of Montenegro until 2040 and in the context of the ongoing preparation of the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for Skadar Lake National Park, the competent authorities would further assess the compatibility of the existing planning and development arrangements with the applicable legal framework and the protection objectives of the National Park. It considers that this situation continues to pose a risk of construction activities resuming in the Mihalovići area, as the building permits for Porto Skadar Lake and White Village have not been revoked.

Noted the publication for public consultation of the draft Law on Maritime Safety in 2025, as well as the preparation of a draft Law on Inland Navigation, and welcomed efforts to strengthen enforcement activities on Lake Skadar.

Welcomed the drafting of a new Management Plan for Skadar Lake National Park for 2026–2030, as well as the transboundary initiative for monitoring the Eurasian otter, protecting its aquatic and coastal ecosystems, preventing and controlling pressures affecting the species, and strengthening cooperation among the relevant institutions in Montenegro and with Albania.

Welcomed the submission, in June 2026, of a new Emerald Network database valid for both Natura 2000 and the Emerald Network, including Lake Skadar. It reaffirmed the importance of holding a joint biogeographical seminar on the Emerald Network and Natura 2000 in cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA).

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th meeting of the Standing Committee**, focusing on the issues outlined above.

Proposes that the Standing Committee closes the case and submits it to biennial monitoring.

The status of the file remains **Possible**.

- 2020/04: Armenia: The Amulsar gold mine project and its impacts on Emerald Network sites

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2020-04_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2020-04_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their reports.

Noted that the construction activities advanced into their final phase, and that gold extraction has not started yet.

Welcomed the authorities' decision to conduct additional field studies in spring and summer 2026 and requested them to provide the results of this research.

Stressed that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an *ex-ante* preventive procedure for planned activities and should be carried out before project authorisation; nevertheless, a new EIA could still be conducted in light of the ongoing controversy regarding the validity of the original assessment. Urged the authorities to carry out a new EIA for the Amulsar project, as repeatedly requested by the Bern Convention Standing Committee and Bureau, before the commencement of any extraction activities.

Noted that, according to the Emerald Network database, the mountain top of Amulsar mountain has some of the best represented natural habitats of "Djermuk" area Emerald site.

Considered that information provided on Emerald Network habitat types and species need to be verified via a Bern Convention biogeographical seminar following the submission of a new database by the national authorities.

Regarding the Jermuk National Park, the Bureau:

Welcomed the commitment demonstrated and the progress made by the national authorities in the process of declaring Jermuk National Park.

Regretted that the authorities did not establish Jermuk National Park ahead of COP 17 in Yerevan (Armenia).

Regarding the revision process of the Emerald Network in Armenia, the Bureau:

Welcomed the information provided by the national authorities on efforts to involve civil society in the consultation on the revision of the Emerald Network and reiterated its request to ensure that participation is meaningful, with input duly considered and reflected in the decisions.

Urged the national authorities to conclude the consultation process on the Emerald network and submit a database with new boundaries for Emerald sites in order to allow

for the organisation of a Bern Convention biogeographical seminar. This step is essential to ensure a proper assessment of the mining project's impacts on this Emerald Network site.

Invited the authorities and the complainant NGOs to consider both positive and negative changes when submitting their new Emerald Network database, as these changes should be assessed together during a single biogeographical seminar.

Invited both the authorities and the complainant NGOs to engage in a dialogue on possible negative changes to the Emerald Network, in line with the "Guidelines for explaining negative changes in Emerald Network proposed, candidate and adopted sites" (T-PVS/PA (2017) 7), which are currently under revision.

Requested the Armenian authorities to provide a realistic timeline for submitting the new Emerald Network database.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, focusing on the issues above.

The status of the case remains **Possible**.

- 2022/06: Serbia: Possible negative impact of mining activities in Bosilegrad and in the Homolje Mt region; OSA and the round table on mining and biodiversity in Serbia

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-06_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-06_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their reports, as well as for their involvement in the On-the-Spot Appraisal visit in August 2026, praising the authorities for flexibility and openness while hosting the OSA, involving numerous relevant stakeholders and a high-level representation of the Government.

Reiterated the request for sharing information on the implications of the Strategy for the Management of Mineral and Other Geological Resources of the Republic of Serbia until 2040, with projections until 2050, adopted on 23/4/2026, that are pertinent to the mining projects addressed by this complaint.

<u>On Bosilegrad:</u>

Regretted that a complete and independent, tailored to the specificity of the mine verification of water quality could not be carried out in conjunction with the On-the-Spot Appraisal visit. Invited both parties to establish a transparent, joint process, that could provide independent results that both parties could consider reliable and sufficient.

Expressed concern over granting a mining licence to Bosil Metal for the ore deposits Podvirovi and Popovica-Cvonjev Kamen despite the decision of the Institute for Nature Protection prohibiting the planned mining activities there. Noted that a further approval for construction of the mining facilities and conducting the mining works is required.

Requested information about the conclusions of the EIA study for the mine planned to exploit the ore deposits Podvirovi and Popovica-Cvonjev Kamen and on the

administrative lawsuit filed by Bosil Metal with the Administrative Court, concerning the Ministry of Environmental Protection's decision upholding the decision prohibiting the proposed mining activities, issued by the Institute for Nature Conservation.

Took note of the LLC Bosil-Metal d.o.o. report on state of environment in 2025 submitted as a part of the Government report and questioned sufficiency of the budget allocated to the reclamation of the disposal site of the intermediate product of the test flotation conducted in the pilot plant for processing the Podvirovi ore deposit. Asked about the details of the ongoing maintenance of the pilot mine and measures in place to prevent leakage.

Requested information on nature protection conditions for applied geological exploration of copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc and molybdenum in Surlica Dukat and Donja Tlamino.

On Homolje:

Asked for the water acts, seemingly required by the Water Law for geological exploration in the area of Homolje.

Noted with concern the Complainants' explanations supporting the argument that harmful chemical products, classified as hazardous to the aquatic environment, were used during drilling.

Asked for information about the environmental pollution and damage allegedly caused by the discharge of drilling fluids into a stream flowing into the Valja Saka River on 26 April 2026, which gave way to a criminal complaint submitted by the Complainants to the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office against Crni Vrh Resources d.o.o.

Asked for information on nature conservation conditions for the Čoka Rakita Spatial Plan, in particular regarding the proposed Kucaj-Beljanica National Park, expressing strong concern over the prospect of an open pit mine.

Noted that the gold exploration in the area, under modified permits to shifting legal entities, has lasted since 2008 and urged for the cumulative impact of those explorations to be assessed, including on the proposed Kučaj–Beljanica National Park and the ecological network.

Reiterated its call upon the authorities to refrain from any activities that may further harm the environment before the necessary safeguards are identified. Asked to be informed of any further developments.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, focusing on the issues above.

The status of the case remains **Possible**.

- 2022/07: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Possible negative impact of mining activities in Trstionica – Gornja Bukovica and Vareš

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-07_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their reports but regretted that a late submission of the report by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina made it impossible for the Bureau to appropriately analyse the complaint at the September Bureau meeting. The update will thus be considered at the 46th Standing Committee meeting in December 2026.

In view of the seriousness of the allegations, envisaged organising an online mediation workshop in early 2027.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, providing information on previously requested elements and any other relevant developments, based on which the Standing Committee might consider elevating the status to an Open File.

The status of the case remains **Possible**.

➢ 2023/03: Switzerland: New wolf culling policy

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2023-03_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2023-03_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked the authorities for their brief update, appreciating that no significant changes occurred during the summer season.

Regretted not being in a position to consider the report on measures of wolf regulations in 2025-2026, provided late and in German (lien).

Took note of the information on significant financing on the federal level of non-lethal herd protection measures.

Noted that wolf regulation, handled by the cantons, is co-financed by the federal government, but no information on the total cost of the monitoring and regulation is available.

Appreciated that cost-benefit analysis of the measures in place and their efficiency could not be concluded, and noted that increase in herd protection measures correlated with lesser damages despite an increased number of wolves, stressing that it corresponded to the previous claims of the complainants and the Bureau.

Noted some concerns about reported irregularities in trapping wolves and asked the authorities for information on the procedures in place and adequate vigilance to the legal framework in place, including in monitoring. Reminded that use of GPS use should be selective, limited in scope and not intended for localising individuals to remove them.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, providing information on all relevant developments.

The status of the case remains **Possible**.

8.3 Biennial follow-up

[T-PVS/Notes(2026)8 – Summary of possible and biennial follow up case files]

- France: Recommendation No. 68 (1998) on the protection of the common Hamster (Cricetus cricetus) in Alsace (France)

The Bureau:

Regretted the delay in the biennial review on the implementation of the Recommendation No. 68 (1998) and the continued concerns of the complainants, who submitted a new complaint concerning the same matter as in the closed case-file 1998/3: "Habitats for the survival of the common hamster (Cricetus cricetus) in Alsace, France".

Invited both parties to submit update reports ahead of the 46th Standing Committee meeting in December 2026 and to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee** meeting, providing information on all relevant developments.

- Bulgaria: Recommendation No. 200 (2018) on the windfarms planned near Balchik and Kaliakra, and other wind farm developments on the Via Pontica route (Bulgaria)

[T-PVS/Files(2026) Rec.200(2018)_gov_comp – Government- Complainant Joint Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their joint report, commending their cooperation.

Noted that indeed construction of over 500 wind turbines has been permitted or in the process of obtaining permits, and that due to the complexity of the relevant procedures it was difficult to state their exact number; urged the authorities to do their utmost to put in place a system allowing to maintain up-to-date overview of proposed, approved, constructed and commissioned facilities, to assess all cumulative impacts and to put necessary safeguards in place. Asked for information gather in that respect.

Welcomed the draft Plan for Priority Zones for Wind Energy Development considering wind potential, grid capacity and environmental constraints, as an important mechanism for directing development towards less sensitive locations but seconded the complainant in stressing that projects outside the priority zones must also be subject to strategic planning and rigorous environmental assessments.

Asked to be informed about the conclusions of the ongoing assessment procedures of the updated Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of Bulgaria to 2030, stressing that it must include scientifically justified and legally robust safeguards.

Appreciated establishment by the Prime Minister of an Interinstitutional Working Group to improve coordination across environmental, energy, regional development, agriculture, forestry and public health authorities; the Group is to propose interim solutions until the strategic planning are completed, to limit potential adverse impacts of the renewable energy sector.

Welcomed development of a unified detailed map of sensitive areas along Via Pontica and the whole country, covering birds, bats and other species sensitive to wind farms, in consultation with the complainant.

Commended the parties' agreement to review the monitoring of the collisions involving target or sensitive species in Kaliakra and Dobrudzha, which should include establishing minimum standards, ensuring traceability of data and independent expert review, to improve transparency and accompany the expected scale of further windfarms development in Bulgaria. Asked for more information about the methodology used to detect the carcasses in the field.

Appreciated that the Guidance has been published on the Ministry website and the parties' willingness to consider it in reviewing the relevant procedures and practices.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, providing information on the implementation of Recommendation No 200 (2018) and other relevant developments.

8.4 Complaints on stand-by

[T-PVS/Notes(2026)9– Summary of complaints on stand-by]

- 2012/09(b): Türkiye: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Patara SPA

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2012-09-b_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2012-09-b_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their reports.

Commended the authorities for their efforts and welcomed the information provided by the Government that a biodiversity assessment study, which forms the scientific basis of the management plan, had been conducted. It noted that the Patara Coastal Management Plan is ongoing, and aims to identify, conserve and enhance the region's ecological, social and cultural values, while developing strategies to address major threats, including biodiversity loss and climate change. as the Plan also aims to improve the current status of the area and establish a more effective conservation and management framework for the next five-year period.

Was also concerned about emerging risks, particularly the semi-permanent camping structures developed at the Eşen River delta and on Letoon Beach, which threaten to evolve into permanent settlements. It also expressed concern about the potential impact of the announced action plan for Patara on future tourism intensification and residential pressure, noting that new and existing infrastructure remains the main issue.

Acknowledged the complainant's criticisms regarding vehicle access to the beaches and inadequate surveillance and security, specifically the fact that security cameras are not necessarily all operational or actively monitored, as well as the lack of sufficient human resources to monitor the entire beach network and address identified issues.

Nevertheless, it recognises the effort of the authorities in addressing and mitigating the negative effects on the nesting beaches and calls on the authorities to continue mitigation measures and close monitoring of the sites.

Requested the Government to provide detailed information on the measures taken to address all the aforementioned issues.

Invited both parties to submit progress reports to the Bureau meeting in **autumn 2027**.

The case-file remains on **stand-by**.

- 2023/01: Albania: Alleged habitat destruction due to the construction of the Skavica Hydropower Plant on the Drin River (MB)

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2023-01_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2023-01_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their reports.

Took note that, as of July 2026, no construction works had commenced and that the Skavica hydropower project remained at the feasibility stage. Noted that the developer's environmental and social documentation had not yet been finalised and that the statutory in-depth environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) procedure had not been reinitiated.

Requested the authorities to inform the Bureau of the results of the analysis of any viable alternatives to the construction of the Skavica Hydropower Plant on the Drin River (MB) and of the results of the public consultation on the completed studies and alternatives.

Noted the conflicting information provided by the authorities and the complainant about the presence of Balkan lynx within the Skavica project area, and requested the authorities to ensure that the assessment of the project's impacts on the Balkan lynx, other protected species, priority habitats and the relevant bio-corridor was based on up-to-date, independent and sufficiently extensive field research, and was fully reflected in the ESIA and its scoping process.

Requested the authorities and the complainants to provide maps and GPS data identifying the potential habitat of the Balkan lynx and the relevant protected areas.

Encouraged the authorities to consider the Black Drini River and Valley in the ongoing revision and future submission of the Emerald Network database, taking into account its ecological importance and the possible presence of threatened and endemic species.

Decided that the file remains on **stand-by**, while requesting both parties to submit their progress reports to the Bureau in **autumn 2027**.

- 2024/01: France: Alleged insufficient protection of the Hermann's tortoise (*testudo hermanni*)

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2024-01_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2024-01_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked the complainant and the French authorities for their updated reports and the information provided on the conservation of the Hermann's tortoise.

Noted with appreciation the continued implementation of the National Action Plan, the publication and use of the updated sensitivity map, the financial support provided for conservation measures, and the efforts undertaken to combat illegal collection and trade of the species.

Welcomed the ecological restoration and compensation initiatives implemented in favour of the species, including habitat restoration projects and experimental measures aimed at improving resilience to wildfires.

Noting that the updated national Red List confirms that the Var population of the Hermann's tortoise remains classified as Endangered, expressed concern regarding the continuing pressures on Hermann's tortoise habitats resulting from deforestation, agricultural and urban development projects, recurrent wildfires, and the reported increase in illegal trade and collection, affecting areas of importance for the species, including areas not previously identified as highly sensitive.

Further noted the complainant's reiterated concerns regarding recent legislative amendments which may reduce the effectiveness of sanctions for damage caused to protected species and habitats where intentional harm cannot be demonstrated.

Encouraged the authorities to continue strengthening preventive measures, habitat protection, enforcement activities and awareness-raising actions, including measures aimed at reducing wildfire risks and impacts on the species, and to clarify the mechanisms available to address and compensate damage caused through negligence or unintentional acts.

The Bureau expressed concern that legislative changes have weakened the protection afforded to the species and its habitats and called on the authorities to ensure that the legislation provides effective protection.

Requested the authorities to report on the implementation and effectiveness of the updated sensitivity mapping, conservation measures under the National Action Plan 2018-2027, actions addressing illegal trade, the impacts of recent wildfires and measures taken in response, and any compensation and restoration mechanisms applied in practice.

Invited both the Government and the complainant to submit updated information to the **Bureau in autumn 2027**.

Decided that the complaint should remain on **stand-by.**

- 2024/02: Ukraine: Deforestation in an Emerald Network site (UA0000338) in Kyiv Region

[T-PVS/Files(2025)2024-02_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2025)2024-02_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked the complainant and the Ukrainian authorities for their updated reports and additional information provided on the National Military Memorial Cemetery project.

Reiterated, in a spirit of solidarity, the importance of honouring those who lost their lives defending the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine.

Noted the information provided by the authorities regarding the adoption of relevant national legislation, the invocation of Article 9 of the Convention and a derogation report, and the commitment to implementing compensatory measures.

Noted with concern the continuing disagreement between the parties regarding the ecological value of the site, the impacts of the project on the Emerald Network area UA0000338, and the implications of recent national court decisions concerning the legality of the project.

Further noted the complainant's allegations concerning ongoing habitat destruction, flooding risks, continued construction activities and the effects of recent legislative changes on the protection of Emerald Network sites.

Requested the authorities to clarify the practical consequences of the domestic court rulings, to provide detailed information on mitigation and compensation measures, and to submit the Article 9 derogation report in the ongoing reporting for the period 2023-24 as soon as possible.

Invited the authorities to continue dialogue with the complainant and other stakeholders and to provide updated information on the implementation of biodiversity safeguards within and around the project area.

Invited both parties to submit updated reports to the **Bureau in autumn 2027**.

Decided that the complaint remains on **Stand-by** pending examination of the derogation report and further information on mitigation and compensation measures.

8.5 New (pending) complaints

[T-PVS/Notes(2026)10– Summary of new & pending complaints]

- 2024/05: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Alleged threat to habitat and protected species from the 'Upper Horizons' Hydropower Project

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2024-05_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both parties for their reports but regretted that a late submission of the report by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina made it difficult for the Bureau to appropriately analyse the complaint at the Bureau meeting in September 2026.

In view of the risk of heavy environmental consequences, including for the Emerald network, and possible cross-border negative impact in Croatia, the case will be considered at the Standing Committee meeting in December 2026.

Decided that the complaint is on **Stand-by**, pending further examination.

Invited both parties to make a brief presentation at the **46th Standing Committee meeting**, providing information on progress made towards the implementation of Recommendation No. 217 (2022) and other relevant developments.

- 2025/01: Serbia: Alleged threat to habitat and protected species by the construction of the Gradina S4 hydropower plant on the Studenica River

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2025)2025-01_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2025)2025-01_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both Parties for submission of the progress reports.

Noted the information provided by the Government, that in February 2026, the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia had rejected the request of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure for the issuance of nature protection requirements for the preparation of location conditions for the construction of the small hydropower plant “Studenica S4- Gradina”.

However, the information provided lacked an explanation of the legal status of the planned project and the legal procedures to be followed in regard to the planned HPP, as well as updates regarding spatial planning or the issuance of water permits.

Noted with concern that, according to the complainant’s report, the spatial plan allows for the construction of micro, mini and small hydropower plants and reservoirs, as well as a ski resort within Golija Nature Park, including a reservoir for artificial snowmaking, despite the high ecological value of the Studenica River and its role in maintaining connectivity of the Golija Nature Park and Ibar Gorge.

Noted the information provided by the complainant, which indicated that damming the river and inundating part of the Studenica Gorge would have permanent and irreversible adverse impacts on Golija Nature Park, the Emerald site, and the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, as well as on the lower Studenica River and the wider ecosystems in the area. These impacts could affect numerous rare, relict, protected, strictly protected and endemic species.

Highlighted the importance of conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and/or an Appropriate Assessment, including an assessment of the cumulative impacts of these projects on Golija Nature Park, in accordance with national legislation and international obligations.

The Bureau decided that the case file is on **stand-by**.

Requested both parties to submit progress reports for the Bureau meeting in **autumn 2027.**

- 2025/02: France: Alleged damage to the protected species present and their habitats in the context of the project to reopen navigation on the Rhône-Rhine canal

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2025-02_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2025-02_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both the complainant and the French authorities for their reports and updates concerning the project to restore navigation on the Rhône–Rhine Canal.

Took note of the information provided by the authorities concerning the environmental impact assessment process, the public consultation procedures, the modifications introduced to avoid impacts on protected species, and the judicial developments related to the project.

Noted with interest the authorities' commitment to maintaining and enhancing wetland habitats, preserving ecological connectivity along the canal corridor and implementing environmental monitoring measures throughout the project.

Expressed concern regarding the complainant's allegations that the phased implementation of the project may prevent a comprehensive assessment of cumulative impacts on protected species and habitats.

Further noted the continuing disagreement between the parties regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of avoidance and mitigation measures, particularly with regard to the common kingfisher, Eurasian beaver, bats and other protected species using the canal corridor, including as spawning grounds for fish.

Considered that the ecological role of the canal as part of a wider green and blue network requires particular attention, notably regarding cumulative impacts, habitat functionality and long-term conservation objectives.

Requested the French authorities to provide detailed information on the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation measures, long-term biodiversity monitoring results, and cumulative impact assessments covering the project as a whole.

Encouraged continued dialogue between the authorities, the complainant and other relevant stakeholders throughout the implementation and monitoring process.

Invited both parties to submit updated reports to the **Bureau in winter 2027.**

Decided that the complaint is on **stand-by.**

8.6 New complaints

[T-PVS/Notes(2026)10– Summary of new & new (pending) complaints]

- 2024/04: European Union: Alleged threat to protected bird species due to drying of settling lagoons in Mia Millia/Haspolat (Cyprus)

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2024-04_gov - Respondent Report]

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2024-04_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked the complainants for the complaint and the EU for their response.

Noted the allegations of the complainant concerning negative implications of drying of settling lagoons in the Mia Milia area (Haspolat), in the northern part of Cyprus, classified as an Important Bird Area supporting the greatest abundance and diversity of wintering waterbirds of any wetland site in Cyprus, including several Bern Convention Appendix II species.

Recognised the social and environmental justification of the project implemented by UNDP using the EU funds administered through the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community and consisting in replacement of the wastewater lagoons by a modern wastewater treatment plant, and desiccation of the 75% of the surface of the lagoons, the remaining quarter to be maintained as a clean water lagoon for the benefit of the birds.

Took note of the complainant's concerns related to the negative impact of the gradual disappearance of what formerly constituted the largest permanent water-body area in Cyprus, attracting many protected bird species.

Requested information on the current situation in the area that continues to be monitored by the complainant, the Society for Protection of Birds and Nature (KUŞKOR), in cooperation with BirdLife Cyprus.

Asked for the information on results of the EIA conducted prior to the project, in the process of which the complainant raised its concerns, in addition to written submissions to EU project representatives, site visits and meetings with the Nicosia Turkish Municipality.

Asked whether creation of an equivalent wetland habitat was considered, to enable the birds negatively impacted by the loss of most of the critical breeding, wintering and staging habitat, to offset negative biodiversity impacts.

Encouraged close cooperation between the relevant local stakeholders to enhance local conservation protection measures and agree on further steps to improve the situation before birds abandon the area.

Decided that the complaint status is **stand-by** and asked for submitting update reports with the above requested information, and any other relevant updates, for the Bureau meeting in **spring** 2027.

- 2025/03: Ukraine: Alleged destruction of aquatic habitats and fish in the Emerald Network site - Skhidnyi Svydovets - UA0000259 due to the construction of hydropower plants in the Teresva River basin

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2025-03_gov - Respondent Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2025-03_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both the complainant and the Ukrainian authorities for their reports and updated information concerning planned hydropower plant projects in the Teresva River Basin.

Noted the concerns expressed by the complainant regarding the insufficient management of the Teresva River basin in the Carpathians, which forms part of the Emerald Network adopted site “Skhidnyi Svydovets” (UA0000259).

Noted the complainant’s allegation that planned hydropower plant projects would fragment the river, slow its flow, and substantially alter its natural hydrological regime, thereby affecting water quality, river connectivity, spawning conditions, and the conservation of protected species and habitats.

Expressed serious concern about the planned cascade of hydropower plants on Teresva River, which is essential for many freshwater habitats from the Resolution No. 4 (1996) and the species protected by the Bern Convention and the Red Book of Ukraine, including migratory fish species, which will face additional barriers while reaching their spawning sites.

Noted the information from the complainant that the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources issued positive environmental opinions for four of the six proposed hydropower plants and that the procedure for two plants was suspended following lawsuits by local communities concerned about potential flooding. Thus, requested the Government to be informed and keep the complainant informed on the status of the planned hydropower plants, including the relevant EIA procedures and court proceedings.

Thanked the Government for detailed explanation on the development of the planned HPP projects since 2018 and for presenting the environmental conditions set for some of the planned HPPs.

Reminded the authorities that, under Article 9 of the Bern Convention, exceptions to the provisions of Articles 4–8 may be permitted only where there is no other satisfactory solution and where the exception will not be detrimental to the survival of the population concerned.

Regretted the absence of information demonstrating that no other satisfactory solution exists.

Further noted that the Teresva River ecosystem is key to Emerald Network site UA0000259 and expressed concern that the planned hydropower projects may risk detrimental effects on the site and its protected species.

Decided that pending submission of further information, requested above, the file is on **standby**.

Invited both parties to submit update reports in for the Bureau meeting in **spring** 2027 on the issues stipulated above and all relevant developments.

- 2025/04: Ukraine: Alleged habitat destruction in the Osokorky Meadows Reserve due to proposed transportation network constructions

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2025-04_gov - Respondent Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2025-04_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both the complainant and the Ukrainian authorities for their reports and updated information concerning the Osokorky Meadows landscape reserve.

Welcomed the information provided by the authorities regarding the continued protected status of the reserve, the adoption of updated conservation regulations and the involvement of environmental authorities and prosecutors in defending the reserve before the national courts, taking note of the ongoing judicial proceedings concerning the legal status of the reserve and the challenges brought by private developers against its protected status.

Noted the authorities' position that the proposed transport infrastructure would not comply with existing environmental protection requirements applicable to the reserve and that no environmental impact assessment has been initiated for the project.

Welcomed the participation of environmental authorities and civil society in defending the conservation objectives of the reserve and acknowledged the importance of the site for protected species, habitats and ecological connectivity within the Kyiv region.

Considered that, based on the information currently available, the principal threat identified in the complaint has not materialised and that no destruction of Bern Convention habitats has been formally reported by the authorities.

Requested the authorities to continue informing the Bureau about developments in the ongoing court proceedings and any future proposals that may affect the conservation status of the reserve.

Encouraged continued co-operation between the authorities, the complainant and relevant conservation organisations to ensure the long-term protection of the site.

Invited both parties to submit updated reports to the **Bureau in spring 2027**.

Decided that the complaint be changed to **stand by.**

- 2026/01: Türkiye: Nuclear Power Plant Threat to Strandzha/Longoz Ecosystems

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2026-01_gov - Respondent Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2026-01_comp - Complainant Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked the complainant for their submission and the Government for their report.

Noted the concerns expressed by the complainant regarding the planned Nuclear Power Plant project, which poses a serious destructive risk to the floodplain forest natural habitats and represents a critical bottleneck for migratory birds.

Further noted that according to the complainant, thermal pollution resulting from cooling water discharge would degrade marine ecosystems and fish spawning grounds, excavation associated with the construction would threaten the hydrological balance of the Longoz forests, risking the collapse of the entire ecosystem as a result of groundwater shifts, and constant acoustic and light pollution would permanently displace protected nocturnal species and forest mammals.

Acknowledged the clarifications provided by the Government that the planned project area is under exploration and that there are ongoing studies in the Trakya Region to identify potential sites for future energy projects and assess their suitability, including the technical parameters.

Noted that the areas with special protection status under national legislation and the international conventions to which Türkiye is a Party were excluded from the research. However, it stressed that, according to the rules of the Bern Convention, the protection of species and habitats must be ensured beyond protected areas, with special attention to the protection of areas of importance for migratory species.

Noted that the Government asserts its compliance with the legal procedures, including submission of EIA. It therefore requested the Government to report to the Bureau at its meeting in **autumn 2027** on the alternatives considered, including information on the alternatives rejected and the timeline for the ongoing studies and decision-making process.

The case becomes **New (pending).**

- 2026/02: Czech Republic: Large-scale industrial development in the Sokolov region of the Czech Republic

[Complaint form]
[[T-PVS/Files(2026)2026-02_gov- Respondent Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked both the complainant and the Czech authorities for providing their reports and updated information.

Noted the concerns expressed by the complainant regarding the planned industrial development in Sokolov–Staré Sedlo, covering approximately 124–128 hectares, and its alleged direct threat to strictly protected fauna and to a critical ecological corridor.

Noted with concern the allegations that a large-scale industrial development had been authorised without a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and that the project had been fragmented into separate components (“salami-slicing”) to circumvent applicable environmental safeguards.

Further noted the information provided by the complainant stating that the regional authority’s Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) identified 12 negative

environmental impacts, while a parallel approval report reportedly concluded that there would be “zero negative impacts”. At the same time, noted the Government’s explanation that the assessment carried out under the Natura 2000 framework had found no significant adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites, while identifying certain local conflicts with protected large-mammal habitats and proposing mitigation measures.

Noted the explanations provided by the Government regarding the ongoing screening procedures to determine whether a full EIA is required, and that the project-level environmental assessment process had not been omitted. Further noted that the project currently under consideration concerns a specific development proposed within the broader development area, covering approximately 38.6 hectares.

Noted the Government’s information that the planned project is located outside the Natura 2000 site and does not overlap with officially mapped habitats of large mammals, including wolves. Further noted that the LBK1 ecological corridor near Staré Sedlo had been assessed as currently non-functional for large-carnivore migration, and that the biological assessment had not confirmed the presence of *Barbastella barbastellus* or *Grus grus* at the project site.

Requested the authorities to continue informing the Bureau of developments concerning results of the ongoing screening and state of play on the EIA, including a concise summary of the potential impacts on the species and habitats referred to in the complaint, the mitigation measures envisaged, and the environmental decisions adopted by the competent authorities.

Invited both parties to submit updated reports for the Bureau meeting in **autumn 2027.**

Decided that the complaint becomes **New (pending).**

- 2026/03: France: Alleged negative impact on birds of a very high-voltage power line Jonquières - Fos sur Mer

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2026-03_gov - Respondent Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked the complainant and the French authorities for the information provided concerning the proposed 400 kV extra-high-voltage power line between Jonquières-Saint-Vincent and Fos-sur-Mer.

Took note of the information provided by the authorities regarding the objectives of the project, the ongoing public utility procedure and the environmental assessment process currently underway.

Noted with concern that the proposed route crosses areas of major importance for numerous bird species protected under the Convention, including breeding, feeding, resting, wintering habitats and migratory corridors.

Further noted the concerns expressed by the Environmental Authority regarding the sufficiency of information currently available, welcomed its request for supplementary environmental information and asked for it to be shared with the Bureau.

Considered that particular attention should be given to collision risks, disturbance impacts and habitat fragmentation affecting species of high conservation concern, including migratory birds and species benefiting from national conservation action plans.

Requested the French authorities to provide detailed information on the conclusions of the environmental assessment process, in particular consideration of alternative solutions, collision-risk and other threat analyses, cumulative-impact assessment, envisaged mitigation measures.

Encouraged the authorities to ensure that all potential impacts, including on protected bird species and ecological connectivity are fully assessed before any final authorisation decision is adopted.

Invited both parties to submit updated reports to the in **autumn 2027**.

Decided that the complaint becomes **New (pending).**

- 2026/04: Bulgaria: Alleged threat to the critical habitats of endangered vultures due to the gold mining concession "Rozino"

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2026-04_gov- Respondent Report]

The Bureau:

Thanked the complainant and the Government for the submission of their reports.

Noted the concerns expressed by the complainant regarding the planned "**Rozino" gold mining** project, which threatens the critical habitats of the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) and the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) in the Eastern Rhodopes.

Noted with concern that the planned gold mine is located within or in immediate proximity to the Natura 2000 "**Byala reka**" (BG0002019) and that it carries risks of water contamination and noise pollution, fragmentation, disturbance during breeding, destruction of foraging and nesting grounds due to open-cast mining activities.

Welcomed the information received from the Government that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being conducted, including an assessment of impact on the Natura 2000 sites and on the target species of the complaint.

Noted that the EIA will assess direct impacts on natural habitat types for which BG0001032 “Rodopi-Iztochni” has been designated, as well as potential impacts on the raptor species concerned.

Further noted that a transboundary EIA procedure has been initiated with the Republic of Greece, in accordance with the Espoo Convention, given the project’s proximity to the border.

Urged the Government to avoid planning and implementing the project within the boundaries of the Natura 2000 sites and seek alternative solutions during the EIA process, to minimize potential harm to protected habitats and species.

Invited both parties to submit progress reports for consideration at the Bureau meeting in **spring 2027.**

Decided that the complaint becomes **New (pending).**

- 2026/05: Ukraine: Building windfarms in Ukrainian Carpathians

[Complaint form]

Decision: The Bureau regretted that the Ukrainian authorities submitted no response to the complaint and urged them to do so at their earliest convenience and in time for the next Bureau meeting in **spring 2027**.

- 2026/06: Croatia: Planned Radioactive Waste Management Centre at the Čerkezovac site on Trgovska Gora

[Complaint form]

Decision: The Bureau regretted that the Croatian authorities submitted no response to the complaint and urged them to do so at their earliest convenience and in time for the next Bureau meeting in **spring 2027**.

- 2026/07: Romania: Presumed threat to the Brown Bear population in Romania

[Complaint form]

The Bureau:

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the complainant and regretted that no report had been received from the Government of Romania.

Noted the concerns of the complainant regarding the alleged systemic and ongoing use of lethal measures against the strictly protected brown bear (Ursus arctos) in Romania.

Further noted the information regarding the lack of a central monitoring system ensuring the full traceability of removed individuals.

Requested the government to clarify the numbers of the culled bears in the entire country since 2024 and proof of assessment of this policy on the population of bears in Romania.

Requested the Government to provide the information concerning the number CITES certificates for commercial activities concerning brown bear (Ursus arctos) since 2024.

Reminded the authorities that, under Article 9 of the Bern Convention, derogations from the protection provisions may be authorised only where there is no other satisfactory solution and where the derogation will not be detrimental to the survival of the population concerned. It regretted that no such clarifications were provided by the Government of Romania.

Noted that the complainant has submitted a formal complaint to the European Commission under Article 258 TFEU concerning potential breaches of Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) and requested to provide updated information on the state of play of the complaint.

Noted that the matters raised in the complaint might involve violations of several provisions of the Bern Convention and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements. Urged the Government to provide the necessary clarifications regarding its national policy and legal framework for the conservation and management of strictly protected species under the Bern Convention.

Requested the Government to submit a report in time for the next Bureau meeting in **spring 2027.**

8.7 New complaint forms received

The Secretariat informed the Bureau of the number of newly received complaints and the backlog of complaints not yet processed, which currently stood at 24, and which the Secretariat is striving to manage given limited capacities.

Furthermore, the Bureau took note of the several case-files concerning Ukraine, including newly submitted ones, and requested the Secretariat to present an overview of the case-files relating to Ukraine at a future Bureau meeting in 2027. This would enable the Bureau to gain a better understanding of the situation on the ground and to consider the cases in a coordinated manner.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the information on new complaints, noted the increasing number of complaints concerning Ukraine and requested the Secretariat to present an overview of those case-files at a future Bureau meeting in 2027.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Dates of the Standing Committee meeting and possible calendar for 2027

The Secretariat reported on the survey of contracting parties' preferred dates for future Standing Committee meetings. Of the 37 valid replies received (excluding duplicates and taken into consideration only one reply per contracting party), 17 favoured a meeting from late May to early June, noting that October coincides with established events organised by other international multilateral environmental agreements. Twelve preferred October, citing the high costs associated with accommodation in Strasbourg in December, while eight supported retaining the current December dates.

The Secretariat noted that a change to the Standing Committee's schedule would also affect Bureau meetings. If the Committee met in May or June, Bureau meetings would be held in spring, autumn and winter. If it met in October, Bureau meetings would be held in spring and summer; the timing of the first Bureau meeting after the Standing Committee would require further consideration.

The Secretariat also noted the possible implications for the election and terms of office of Bureau members. Under Rule 18(e) of the Rules of Procedure, the Chair, Vice-Chair and two additional Bureau members are elected at the end of each ordinary meeting and serve from their election until the end of the following ordinary meeting. Any proposed adjustments to the date of the Standing Committee should also take into consideration the timing of Bureau elections.

Decision: The Bureau agreed to present the results of the survey to participants at the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee. It also suggested scheduling the item on possible dates

for the next Standing Committee meeting on the first day, as the decision would affect the 2027 calendar and several other items to be discussed during the meeting.

The Bureau decided to hold its next meeting on 23 - 25 March 2027, in Strasbourg (France).

9.2 Requests for Observer status under the Bern Convention

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that no requests for observer status were received in 2026.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat.

Stress Test of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives

The former Chair of the Standing Committee, Merike LINNAMÄGI, informed participants about her participation in the round table on the Stress Test of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives that took place in Brussels on 21 September.

Decision: The Bureau took note of the information provided and decided to continue monitoring developments relating to the stress test of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives closely.

Appendix I – List of Participants

CHAIR

Mr Carl AMIRGULASHVILI, Head of Biodiversity and Forestry Policy Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia

VICE-CHAIR

Mr Claude ORIGER, Policy Adviser, Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development, Luxembourg

BUREAU MEMBERS

Mr Charles-Henri de BARSAC, International and European Wildlife Agreements Officer, Sub-Directorate for the Protection and Restoration of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Ministry for Ecological and Solidarity Transition, France

Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI, Advisor, Biodiversity Conservation Department, Ministry of the Climate, Estonia

Mr Burak TATAR, Senior Specialist, Directorate General of Nature Conservation and National Parks, Department of Wildlife Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Türkiye

SECRETARIAT

Council of Europe / Directorate of Social Rights, Health and the Environment

Mr Gianluca SILVESTRINI, Head of Department a.i.

Ms Grazia Alessandra SIINO, Secretary of the Bern Convention

Ms Francine RAVENEY, Deputy Secretary of the Steering Committee on the Environment

Ms Catarina GARCIA, Policy Advisor

Ms Marta MĘDLIŃSKA, Project Manager

Ms Salome NOZADZE, Policy Officer

Ms Cassandra MACTAVISH, Senior Project Officer

Ms Irina SPOIALA, Administrative Assistant

Mr Ozkan HAMARAT, Administrative Assistant

Appendix II – Adopted Agenda

Bureau meeting

22nd-24th September 2026
(opening: 9:30 am on 22nd September)
(closing: 5:00 pm on 24th September)
(Room B4_06C, Agora Building)

AGENDA

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING & ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. Adoption of the agenda

[T-PVS/Agenda(2026)12]

2. REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT

2.1 Staff announcements

3. FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION

3.1 Reykjavík process and the environment

- Participation in the meeting of the Committee of Ministers Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C) on 30 June 2026;
- Participation in upcoming meetings, including COP 17 in Armenia and COP 31 in Türkiye.

3.2 Working Group on the draft Protocol amending the Bern Convention

[T-PVS/Inf(2025)42 - Terms of Reference Working Group on exploring sustainable financing options for the Bern Convention]

3.3 Voluntary contributions received in 2026: state of play

[XXX - Table of the voluntary contributions received in 2026]

3.4 Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention

[T-PVS/Inf(2025)41 - Terms of Reference Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention]
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)17 – Briefing note – Criteria and procedures for amending Appendices to the Bern Convention]
[T-PVS(2026)14- Report of the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention]

3.5 Working Group on overseeing implementation of the Strategic Plan

[T-PVS(2026)01 - Report of the 4th meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan]
[T-PVS/Agenda(2026)10– Draft agenda 16th meeting of the GoEPAEN jointly with the 5th meeting of the Working Group on supervising the implementation of the Strategic Plan]
[Indicator factsheets]

3.6 Draft revised Rules of procedure of the Standing Committee

[T-PVS/Inf(2026)16 – Draft revised Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention]
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)18 – Suggested amendments_Rules of Procedure_explanatory note]

3.7 Ways ahead with the Bern Convention complaint system

[T-PVS/Inf(2026)06 – Secretariat reflection on further enhancements within the case-file system of the Bern Convention]
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)12 - Revised Case-file system Guide of Procedures]

3.8 Convention on the protection of the environment through criminal law: possible synergies with the Bern Convention

[Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (CETS No. 228)]

4 MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

[Calendar of meetings 2026]
[T-PVS(2025)12 - Programme of Activities and budget for 2026]

4.1 European Diploma for Protected Areas

[T-PVS (2026)02 - Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists 2026]

4.2 Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conversation Interest

[T-PVS/Inf(2026)10 -Legal analysis of the scope for authorising potentially harmful activities]
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)11- Draft Revised Guidelines for explaining negative changes in Emerald Network proposed, candidate and adopted sites]
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)19 - Draft Updated Standard Data Form guidelines]
[T-PVS/Agenda(2026)10– Draft agenda 16th meeting of the GoEPAEN jointly with the 5th meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan]

4.3 Group of Experts on Large Carnivores

[T-PVS(2026)03 - Group of Experts on Large Carnivores_24 March 2026]
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)21 - draft rev Rec on wolf-dog hybridization]
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)24 - report on wolf protection status overview]

4.4 Group of Experts on Conservation of Birds and addressing IKB

[T-PVS/Inf(2026)14 - Mid-term assessment Rome Strategic Plan]
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)20 - Report on motivations behind IKB]
[T-PVS/Inf(2026)25 - draft Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on Birds]

4.5 Groups of Experts on Invasive Alien Species, on Amphibians and Reptiles

[T-PVS/Inf(2026)26 - draft Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on IASs]

4.6 Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck

[Recommendation No. 209 (2020) on the eradication of the ruddy duck (Oxyura jamaicensis) in the Western Palaearctic by 2025]
[T-PVS/Agenda(2026)17 - draft agenda of the Expert Meeting on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck]

4.7 Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of Sturgeons

[T-PVS/Inf(2018)6 - Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons]
[T-PVS/Agenda(2026)16 - draft agenda of the third meeting of the National Focal Points for the PANEUAP]

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

5.1 Biennial reporting and new Online Reporting System

5.2 Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the conservation status of species and habitats

[T-PVS(2026)07 - Report of the meeting of the Working Group on reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012)]

6 46TH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

6.1 Draft Agenda and tentative order of business

[T-PVS/Agenda(2026)15 – Preliminary draft agenda]

6.2 Programme of activities 2027/2028

[T-PVS(2026)13 – Preliminary draft programme of Activities and budget for 2027/2028]

7 COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONVENTION

7.1 Information regarding the planned Gonio Development Project located at Chorokhi Delta (GE0000054) sit

[T-PVS/Inf(2026)03 – Resolution of the Participants of the Conference on the Alienation of Krtsanisi–Gonio]

7.2 Request to support a meeting on the Genus Zingel

8 CASE-FILES

Summaries

8.1 Open files

[T-PVS/Notes(2026)7 – Summary of open case files]

- 1986/08: Greece: Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of *Caretta caretta* in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos

[T-PVS/Files(2026)1986-08_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)1986-08_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2010/05: Greece: Threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2010-05_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2010-05_comp - Complainant Report]

- 1995/06: Cyprus: Sea turtles at Akamas peninsula

[T-PVS/Files(2026)1995-06_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)1995-06_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2000/01: Türkiye: Green turtle in Kazanli

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2001-01_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2001-01_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2012/09(a): Türkiye: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye SPA

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2012-09-a_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2012-09-a_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2013/01: North Macedonia: Hydro power development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park

[T-PVS/Files(2026) 2013-01_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2016/05: Albania: Presumed negative impact of developments on the Vjosa river including hydro-power plant and Vlora International Airport

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2016-05_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2016-05_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2017/02: North Macedonia: Negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructures developments

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2017-02_gov - Goverment Report]

- 2019/05: Türkiye: Habitat destruction in Mersin Anamur Beach

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2019-05_gov - Government Report]

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2019-05_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2020/09: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva River

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2020-09_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2020-09_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2022/02: Austria: Alleged violation of the Convention in relation to deliberate killing of *Lutra lutra*

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-02_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-02_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2022/03: Norway: Wolf culling policy

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-03_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-03_comp - Complainant Report]

8.2 Possible files

[T-PVS/Notes(2026)8 – Summary of possible and biennial follow-up case files]

- 2001/04: Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2001-04_gov-comp - Joint Report]

- 2016/04: Montenegro: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2016-04_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2016-04_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2020/04: Armenia: The Amulsar gold mine project and its impacts on Emerald Network sites

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2020-04_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2020-04_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2022/06: Serbia: Possible negative impact of mining activities in Bosilegrad and in the Homolje Mt region - On-the-spot appraisal

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-06_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-06_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2022/07: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Possible negative impact of mining activities in Trstionica – Gornja Bukovica and Vareš

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-07_comp - Complainant Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2022-07_gov - Government Report]

- 2023/03: Switzerland: New wolf culling policy

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2023-03_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2023-03_comp - Complainant Report]

8.3 Biennial follow-up

[T-PVS/Notes(2026)8 – Summary of possible and biennial follow-up case files]

- France: Recommendation No. 68 (1998) on the protection of the common Hamster (Cricetus cricetus) in Alsace (France)

- Bulgaria: Recommendation No. 200 (2018) on the windfarms planned near Balchik and Kaliakra, and other wind farm developments on the Via Pontica route (Bulgaria)

[T-PVS/Files(2026) Rec.200(2018)_gov_comp – Government- Complainant Joint Report]

8.4 Complaints on stand-by

[T-PVS/Notes(2026)9– Summary of complaints on stand-by]

- 2012/09(b): Türkiye: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Patara SPA

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2012-09-b_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2012-09-b_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2023/01: Albania: Alleged habitat destruction due to the construction of the Skavica Hydropower Plant on the Drin River

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2023-01_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2023-01_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2024/01: France: Alleged insufficient protection of the Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo Hermanni*)

[T-PVS/Files(2026)2024-01_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2024-01_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2024/02: Ukraine: Deforestation in an Emerald Network site (UA0000338) in Kyiv Region

[T-PVS/Files(2025)2024-02_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2025)2024-02_comp - Complainant Report]

8.5 New (pending) complaints

[T-PVS/Notes(2026)10– Summary of new & new (pending) complaints]

- 2024/05: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Alleged threat to habitat and protected species from the 'Upper Horizons' Hydropower Project

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2024-05_comp - Complainant Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2024-05_gov - Government Report]

- 2025/01: Serbia: Alleged threat to habitat and protected species by the construction of the Gradina S4 hydropower plant on the Studenica River

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2025)2025-01_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2025)2025-01_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2025/02: France: Alleged damage to the protected species present and their habitats in the context of the project to reopen navigation on the Rhône-Rhine canal

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2025-02_gov - Government Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2025-02_comp - Complainant Report]

8.6 New complaints

[T-PVS/Notes(2026)10– Summary of new & new (pending) complaints]

- 2024/04: European Union: Alleged threat to protected bird species due to drying of settling lagoons in Mia Millia/Haspolat (Cyprus)

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2024-04_gov - Respondent Report]

- 2025/03: Ukraine: Alleged destruction of aquatic habitats and fish in the Emerald Network site - Skhidnyi Svydovets - UA0000259 due to the construction of hydropower plants in the Teresva River basin

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2025-03_gov - Respondent Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2025-03_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2025/04: Ukraine: Alleged habitat destruction in the Osokorky Meadows Reserve due to proposed transportation network constructions

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2025-04_gov - Respondent Report]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2025-04_comp - Complainant Report]

- 2026/01: Türkiye: Nuclear Power Plant Threat to Strandzha/Longoz Ecosystems

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2026-01_gov - Respondent Report]

- 2026/02: Czech Republic: Large-scale industrial development in the Sokolov region of the Czech Republic

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2026-02_gov - Respondent Report]

- 2026/03: France: Alleged negative impact on birds of a very high-voltage power line Jonquières - Fos sur Mer

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2026-03_gov - Respondent Report]

- 2026/04: Bulgaria: Alleged threat to the critical habitats of endangered vultures due to the gold mining concession "Rozino"

[Complaint form]
[T-PVS/Files(2026)2026-04_gov - Respondent Report]

- 2026/05: Ukraine: Building windfarms in Ukrainian Carpathians

[Complaint form]

- 2026/06: Croatia: Planned Radioactive Waste Management Centre at the Čerkezovac site on Trgovska Gora

[Complaint form]

- 2026/07: Romania: Presumed threat to the Brown Bear population in Romania

[Complaint form]

8.7 New complaint forms received

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Dates of the Standing Committee meeting and possible calendar for 2027

9.2 Requests for Observer status under the Bern Convention