



Strasbourg, 13 November 2025

T-PVS(2025)22

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee
45th meeting

Extraordinary Bureau Meeting

20 October 2025
(Online)

- MEETING REPORT -

*Document prepared by
the Secretariat of the Bern Convention*

Attendance was checked and the quorum confirmed. The Chair opened the meeting and invited the Bureau to adopt the agenda, which was approved without amendments.

Decision: The meeting agenda was adopted (see Appendix I).

1. FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION

1.1 Draft revised Rules of procedure

[T-PVS/Inf(2025)35eRev - Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats V2 - Draft revised Rules of Procedure]

The Secretariat presented the revised version of the Rules of Procedure article by article. The latest amendments reflected the discussions held during the Autumn Bureau meeting, which took place in Strasbourg from 16 to 18 September 2025. Bureau members shared comments on the text and made proposals for improvement.

Decision: Bureau members welcomed the new structure of the document and agreed that the ongoing work would be presented to the Standing Committee at its 45th meeting, only for information on the main proposed changes in the Rules of Procedure but not as a drafting exercise at this stage. The Bureau will resume its discussion at its Spring meeting, with a view to sharing the revised version with the Contracting Parties in mid-2026 and submitting it for adoption at the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee later that year.

2. 45TH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

2.1 Programme of activities and budget 2026

[T-PVS(2025)12 – Preliminary draft programme of Activities and budget for 2026]

The Secretariat presented the updated version of the draft 2026 Programme of Activities and Budget, with particular emphasis on the sections that had been further improved following the September Bureau meeting. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the adoption of the Budget was still under discussion and that the final allocation would determine the extent to which the Programme of Activities could be implemented.

The Bureau noted that adjustments may be required once the final Budget is approved. The Secretariat recalled that the Committee of Ministers would take a decision on the overall Budget in due course, most probably in November. Different budgetary scenarios are currently being considered, and the outcome will be confirmed at the Standing Committee meeting in December.

The Bureau discussed the possible impact of budgetary constraints on planned activities and took note that some activities highlighted in yellow in the draft 2026 Programme of Activities and Budget may be postponed due to limited resources available.

The Bureau agreed that 2026 could serve as a preparatory year for some lower-priority activities, allowing for further coordination and planning with the Chairs of the relevant expert groups in view of 2027.

Decision: Bureau members agreed to submit the draft 2026 Programme of Activities and Budget to the Standing Committee for approval.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2025

- 3.1 Study on large carnivores – revised version as of October 2025 “Best practices for management of large carnivores in Europe with respect to lethal and non-lethal management measures.”

[T-PVS/Inf(2025)19rev - Best practices for management of large carnivores in Europe with respect to lethal and non-lethal management measures]

The Secretariat presented the revised version of the study on large carnivores. It was noted that the document remains largely unchanged compared to the previous version discussed with the Bureau in September, with the main modification being an updated title following suggestions made by the Group of Experts on Large Carnivores.

Decision: Bureau members agreed to submit the study “Best practices for management of large carnivores in Europe with respect to lethal and non-lethal management measures” to the Standing Committee for information and further dissemination. Letters addressed to the Contracting Parties and posts on social media could further enhance visibility of the study.

- 3.2 Study on birds – revised version as of October 2025 “Guidance tool for good practices in bird conservation in the development of renewable energies”

[T-PVS/Inf(2025)45rev - Guidance tool for good practices in bird conservation in the development of renewable energies]

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about further revisions being introduced to the study on birds. The document is currently under review by BirdLife International, and additional modifications will be incorporated before submission to the Standing Committee. Due to time and resource constraints, the French version may not be available at the time of submission. However, a summary in French outlining the key elements could be provided.

Decision: Bureau members agreed to submit the study “Guidance tool for good practices in bird conservation in the development of renewable energies” to the Standing Committee for information and further dissemination. Letters addressed to the Contracting Parties and posts on social media could further enhance visibility of the study. The Bureau acknowledged the importance of this guidance document as a practical tool for Contracting Parties.

- 3.3 Draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention

[T-PVS/Inf(2025)41 – Draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention]

The Secretariat introduced the draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention. It also informed the Bureau that it is exploring possible collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on this matter. The Bureau noted that the current mandate of the Group ends in 2025 and that an extension would require a new mandate.

Decision: Bureau members requested the Secretariat to share the draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention with the members of the current Group and to submit the version adopted by the Group to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

- 3.4 Draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group on exploring sustainable financing options for the Bern Convention

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

The Secretariat presented the draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group on exploring sustainable financing options for the Bern Convention. The Bureau agreed that the Working Group would operate

under a one-year mandate, reporting to the Standing Committee, which may provide comments and guidance on its work.

Decision: Bureau members requested the Secretariat to share the draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group on exploring sustainable financing options for the Bern Convention with the members of the current Group and to submit the version adopted by the Group to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

3.5 Draft Terms of Reference of the Working on reporting

[T-PVS(2025)21 – Draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group on reporting]

The Secretariat presented the draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Reporting and informed the Bureau that the Group will meet on 19 November in Copenhagen, back-to-back with a training on Reporting.

Decision: Bureau members requested the Secretariat to share the draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Reporting with the members of the current Group, to address this matter at the meeting in Copenhagen and to submit the version adopted by the Group to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

Appendix I – Draft Agenda

1. FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION

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2. 45TH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

2.1 Programme of activities and budget 2026

[T-PVS(2025)12 – Preliminary draft Programme of Activities and Budget for 2026]

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3.5 Draft terms of reference of Terms of Reference of the Working on reporting

[T-PVS(2025)21 - Draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group on reporting]

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Appendix II – List of participants

CHAIR

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

BUREAU MEMBERS

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

Ms Grazia Alessandra SIINO, Secretary of the Bern Convention

Mr Mikaël POUTIERS, Co-Secretary of the ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME)

Ms Marta MEĎLIŇSKA, Project Manager

Mr Mark BARLOW, Administrative assistant

Ms Lilas HEULLANT, Administrative assistant

Ms Iris DELATTRE, Trainee