

Strasbourg, 20 November 2014  
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**T-PVS (2014) 13**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

34<sup>th</sup> meeting

Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2014

Opening of the meeting: 9:30 am Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014, Room 5

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**DRAFT**  
**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

*Document prepared by  
The Directorate of Democratic Governance*

## PART I – OPENING

### 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2014) 1 - Draft agenda  
T-PVS (2014) 13 - Annotated draft agenda

The 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention will be opened by the Chair, Mr Jan Plesnik, at the Council of Europe (Strasbourg), at 9:30 am on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014.

The draft agenda was drawn up by the Secretariat after consultation with the Bureau.

**DECISION:** The Committee will be invited to adopt the agenda.

### 2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DELEGATIONS AND FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2014) 2 and 12 - Reports of the Bureau meetings in April and September 2014  
T-PVS (2013) 15 – Report of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee meeting

The Chair will report on the development of the Convention since the last meeting of the Committee.

Contracting Parties have the opportunity to report in writing on the implementation of the Convention in their States.

Observer States may be invited to briefly inform the Committee of progress made towards the ratification of the Convention, together with any other information they may consider useful. The representatives of the invited Organisations may report on their activities directly concerned with the Convention (Article 13.3).

*NB Delegations are kindly reminded that only written statements will be included in the report of the meeting.*

The Secretariat will inform the Committee on the general implementation of the work programme for 2014, presenting at the same time the reports of the meetings of the Bureau of the Committee.

**DECISION:** No decisions are expected from the Committee under this item.

## PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS

### 3. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION

#### 3.1 Biennial reports 2009 – 2010, 2011 – 2012 concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 [and quadrennial reports 2009 – 2012]

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2014) 20 – Biennial Reports 2009-2010  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 21 – Biennial Reports 2011-2012  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 6 – Summary tables of reporting under the Bern Convention  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 5 – Note on derogation reporting arrangements between the EU and its Member States  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 23 – Legal opinion on the obligations arising from Article 9

Article 9.2 of the Convention requests Parties to report on the exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Parties may also present general reports on the implementation of the Convention.

These reports will not be discussed unless Parties requires so at the adoption of the Agenda.

The Secretariat will present the legal opinion prepared by the Council of Europe's Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law, clarifying the nature of the obligations arising from Article 9 and the conditions to be met for ensuring the conformity of the reporting with the requirements of the Convention.

**DECISIONS:** The Committee is invited to take note of the reports possibly presented as well as of the legal opinion on the conditions to be met for ensuring the conformity of the reporting with the requirements of the Convention.

No decisions are expected from the Committee under this item.

PARTIES NOT HAVING SENT THEIR BIENNIAL REPORTS ARE KINDLY REQUESTED TO SEND THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY E-MAIL ([veronique.decussac@coe.int](mailto:veronique.decussac@coe.int)) AND BRING A COPY TO THE MEETING

### **PART III - INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

#### **4. LAUNCH OF THE BERN CONVENTION ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM**

##### **4.1 Presentation of the ORS and reminder of its main features**

Relevant document: Quick guide for the Online Reporting System

The Secretariat will inform on the setting-up of the Bern Convention Online Reporting System and present the main features of the system.

**DECISION:** No decisions are expected from the Committee under these items. The Secretariat will call for ten Contracting Parties to volunteer for testing the reporting system in 2015.

### **PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS**

#### **5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS**

Contracting Parties have the opportunity to report on specific conservation actions upon request.

***NB Delegations are kindly reminded that only written statements will be included in the report of the meeting.***

\*Documents for information only:

- T-PVS/Inf (2014) 6 - Summary tables of Reporting under the Bern Convention
- T-PVS (2014) 10 – List of National Focal Points for Illegal killing of birds
- TPVS/Inf (2014) 9 - Replies of Parties to the Questionnaire for the identification of criteria for establishing national policing/investigation priorities, and gravity factors

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\* This item will not be discussed, unless Parties request so at the adoption of the Agenda.

- T-PVS (2013) 4 - Recommendation No. 164 (2013) on the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds
- T-PVS/Inf (2014) 13 – Compilation of National Reports on Biodiversity and Climate Change
- T-PVS/PA (2014) 5 - First interim report on the implementation of the Joint EU/CoE Programme Emerald Network of Nature Protection Sites, Phase II

## 5.1 Invasive Alien Species

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2014) 3 – Report of the meeting of the Select Group on IAS  
 T-PVS/Inf (2014) 17 – Report on implementation of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS by FACE and IAF  
 TPVS/Inf (2014) 18 – European Code of Conduct on recreational fishing and IAS  
 TPVS (2014) 11 - Draft Recommendation on the European Code of conduct on recreational fishing and IAS  
 TPVS/Inf (2014) 26 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on the eradication of the ruddy duck

### a. Meeting of the Select Group of Experts on IAS

The Secretariat will present the conclusions of the Meeting of the Select Group on IAS held in Rome, Italy, on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

The Consultant, Mr Mark Owen, will present the Code of conduct on recreational fishing and IAS, while the Secretariat will present the relevant draft Recommendation.

### b. Improving communication on Invasive Alien Plants: update on the co-operation with the EPPO

The Secretariat will present the outcomes of an EPPO-Council of Europe coordination meeting held in Paris, France, on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Furthermore, the Secretariat will inform on the proposals for co-operation for the period 2015-2016.

### c. Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS: monitoring study prepared by the FACE and IAF

The representative of the FACE will present a monitoring study concerning activities that the FACE and IAF are implementing to meet the requirements mentioned under each of the seven principles listed in the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS.

### d. Monitoring of the European Strategy for the eradication of the ruddy duck (Side event)

At its 30<sup>th</sup> meeting the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention adopted Recommendation No. 149 (2010) on the eradication of the ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palearctic, inviting Parties to implement, without delay, the Revised Action Plan 2011- 2015.

The Secretariat will present the results of a Council of Europe's technical meeting held in the Netherlands on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014.

Moreover, and in order to check the progress made by Contracting Parties in the implementation of their commitments, a 60 minutes side event will take place on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in Room 5.

**DECISIONS:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the meeting of the Select Group on IAS and on progress in this field;
- Welcome the commitment and progress of the Parties involved in the implementation of the Strategy for the eradication of the ruddy duck in the Western Palearctic;
- Thank IUCN and Italian conservation authorities for the hosting of the meeting of the Select

Group;

- Thank Italian authorities for contributing in-kind to the printing and dissemination of the Bern Convention's European Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS;
- Thank the FACE and IAF for the efforts towards the enforcement of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS through their respective organisations;
- Welcome the translation of all the Codes of Conduct adopted so far into Croatian language and warmly thank the Croatian authorities for this initiative, as it will certainly contribute to a wider use of these useful voluntary instruments;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft Recommendation:
  - Draft Recommendation on the Code of conduct on recreational fishing and IAS

## 5.2 Conservation of Birds – Draft Recommendation

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2014) 3 – Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Special Focal Points for illegal killing of birds (Strasbourg, 19 May 2014)  
 T-PVS/Inf (2014) 19 – Methodology document to identify black spots of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds  
 T-PVS/Inf (23014) 8 – Methodology document to identify national policing/investigation priorities  
 T-PVS (2014) 14 – Draft Recommendation on the Criteria for establishing national policing/investigation priorities  
 T-PVS/Inf (2014) 24 – Draft European Action Plan for the recovery and reintroduction of the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

### 5.2.1. Eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds

#### a. Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Special Focal Points for illegal killing of birds

The Chair of the Group of Experts on the conservation of birds, Mr Rastislav Rybanič, will present the conclusions of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Special Focal Points for illegal killing of birds, held in Strasbourg, on 19 May 2014. Mr Rybanič will then present the proposals of the Special Focal Points for their future work.

#### b. Follow-up to the Tunis Action Plan 2013 - 2020 - Draft Recommendation

The Secretariat will update on progress of Parties in the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020. Besides, the Secretariat will present the draft Recommendation on the Criteria for establishing national policing/investigation priorities.

**DECISIONS:** The Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Special Focal Points for illegal killing of birds;
- Welcome the setting up of the Network of Special Focal Points for Illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds, as a major step towards improving international coordination and action in this field, and exhort contracting parties who have not yet done so, to appoint their Special Focal Point as soon as possible;
- Encourage other relevant stakeholders committed in activities towards eradicating illegal killing of birds to refer to the list of Special Focal Points for cooperation and information sharing needs;
- Encourage Contracting parties to continue efforts aimed at enhancing inter-sector cooperation at national level and involving all relevant Ministries, particularly the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Interior or Home Affairs, Justice and Education;
- Express its gratitude to the INTERPOL, the AEW, and BirdLife International for contributing to the first meeting of the Select Group, as well as to the other international partners for their continuous support;
- Exhort Parties to continue report on progress towards the implementation of the Tunis Action

Plan 2013-2020;

- Convene a second meeting of the Network of Special Focal Points in the first three months of 2015, in order to enable them to prepare the second year of implementation of the Tunis Action Plan;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft Recommendation:
  - Draft Recommendation on the Criteria for establishing national policing/investigation priorities.

## 5.2.2 Conservation of threatened birds: Draft Action Plan

### a. Draft Action Plan for the recovery and reintroduction of the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

At its 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting (3-6 December 2013), the Standing Committee took note of the conclusions of an international workshop on the recovery and reintroduction of the osprey sponsored – among others – by the Bern Convention. The Committee decided that – as the species has disappeared from over fifteen European countries – it would be useful to work on improving its conservation status, namely through the preparation of a dedicated European Action Plan. The Consultant, Mr Roy Dennis, will present the draft European Action Plan for the recovery and reintroduction of the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), which will be finalised in 2015 and submitted to the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts on the conservation of birds, ahead of the 35<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting.

**DECISION:** The Committee is invited to take note of the information presented.

## 5.3 Conservation of other threatened Species – Draft Recommendation

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2014) 15 – Analysis and proposal for dealing with wolf-dog hybrids  
T-PVS (2014) 9 – Draft Recommendation on dealing with hybridisation between wild wolves and domestic dog

The Secretariat will present the outcomes of a number of meetings and initiatives organised with the contribution of the Bern Convention in favour of threatened species.

### a. Caucasian Cat Summit

The Secretariat will inform about the conclusions of the Caucasian Cat Summit, held in Bakou, Azerbaijan, on 7 May 2014.

### b. Workshop on the conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus

The Secretariat will report on the outcomes of the Workshop on the conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus, organised in co-operation with the WWF in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 9-10 October 2014.

### c. Marine Turtle conservation training

The Secretariat will report on the Marine Turtle Conservation Training, organised in Cyprus, from 16 to 26 July 2014, in the framework of the capacity building activities foreseen in the PoA 2014.

### d. Dealing with wolf-dog hybrids: draft Recommendation

The Consultant, Mr Arie Trouwborst, will present a document prepared to contribute to the clarification of the obligations of Contracting parties in respect of hybridisation, in particular between wild wolves (*Canis lupus*) and domestic dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*).

The Secretariat will present the draft Recommendation.

**DECISIONS:** The Committee is invited to:

- Take note of document T-PVS/Inf (2014) 15, addressing and analysing the issue of hybridisation, particularly between wild wolves and domestic dog ;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the:
  - draft Recommendation on dealing with hybridisation between wild wolves and domestic dogs.

## **5.4 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Group of Experts on Climate Change and biodiversity**

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2014) 4 – Meeting report  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 12 – Summary overview of the work carried out by the Group of Experts

The Chair of the Group of Experts, Ms Hasmik Ghalachyan, will present the report of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts on Climate Change and biodiversity and the proposals of the Group for its future work.

The Secretariat will provide an overview of the work carried out by the Group of Experts since its setting-up and present the possible future steps.

**DECISIONS:** The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report and conclusions of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts;
- Hold a discussion on the Parties' expectations from the Group of Experts, as well as on their needs in terms of support, assistance and guidance on biodiversity and climate change related issues;
- Confirm, where appropriate, the Parties' commitment and support to the future work of the Group of Experts;
- Foresee, where appropriate, in 2015 or 2016 at latest, a one-day meeting of a restricted working group made-up of volunteering Parties, entrusted with the task of preparing a new work-plan for the future work of the Group of Experts.

*Parties willing to volunteer for participating in a possible working group in charge of drafting a work-plan on biodiversity and climate change are requested to notify their availability to the Secretariat during the Standing Committee meeting.*

## **5.5 Habitats**

### **5.5.1 Protected Areas and Ecological Networks**

Relevant Documents: T-PVS/PA (2014) 14 – Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks  
T-PVS/PA (2014) 10 – Draft list of proposed Emerald sites to be nominated as Candidate Emerald Sites  
T-PVS/PA (2014) 12 – Draft revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996) of the Standing Committee  
T-PVS (2014) 07 – Draft Recommendation interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998)

#### **a. Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks and future work plan**

Mr Jacques Stein, Chair of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, will present the report of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group, held in Strasbourg, on 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> September 2014. He will inform on progress in the implementation of the Emerald Network in Eastern and

Central Europe, the South Caucasus, Norway and Iceland, and on activities implemented in the frame of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Environment Agency.

**b. Draft revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996) listing endangered natural habitats and draft Recommendation interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) listing the species requiring habitat conservation measures**

The Secretariat will further present the draft revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996), resulting from the harmonisation exercise between the lists of habitats to be protected by the Emerald and Natura 2000 Networks.

The Secretariat will then inform on the outcomes of the discussions related to the procedure to be followed for the use of the “#” sign marking some species listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998), and present the draft Recommendation interpreting this provision.

**DECISIONS:** The Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the meeting of Group of Experts, as well as of the progress in the implementation of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest, and the Action Plan on the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network;
- Consider the draft list of proposed Emerald sites in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the Russian Federation and, if appropriate, nominate them officially as Candidate Emerald Sites;
- Thank the European Environment Agency and its European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity for the crucial technical and scientific support provided throughout 2014, in particular in relation to the release of the new Emerald Network Software;
- Consider the proposals for the future activities on the setting-up of the Emerald Network and the Pan-European Ecological Network, when adopting its programme of activities and budget for 2015;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following documents:
  - Draft revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996) listing endangered natural habitats requiring specific conservation measures;
  - Draft Recommendation interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) listing the species requiring specific habitat conservation measures.

### 5.5.2. European Diploma for Protected Areas

- a. Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas and adopted Resolutions**
- b. Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: progress report**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/DE (2014) 11 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on European Diploma for Protected Areas  
T-PVS/DE (2014) 12 – Adopted Resolutions concerning the European Diploma for Protected Areas in 2014

The Chair of the Group of Specialists, Mr Peter Skoberne, will present the report of the meeting held in Strasbourg in March 2014, as well as the proposals of the Group for its future work.

The Secretariat will inform on the resolutions adopted by the Committee of Ministers regarding the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas in 2014, and present the new Model plan for annual reports.

The Secretariat will further give an overview on the state of progress of the celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Diploma.

**DECISIONS:** The Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the resolution adopted by the Committee of Ministers for the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Desertas Nature Reserve, and congratulate Portuguese authorities for this recognition;
- Take note of the revised regulations of the European Diploma for Protected Areas and, namely, of the new Model plan for annual reports to be submitted by the responsible authorities of the areas having received the European Diploma for Protected Areas;
- Take note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists, including the proposals for its future work;
- Welcome the progress in the preparation of the forthcoming celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Diploma and encourage Parties to contribute to this event.

## **PART V – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS**

### **6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS**

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2014) 8 – Summary of case files and complaints  
T-PVS/Inf (2014) 2 – Register of Bern Convention's case-files

*(Note: a detailed summary of each case-file is available in document T-PVS (2014) 8 – Summary of Case files)*

#### **6.1 Preliminary considerations: pending complaints denouncing exclusively the possible impact of European badger's culling policies**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2014) 38 – Admissibility of complaints related to species listed in Appendix III, the badger as a model

At its meeting in April 2014 the Bureau discussed the problems raised by the continuous increase of complaints submitted on badgers particularly, although not exclusively, in the U.K. Most of these complaints present common points and often evoke animal welfare concerns, though these fall out of the scope of the Bern Convention. The Bureau recalled that the European badger is included in Appendix III to the Convention, and that therefore it benefits from a less strict degree of protection than species listed in Appendices I and II. In addition, the European badger is a very common species, classified by the IUCN as Least Concern, and present in at least 36 Contracting Parties. The Bureau noted that there might be a misunderstanding from complainants on the protection mechanism granted to species by the Convention in general, and more particularly to species listed under Appendix III. A short, general guidance document on the admissibility of complaints regarding Appendix III species, having the European badger as a model, has been prepared to overcome this problem.

Nonetheless, and taking into account the number of complaints still to be assessed, the Bureau decided to ask the Standing Committee to have a short discussion on this topic, with the aim of taking a common and final position on how to deal with this kind of complaints in the future.

## 6.2 Files opened

### ➤ 2004/1 - Ukraine: Proposed navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary (Danube delta)

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 1 – Government report, Ukraine  
 T-PVS/Files (2014) 2 – Government report, Romania  
 T-PVS/Files (2014) 53 – Government report, Moldova

This case concerns the excavation of a shipping canal in Bystroe estuary of the Danube delta in Ukraine, which is likely to affect adversely both the Ukrainian Danube Biosphere Reserve – the most important of Ukraine's wetlands – and the whole Danube delta dynamics.

The case is on the Standing Committee's agenda since 2004, when the Committee adopted Recommendation No.111 (2004) on the proposed navigable waterway through the Bystroe estuary (Danube Delta), inviting Ukraine to suspend works except for the completion of phase 1, and not to proceed with phase 2 of the project until certain conditions were met.

This year the Bureau assessed this complaint twice. At its second meeting, the Bureau discussed a note prepared by the Secretariat about on how the Convention has in the past dealt with similar case files, and possible scenarios for handling the present one at its next Committee meeting. The note also provided a legal analysis of the decision taken by the Standing Committee in the Laganas Bay (Zakynthos case) complaint.

After a deep and accurate discussion, the Bureau decided to forward this case-file to the Standing Committee for consideration. The Bureau advises to keep the case-file open for one more year, in order to be able to gather objective and specific information, including scientific data, on the ecological and environmental situation of the area at present. The latter would be used, together with the opinion and views of the Joint Commission, for preparing a new draft Recommendation to be submitted next year to the Committee's attention. Provided that there is the agreement of the concerned Parties, the Committee may wish to instruct the Secretariat to prepare, with the assistance of the other stakeholders as well as with the active participation of the Joint Commission, a questionnaire for gathering the information needed.

**DECISION:** The Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 23 – Government report  
 T-PVS/Files (2014) 27 – NGO report  
 T-PVS/Files (2014) 31 - EU report

This case concerns plans for the tourist development in the Peninsula of Akamas (Cyprus) with detrimental effect on an ecologically valuable area with many rare plant and animal species protected under the Bern Convention. It was first discussed at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee in 1996. Two on-the-spot appraisals were carried out in 1997 and 2002 and a recommendation adopted in 1997.

This year the Bureau assessed the case twice. It took note of the information provided by the authorities, the NGO and the European Union. The latter informed being in the process of assessing the latest information provided by the national authorities in response to the alleged failure to designate the Akamas area under the Habitats Directive as a Site of Community Importance (SCI). Moreover, the authorities informed that an EU Pilot is on-going for Limni area in view of addressing the possible problems there. However, the procedure is confidential for the moment.

Taking note of the most recent information submitted by the stakeholders, as well as of the progress of the assessment at EU level, the Bureau decided to keep the case-file open and to invite Cyprus authorities to inform the Standing Committee at its 34<sup>th</sup> meeting. The EU is also invited to report on any updated information that can be disclosed, particularly regarding the EU Pilot in Limni.

**DECISION:** The Committee is invited to discuss this case file and decide on its possible follow-up.

➤ **2004/2 - Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 54 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 40 – NGO report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 31 – EU report

This case was first lodged to question the building of wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra, on the Black Sea coast, but it has then be extended to the exponential rise in wind farms' developments in Bulgaria.

The Bureau assessed this case only once in 2014, so to give time to the Party for preparing a comprehensive reply to the specific reporting request addressed by the Secretariat.

However, no information was submitted by Bulgarian authorities for the second Bureau meeting in September.

Nonetheless, some updated information came from the European Commission, about the referral of Bulgaria to the European Court of Justice due to windfarm developments, and from the complainant, informing about the presumed lack of any progress in the implementation of most of the actions recommended by the Standing Committee through Recommendation 130 (2007). A more alarming news concerned the windfarm project in Duraknolak Lake because in its last decision, delivered in July 2014, the national Court ruled against the Ministry of the Environment and Water and cancelled the suspension of the construction project.

The Bureau decided to keep the case-file open invited the government of Bulgaria to ensure that a Delegate from Bulgaria attends the Standing Committee meeting and presents the national report.

**DECISION:** The Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

➤ **2007/1 - Italy: Eradication and trade of the American grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2014) 44 – Government report

This case concerns the presence of the American grey squirrel in Italy, as a serious threat for the survival of the protected native red squirrel, and the related potential to turn the invasion of this species into a continental problem. Two Recommendations were adopted, respectively Recommendation No. 78 (1999) on the conservation of the red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) in Italy, and Recommendation No. 114 (2005) on the control of the grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and other alien squirrels in Europe, asking Italy to start without delay an eradication programme.

The case file was opened in 2008, following an on-the-spot appraisal. The Committee requested Italy, inter alia, to adopt any useful measure to officially ban the trade of the invasive alien species in the country.

The Bureau assessed this complaint at its second meeting in September 2014, acknowledged the timely submission by Italian authorities and thanked the government for the good cooperation with the Convention. More particularly, the Bureau welcomed the information related to the enforcement of the recently adopted decree on banning the trade and possession in Italy of specimens of American grey squirrels. Yet, the Bureau regretted to note that the majority population is still opposing the eradication programme, showing that the progress in communicating on the danger and risks associated to invasive alien species has not been sufficient to date.

The Bureau decided to keep the case-file open and invited the authorities of Italy to submit an updated report at the next Standing Committee meeting.

**DECISION:** The Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 25 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 16 – NGO report

This complaint was registered as a possible file at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee meeting, after the presentation by MEDASSET of a detailed report alerting the Committee on the possible severe threats which the presumed lack of adequate management of Fethiye and Patara SPAs could pose to the marine turtles' nesting activity.

The complaint was assessed by the Bureau twice in 2014. In April, the Bureau acknowledged the information submitted by the authorities but considered it not specific enough, and requested more detailed information on the plans foreseen for the next tourism season as well as the official position of the authorities with regards to the possible relocation and construction of the shipyard on Akgöl, following an alert sent by the NGO on this issue.

Despite a specific reporting request sent at the beginning of May, as well as several reminders, the authorities remained silent. On the contrary, the NGO submitted an updated report questioning part of the information submitted by the authorities in April, including the location of the summer house developments, the lack of consideration for the possible impact of tourism developments in the area, and the number of houses whose construction is imminent.

Besides, the NGO detailed some other persisting conservation problems, showing no or little progress. The NGO report concluded with a series of requests, including the possibility of considering conducting an on-the-spot appraisal in summer 2015 if no consistent information is submitted by the government.

The Bureau decided to keep the case-file open and asked the Standing Committee to ensure its follow-up, including by considering the possibility of an on-the-spot appraisal depending on the information submitted and provided there is agreement from the Party.

**DECISION:** The Committee is invited to discuss this case-file and decide on its possible follow-up.

### 6.3 Possible files

➤ **2011/4 - Turkey: threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 28 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 24 – NGO report

This complaint, lodged in 2012, was brought by the Bureau to the attention of the Committee as a possible file because of the importance of the Mediterranean monk seal and the presumed serious threats that the species was facing in the area object of the complaint, as a result of construction works affecting the Balikli cave, providing the only suitable habitat for whelping in the area.

At its last meeting, the Standing Committee expressed satisfaction for the information given by the Delegate of Turkey according to which all the works in the vicinities of the cave had been stopped. However, in a report submitted in March, the complainant informed that the construction of the marine structure resumed in January this year and that - in fact - the works were almost finalised. Moreover, a 90 days pup was found dead in February, and the autopsy performed by authorised veterinarians

revealed clear indications of the severe malnutrition of the new born pup. During the Bureau meeting in April, Turkish authorities sent a short e-mail confirming that the construction works stopped in December 2013 but started again in January 2014. On the death of the pup, the authorities clarified that the autopsy didn't exclude that the death could be caused by illegal fishing.

The Bureau regretted the worrying developments of this complaint and urged Turkish authorities a detailed report on the government's plans for recovering the habitat of the Balikli cave, stimulating the return of the species next season, and avoiding repeating such a sad situation in future.

However, the request of the Bureau remained unanswered. At its September meeting the Bureau emphasised on a number of issues which needs to be clarified, namely the measures foreseen to address illegal fishing, the recolonisation of the cave, the protection of the monk seal, and the restoration of the population in the area. The Bureau decided to keep the case as a possible file, and invited Turkish authorities to attend and inform the Standing Committee meeting.

**DECISION:** The Committee is invited to discuss this complaint and decide on whether or not to open a case file.

➤ **2012/3 - Possible spread of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in Poland**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2014) 39 – Government Report

This complaint was submitted in May 2012 to denounce the non-inclusion of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in the national list of non-native plants and animals that might endanger native species and habitats.

The Bureau assessed this complaint only once, at its September meeting, because of the announcement, at last Standing Committee meeting, of the decision of the Polish Minister of the Environment to amend the regulation on the list of non-native plants and animals that might endanger the native species or natural habitats so to include in its Annex I both the American mink (*Neovison vison*) and the raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

However, later in August the Minister of Environment informed that the proposal of amendments was again withdrawn, following the commitment of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to improve the standards for the American mink operational farms in Poland and to make the EIA mandatory for mink farms of minimum stocking density.

The Bureau received the updated information with strong regrets and wished to recall the binding nature of the obligations stemming from the Convention. It decided to forward this complaint to the Standing Committee as a possible file and invited Polish authorities to attend the meeting and inform on possible developments.

**DECISION:** Committee is invited to discuss this complaint and decide on whether or not to open a case file.

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 22 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 18 – Complainant report

The complaint was submitted in March 2013 to denounce a possible breach of the Convention by “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” with regards to the development of hydro-power projects within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park, an Emerald candidate site since 2011.

Reporting requests from the Secretariat to the national authorities remained either unanswered or insufficient in response, as the information provided has been scarce and too general for a proper assessment of the situation. For instance, national authorities have not provided information on the pending lawsuits questioning the EIA results and the procedures followed for the authorisation of the projects, reported on regularly by the complainant. The matter is of concern also for a number of leading nature conservation organisations, which addressed support letters to the complainant.

The Bureau regretted the lack of information from the authorities of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and decided to consider this complaint as a possible file. The Bureau further invited the national authorities to attend the 34<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting and to report in detail on the state of implementation of the projects, including the pending lawsuits.

**DECISION:** The Committee is invited to discuss this complaint and decide on whether or not to open a case file.

➤ **2013/5: Presumed impact of the construction of an Overhead Power Line in an environmentally sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish border**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 10 – Government report by Lithuania+ Annex 1, Annex 2, Annex 3, Annex 4  
 T-PVS/Files (2014) 59 – Government report by Poland  
 T-PVS/Files (2014) 7 + Annex (OHL in Poland) – Complainant report  
 T-PVS/Files (2014) 31 – EU report

This complaint was lodged in May 2013, to denounce a possible breach of the Convention by Lithuania with regards to permissions issued for the construction of a 400 kV, 1000 MW Overhead Power Line (OHL) in an environmentally sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish borderland offering habitats for many species protected under the Convention, including the European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*).

At its first meeting, the Bureau recommended postponing the construction of the OHL, at least until a survey on the occurrence of the European pond turtle was carried out and its results analysed.

According to the information submitted, the government carried out the survey and the latter didn't reveal the presence of the European pond turtle in the area to be affected by the OHL. However, the complainant questioned the modalities and time schedule of the survey, and stressed that this was carried out without clear terms of reference, by an NGO recruited by the OHL construction company, and after the first construction work had already started.

Concerning the status of the works, from the information submitted it seemed that these started in April in Lithuania, and in June in Poland, following the allocation of funds from the European Union.

The Bureau expressed concern for the celerity with which the construction works are progressing, regardless from the fact that the complaint is still under scrutiny. Considering that a possible impact of the construction works on species like the European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*), the common crane (*Grus grus*), the great white egret (*Egretta alba*), the European fire-bellied toad (*Bombina bombina*) and a number of bird species is not excluded, the Bureau decided to forward the complaint to the Standing Committee for its follow-up. The Standing Committee will also be requested to decide on the opportunity of associating Poland to the current complaint. The Bureau further invited Lithuanian authorities to attend the Standing Committee meeting and report to Delegates, and informed Polish authorities on the developments related to this complaint. Finally, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to contact the European Union for information on the financing of the projects and the necessary ecological assessments.

**DECISION:** The Committee is invited to discuss this complaint and decide on whether or not to open a case file, as well as on the opportunity of associating Poland to the current complaint.

➤ **2013/8: Abusive eradication of European badgers (*Meles meles*) in France, in presumed violation of Appendix IV**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 45 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 19 – Complainant report

This complaint was submitted in October 2013 to denounce a possible breach of the Convention by France with regards to the presumed use of some of the prohibited means of capture and killing specified in Appendix IV in the implementation of the control policies for the European badger populations.

The complainant's report listed several examples of French departments where trapping, extraction from setts, or night shooting, sometimes with use of light sources, were practiced.

The report submitted by French authorities informed, among others, that although night shooting with use of light sources is forbidden by ministerial decree, the Prefect can authorise, with a view to avoid damages and threats to public safety, for certain periods of time and in specific areas, the lieutenants of "louveterie" to organise capture's campaigns during which they can exceptionally make use of night shooting, extraction from setts, or trapping including through snares with retainers.

At its September meeting the Bureau pointed out that the use of the prohibited means and methods of killing listed in Appendix IV to the Bern Convention, even under very specific circumstances, can lead to a breach of the Convention. The Bureau decided to forward the complaint to the Standing Committee as a possible file and invited the French authorities to present their report to the 34<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting.

**DECISION:** The Committee is invited to discuss this complaint and decide on whether or not to open a case file.

## 6.4 On the spot appraisal

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

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2014) 49 – Report of the on-the-spot appraisal  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 49 addendum – Comments by the Greek authorities to the expert's report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 48 – Complainant report (MEDASSET)  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 48 addendum – Comments by the NGOs to the draft Presidential Decree on the designation of marine and terrestrial areas of some natura 2000 sites  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 51 – NGO report (ARCHELON)  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 31 – EU report  
T-PVS (2014) 6 – Draft recommendation

This complaint was lodged in August 2010 to denounce uncontrolled development on a NATURA 2000 site (THINES KYPARISSIAS - GR2550005), presumably affecting *Caretta caretta*. The complaint was discussed as an open case-file at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee meeting, following the persistent lack of concrete information on the conservation and management of the area, as well as the enforcement of relevant legislation. On that occasion, the Standing Committee advised to conduct an on-the-spot appraisal to assess the situation in Thines Kiparissias.

Dr Paolo Casale, who carried out the on-the-spot appraisal on 14-16 July 2014, will present his report and the attached recommendations.

The Secretariat will present the draft Recommendation.

**DECISION:** The Committee is invited to take note of the report of the on-the-spot appraisal, decide on the possible follow-up to be given to the complaint, and examine and, if appropriate, adopt the:

- Draft Recommendation on the on the conservation of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and of sand dunes and other coastal habitats in Kyparissia (Peloponnesos, Greece)

## 6.5 Follow-up of previous Recommendations

*NB Unless otherwise specified, this agenda item is for information. Relevant States are invited to report on the follow-up of the above recommendations. The Committee is invited to take note of the information presented.*

### ➤ **Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach (Turkey)**

Relevant documents T-PVS/Files (2014) 57 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 58 – NGO report

This recommendation was adopted in 2002 and originated from a complaint lodged in 2000 and an on-the-spot appraisal carried out in 2002. The recommendation addresses a series of actions which Turkey is invited to implement in order to grant the long-term conservation of the beach's quality for marine turtles nesting. Among other key issues, the recommendation invites Turkey to remove as a matter of urgency the row of greenhouses closest to the sea in beach section K3 and, as soon as feasible, other greenhouses in the same beach section, as well as to maintain monitoring of the chemical waste discharge into the sea by the chrome factory.

In 2013, noting in particular the lack of reporting about new developments or progress for the safe disposal of the toxic solid waste located next to Kazanlı's green turtle nesting site the Bureau invited Turkish authorities to update the Standing Committee on the implementation of the recommended actions.

The Committee took note of the reports presented by the Delegate of Turkey and the representative of the NGO. It welcomed and acknowledged the progress made by Turkey for implementing some of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee, although it recognised that a number of other issues still needed to be solved for ensuring the effective conservation of Kazanlı beach's habitats and species.

The Committee decided to re-assess the implementation of this recommendation at its next meeting.

**DECISION:** Depending on the information submitted by the Party and the NGO, the Committee may wish to decide on the opportunity of monitoring the implementation of this Recommendation again in 2015.

### ➤ **Recommendation No. 144 (2009) on the wind park in Smøla (Norway) and other wind farm developments in Norway**

Relevant documents T-PVS/Files (2014) 52 – Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 55 – NGO report

This Recommendation originated from a complaint lodged in 2001 concerning the establishment of two wind farms complexes in the Archipelago of Smøla, Norway in an area of importance for the nesting of White-tailed Sea Eagles and other species. At its 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Standing Committee decided not to open a file and adopted Recommendation No. 144 (2009) on the wind park in Smøla (Norway) instead.

The implementation of this Recommendation was yearly reviewed until 2011, when the Standing Committee decided to invite the national authorities to report again on the matter at its 34<sup>th</sup> meeting, in 2014.

**DECISION:** Depending on the information submitted by the Party and the NGO, the Committee may wish to decide on the opportunity of asking the Party to report in a two-year time.

➤ **Recommendation No. 96 (2002) on conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, especially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland**

Relevant documents T-PVS/Files (2014) 50 - Government report  
T-PVS/Files (2014) 56 – NGO report

This Recommendation was adopted by the Standing Committee in 2002, as a follow-up to a complaint lodged by BirdLife.

At last Standing Committee meeting the representative of BirdLife International expressed concern about developments in the past years regarding the Icelandic policy of subsidising the afforestation of lowlands, with a possible impact on the breeding waterbird populations.

Following the agreement of the Delegate of Iceland, the Standing Committee decided to monitor the implementation of this Recommendation at its next meeting, and instructed the Bureau to coordinate the necessary reporting requests.

**DECISION:** Depending on the information submitted by the Party and the NGO, the Committee may wish to decide on the follow-up of the above mentioned Recommendation.

➤ **Recommendation No. 110 (2004) on minimising adverse effects of above-ground electricity transmission facilities (power lines) on birds**

Relevant document T-PVS/Files (2014) 43 – Compilation of Governments' reports

At its 31<sup>st</sup> meeting the Standing Committee carried out the monitoring of the above mentioned Recommendation in connection with the "Budapest Declaration on bird protection and power lines" which encourages countries, the NGOs and business, to work towards eliminating the risk for birds from power lines.

In the light of the information presented as well as of the interest of Parties in this issue, and in view of putting forward the efforts done by Parties to improve technical standards and to adopt mitigation measures, the Committee decided to endorse the "Budapest Declaration" as well as to adopt a temporarily system of biennial reporting for monitoring the implementation of Recommendation No. 110 (2004), with a first reporting due in 2014.

**DECISION:** Depending on the information submitted by the Parties the Committee may wish to decide on the prolongation of the temporarily system of biennial reporting.

➤ **Recommendation No. 25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2014) 34 – Compilation of Governments' reports

At the request of the group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, the Bureau decided to include the monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the above mentioned Recommendation in the agenda of the 34<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting. The monitoring of this Recommendation should have benefitted the work of the Group on the Action Plan for the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network. Parties were requested to report on the implementation of the conservation measures provided as examples in the Appendix to the Recommendation.

## **PART VI – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION**

### **7. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION**

#### **7.1 International coordination with other MEAs and organisations**

The Secretariat will inform the Committee on progress in the international coordination with other MEAs and organisations (including the EU, EEA, CBD, CMS, AEW, IUCN, WCMC).

#### **7.2 Implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan for biodiversity: the contribution of the Bern Convention**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2014) 25 – The contribution of the Bern Convention to the CBD Strategic Plan for biodiversity

Prof. Paul Leadley, coordinator of the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, will present the recently launched GBO4 providing a mid-term assessment of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

The Secretariat will present a document summarising the contribution of the Bern Convention to the CBD Strategic Plan for biodiversity.

**DECISION:** No decision is expected under this item.

#### **7.3 Draft Programme of Activities for 2015**

Relevant document: T-PVS (2014) 5 – Draft Programme of Activities for 2015

The Secretariat will present the proposal of activities and budget for the 2015, prepared on the basis of the biennial Programme and Budget pre-validated in 2013 and amended following discussions at the Bureau.

**DECISION:** The Committee is invited to examine and, if appropriate, adopt its Programme of Activities for the year 2015. Parties willing to do so are invited to offer the hosting of the meetings of the Group of Experts.

#### **7.4 States to be invited as observers to the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The Secretariat will remind the Committee that the following States have been invited to attend this 34<sup>th</sup> meeting as Observers:

- A. Council of Europe member States (invited automatically): The Russian Federation and San Marino.
- B. Non-member States: Algeria, Holy See, Jordan.

**DECISION:** The Committee is requested to decide unanimously which States, not members of the Council of Europe, are to be invited to attend its 35<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **PART VII - OTHER ITEMS**

### **8. ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND BUREAU MEMBERS**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 6 – Rules of Procedure: Standing Committee, on-the-spot enquiries, mediation

In accordance with Article 18(e) of the Rules of Procedure “The Chair, Vice-Chair and two additional Bureau members shall be elected at the end of each meeting. They shall execute their respective terms of office from their election onwards until the end of the meeting following the meeting where they were elected. Their terms of office may be renewed, but the total length of term of office shall not exceed four years or, as appropriate, the end of the first meeting following the expiry of this period of four years”.

**DECISIONS:** The Committee is invited to elect its Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2 Bureau members. According to Rule 19 of the Rules of procedure of the Standing Committee, the Committee will acknowledge the automatic election of the previous Chair.

### **9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 34<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

**DECISIONS:** In accordance with Article 1 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee is invited to decide on the date of its 35<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Secretariat will make a proposal (1-4 December 2015, in Strasbourg).

### **10. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**

**DECISION:** The Committee is invited to approve the main decisions of the meeting which, in accordance with Article 15 of the Convention, will be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for information.

### **11. OTHER BUSINESS (ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Any question which does not concern a preceding item of the agenda may be raised here. The Standing Committee will be invited to discuss the issues raised.

## DRAFT PLAN FOR DISCUSSION OF THE AGENDA

MORNINGS 9.30 am - 12.30 pm	AFTERNOONS 2.30 - 5.30 pm
<b>TUESDAY 2 December</b>	
<p><b>1. OPENING, ADOPTION OF AGENDA</b></p> <p><b>2. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN &amp; COMMUNICATIONS</b></p> <p><b>3. MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Biennial and quadrennial reports</b></p> <p><b>4. LAUNCH OF THE ORS</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Presentation of the ORS and reminder of its main features</b></p> <p><b>5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Invasive Alien Species</b></p> <p>a. Meeting of the Select Group of Experts on IAS</p> <p>b. Improving communication on Invasive Alien Plants: update on the co-operation with the EPPO</p> <p>c. Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS: monitoring study prepared by the FACE and IAF</p> <p><b>5.3 Conservation of other threatened Species</b></p> <p>a. Caucasian Cat Summit: information on the outcomes of the meeting</p> <p>b. Conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus: information on the outcomes of the meeting</p> <p>c. Marine Turtle conservation training</p> <p>d. Dealing with wolf-dog hybrids: draft recommendation</p>	<p><b>5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS</b></p> <p><b>5.2 Conservation of birds</b></p> <p>5.2.1 Illegal killing of birds</p> <p>a. Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Special Focal Points for illegal killing of birds</p> <p>b. Follow-up to the Tunis Action Plan 2020 - Draft recommendation</p> <p>5.2.2 Conservation of threatened birds</p> <p>a. Draft Action Plan for the recovery and reintroduction of the Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)</p> <p><b>5.4 Biodiversity and Climate change</b></p> <p><b>5.5 Habitats:</b></p> <p>5.5.1 Protected Areas and Ecological Networks</p> <p>a. 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts</p> <p>b. Draft revised Annex 1 to Res. No. 4 (1996) and draft Recommendation interpreting certain provisions of Res. No. 6 (1998)</p> <p>5.5.2. European Diploma for Protected Areas</p> <p>a. Group of Specialists on the European Diploma : report and adopted resolutions</p> <p>b. Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</p> <p>6 p.m. – 7 p.m. Side event: progress towards the eradication of the Ruddy Duck</p>
<b>WEDNESDAY 3 December</b>	
<p><b>6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Pending complaints on badgers</b></p> <p><b>6.2 Files opened</b></p> <p>➤ 2004/1: Ukraine: Proposed navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary (Danube delta)</p> <p>➤ 1995/6: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula</p> <p>➤ 2004/2: Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica</p> <p>➤ 2007/1: Italy: Eradication and trade of the American grey squirrel (<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>)</p> <p>➤ 2012/9: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey)</p> <p><b>6.4 On-the-spot appraisal</b></p> <p>➤ 2010/5: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias – Draft recommendation</p> <p><b>6.3 Possible files</b></p> <p>➤ 2011/4: Turkey: threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (<i>Monachus monachus</i>)</p> <p>➤ 2012/3: Possible spread of the American mink (<i>Neovison vison</i>) in Poland</p> <p>➤ 2013/1: Hydropower development within the territory of Mavrovo National Park (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)</p>	<p><b>6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS</b></p> <p><b>6.3 Possible files</b></p> <p>➤ 2013/5: Presumed impact of the construction of an Overhead Power Line in an environmentally sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish border</p> <p>➤ 2013/8: Abusive eradication of badgers (<i>Meles meles</i>) in France, in presumed violation of Appendix IV</p> <p><b>6.5 Follow-up of previous Recommendations</b></p> <p>➤ Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach (Turkey)</p> <p>➤ Recommendation No. 144 (2009) of the Standing Committee, on the wind park in Smøla (Norway) and other wind farm developments in Norway</p> <p>➤ Recommendation No. 96 (2002) on conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, especially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland</p> <p>➤ Recommendation No. 110 (2004) of the Standing Committee on minimising adverse effects of above-ground electricity transmission facilities (power lines) on birds</p> <p>➤ Recommendation No. 25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper</p>

**THURSDAY 4 December**

**7. Strategic development of the Convention**

- 7.1 International coordination with other MEAs and organisations
- 7.2 Implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan
- 7.3 Draft Programme of Activities for 2015
- 7.4 States to be invited as observers to the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting

Continuation of unfinished work

**FRIDAY 5 December**

**8. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair, and Bureau members**

- 9. Date and place of the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting**
- 10. Adoption of the main decisions of the meeting**
- 11. Other business**

Note: Room 6 will be free for EU co-ordination meetings (without interpretation).