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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

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**IMPLEMENTING THE AICHI 2020 TARGETS  
IN EUROPE: THE ROLE  
OF THE BERN CONVENTION**

*Document  
prepared by  
the Directorate of Democratic Governance, Culture and Diversity*

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Examine the document containing some ideas to help the implementation of the Aichi 2020 Targets;
- Decide the role of the Convention in implementing the targets and in proposing European targets for 2020.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

At the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, governments adopted a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the “Aichi 2020 Targets” (appendix 1).

In its Decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties urged parties to “*develop national and regional targets, using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets, as a flexible framework, in accordance with national priorities and capacities and taking into account both the global targets and the status and trends of biological diversity in the country, and the resources provided through the strategy for resource mobilization, with a view to contributing to collective global efforts to reach the global targets, and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;*”.

“*COP 10 also urged regional organizations to consider the development or updating of regional biodiversity strategies, as appropriate, including agreeing on regional targets, as a means of complementing and supporting national actions and of contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;*”.

The Standing Committee had been active in the preparation of COP-10 and had already foreseen, in November 2009, to take an active role in implementing decisions at COP-10. In the “Bern Declaration on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Europe: 2010 and beyond” adopted in the federal city of Bern on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signature of the Convention, the Standing Committee had:

- Reaffirmed the critical role played by the Bern Convention to facilitate the co-ordinated implementation of global biodiversity obligations in Europe, including relevant parts of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Convention on Migratory Species and related agreements; and the Ramsar Convention on wetlands;
- Recognised “*the role of the Bern Convention to promote coherence in biodiversity policies across the Pan-European region and the African countries involved*”;
- Urged Contracting Parties, and invited Observer States “*to use the Bern Convention as a fundamental instrument to implement the global post-2010 targets*”.

At its 30<sup>th</sup> meeting in November 2010, the Standing Committee instructed the Bureau to examine carefully the CBD Strategic Plan for the post-2010 period in view of possibly setting European Targets for 2020 on issues of special concern for the Convention.

At its April 2011 meeting, the Bureau discussed the issue and agreed that, in order not to put additional burden on Contracting Parties, the regional targets for the Bern Convention should be drawn taking into account the work and contribution by other instruments including the EU Biodiversity Strategy. The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to elaborate a short document analysing each of the Aichi targets and identifying those to which the Bern Convention can contribute, associating to this exercise the relevant Groups of Experts.

In 2011, two Groups of Experts met and proposed European targets for Aichi Target 9 (invasive alien species) and Aichi Target 11 (protected areas). The Groups chose to present their respective targets in the form of draft recommendations (appendices 2 and 3 to this document).

The Secretariat has prepared this short document taking into account the previous framework, past and present Council of Europe work in the issues dealt with at the Aichi targets and present budgetary limitations of the Convention. Possible actions / obstacles to action are dealt with together with obligations of Parties under the Convention.

Basically, on the view of the Secretariat, there are two options regarding the possible action of the Convention to implement the Aichi 2020 Targets. One could be to prepare, during 2012, a “European Biodiversity Strategy for 2020” (much as what has been done by the European Commission in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2020”, developing only a few targets) or select, out of the 20 Aichi 2020 Targets

a few on which the Convention has had previous experience and in which Bern Convention targets would guide both the Convention's work and that of Contracting Parties.

In the next pages there is a summary presentation of the Aichi 2020 Targets and some suggestions concerning their possible implementation in the framework of the Convention.

## **2. PROPOSALS FOR AICHI TARGETS**

### **2.1 Target 1 - By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.**

Article 3, paragraph 3 of the Convention requires Parties to “*promote education and disseminate general information on the need to conserve species of wild flora and fauna and their habitats*”.

From 1969 (Creation of the Naturopo Centre – Centre of Information and Documentation on Nature Conservation) until 2008 – last issue of the Journal “Naturopa” edited – the Council of Europe was extremely active in awareness on the values of biodiversity.

Of particular relevance in this context was the organisation of two “European Years on Nature Conservation” (1970 and 1995) and the publishing of the journal NATUROPA. The Naturopo Centre worked in co-operation with a network of specialised national agencies. The Centre was closed in 2002 by lack of resources.

Historically the Convention did not develop specific policies in the field of biodiversity awareness as Council of Europe action was already satisfactory, well implemented and efficient. When the Naturopo Centre was closed, the need for biodiversity awareness was less pressing than in the 60's and early 70's, when the public support for nature was much smaller and awareness less developed. In the last 40 years both government and societies have developed very consistent programmes and the media are showing regularly very professional and well targeted material, making European concerted action in this field less of a priority.

Possible action under the Convention: to request a report from Parties on the implementation of Article 3, paragraph 3 of the Convention. No “European targets” appear as obvious.

### **2.2 Target 2 - By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.**

Article 3.2 of the Convention requires Parties to “*undertake, in its planning and development policies and in its measures against pollution, to have regard to the conservation of wild flora and fauna*”.

Since the adoption of the Convention in 1979, governments created a variety of mechanism, both legal, technical and operational to curb pollution in Europe and ensure that development policies take into account biological diversity (including environmental impact assessment policies). Results of those policies are regularly analysed by the European Environment Agency and by the states themselves in “State of Environment reports”. The Bern Convention was not particularly engaged in that work because other Council of Europe instrument was being used to ensure intergovernmental work on Article 3.2.

The integration of biological diversity into sectoral policies was one of the main topics of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) elaborated by the Council of Europe in 1995 and endorsed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Conference “An Environment for Europe” held in Sofia (Bulgaria).

In that framework the Council of Europe prepared a number of documents:

- A policy for the development of sustainable environmental-friendly tourism in coastal areas (1997);
- Model Law on Sustainable Development of Coastal Zones (1999);
- European Code of Conduct for Coastal Zones (1999);

- European Charter on Water Resources (2001);
- Code of Practice for the Introduction of Biological and Landscape Diversity Consideration in the Transport sector (2001);
- Revised European Charter for the Protection and sustainable Management of Soil (2003).

A possible action under the Convention may be to request reports from Parties on progress in the implementation of the policy recommendation made above. It seems difficult to propose specific European targets in such a wide subject.

**2.3 Target 3 – By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.**

Incentives and subsidies harmful to biodiversity has not been a subject dealt with by the Council of Europe or the Bern Convention. No action or European targets for this topic are proposed.

**2.4 Target 4 - By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.**

Same comments as for previous target.

**2.5 Target 5 - By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.**

Habitat loss is mainly dealt with within the Bern Convention through implementation of Article 4 on the protection of habitat. It is dealt with in the framework of this paper together with Target 11 below.

**2.6 Target 6 - By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.**

While the Bern Convention has only limited experience and competence in commercial fisheries, Articles 7 and 8 of the Convention regulate in detail the exploitation and trade of wild fauna and the methods that may be used in the capture or killing of species protected under Appendix III of the Convention.

This is an important issue for the Convention because of the always delicate equilibrium between harvesting and protection. The Bern Convention was the first treaty to provide comprehensive lists of protected species and to establish a number of mechanism for sustainable exploitation of harvested species including (for those listed in Appendix III of the Convention) the need for closed seasons, temporary or local prohibition of harvesting when this was needed to restore satisfactory population levels and also special requirements for sale and trade of harvested species.

This topic also species that may cause damage to livestock or fisheries (large carnivores, otters, etc.) and on which it is important to fix population levels that may be compatible with the interest of people affected by damage, and ensuring co-existence of rural populations and large predators.

In addition two Codes have been recently issued by the Convention:

- European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity (2007);
- European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity (2010);

On the basis of those Charters, a small Group of Experts could meet to propose some precise European targets for 2020.

**2.7 Target 7 - By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.**

**Agriculture:** Following the High-level Pan-European Conference on Agriculture and Biodiversity (2002) organised by the Council of Europe and the government of France, a Final Declaration was adopted. Specific recommendations to countries to support the implementation of the Declaration were later adopted [STRA-CO (2005) 4].

Even if the Convention has worked relatively little in agriculture or high nature value farmland, it is suggested to check progress by States in the implementation of the Final Declaration of the Agriculture & Biodiversity Conference. Fixing of European targets under the Convention does not seem a priority.

**Forests:** in Europe, leadership in governmental co-operation concerning Forests has been in the hands of the Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE, now called “Forest Europe”).

At the last meeting of Forest Europe in Oslo (June 2011), the decision was taken to draft a legally binding agreement on forest in Europe. It does not seem appropriate for the Convention to fix targets in that field.

**2.8 Target 8 - By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.**

The Convention has only one mention to pollution (see quote under target 2). No specific work under that article has been so far developed at it does not seem appropriate to fix European targets in the framework of the Convention.

**2.9 Target 9 - By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.**

The Convention has a wide expertise on this topic and the only intergovernmental working group in the topic working for 18 years (based on previous Council for Europe work). The Group of Experts on IAS has suggested the adoption of the European targets found in appendix 1 to this document.

**2.10 Target 10 - By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.**

No particular action from the Convention on the topic of coral reefs.

Yet, the Convention has been pioneer in Europe to examine the impacts of climate change in biodiversity. A Group of Experts was created in 2006 and varied substantial guidance has been produced since. Some targets may be prepared for Europe on the basis of the recommendations already adopted.

**2.11 Target 11 - By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.**

Article 4 of the Convention is devoted to Protection of habitats. A group of Experts – at present called “Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks” – has been meeting each year since 1996 to forward the setting-up of protected areas under the Convention (Emerald Network) and to promote action and research on ecological networks, in particular the Pan-European Ecological Network developed by the Council of Europe since 1996.

At its last meeting the Group of Experts noted that protected areas and ecological networks contribute powerfully to the achievement of a number of Aichi targets 11 and 5, but also 10, 6 and 12.

The Group presented possible European targets in the form of a draft recommendation (appendix 3 to this document).

**2.12 Target 12 - By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.**

Articles 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention are specifically aimed to the conservation of wild flora and fauna, with numerous references to threatened species, many of which are listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention. The Bern Convention has contributed since 1979 to the legal protection of species and their habitat in all its 50 Parties, being the first European legally binding text to cover most threatened species of all groups. Since the 80's the Convention acquired a vast experience in species protection and created working groups on plants, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles, birds and threatened mammals (otter and other semi-aquatic mammals, monk seal, large carnivores, hamster, etc).

Action Plans were made for a high number of species and a wide network of expertise was created.

It would be possible, with the help of existing working groups and the networks of experts to elaborate European targets for 2020 listing species or even populations of special concern for which conservation status needs to improve.

**2.13 Target 13 - By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.**

**2.14 Target 14 - By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.**

**2.15 Target 15 - By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.**

**2.16 Target 16 - By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.**

**2.17 Target 17 - By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.**

**2.18 Target 18 - By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.**

**2.19 Target 19 - By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.**

**2.20 Target 20 - By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance**

**with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.**

For the targets above, neither the Council of Europe nor the Bern Convention have developed specific actions even if the general improvement of ecosystem services and ecosystem resilience that derived from the implementation of the Convention can be mentioned in this respect.

In the field of knowledge on Biodiversity, the Council of Europe and the Convention contributed much in the 70's, 80's and 90's to gather and publish substantial European information on threatened species and habitats, with a high number of monographies and reports. That role is now more in the competence of the European Environment Agency, which holds data provided by Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention (for instance, on the Emerald Network). The Agency may be asked to suggest ideas for European targets for 2020.



## **Appendix 1**

### **AICHI TARGETS**

#### ***Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society***

##### **Target 1**

By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

##### **Target 2**

By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

##### **Target 3**

By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.

##### **Target 4**

By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

#### ***Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use***

##### **Target 5**

By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

##### **Target 6**

By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

##### **Target 7**

By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

##### **Target 8**

By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

**Target 9**

By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

**Target 10**

By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

***Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity*****Target 11**

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

**Target 12**

By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

**Target 13**

By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

***Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services*****Target 14**

By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

**Target 15**

By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

**Target 16**

By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

***Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building*****Target 17**

By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

**Target 18**

By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

**Target 19**

By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

**Target 20**

By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

## Appendix 2



### Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

#### Standing Committee

#### **Draft Recommendation No. ... (2011) of the Standing Committee, adopted on ... December 2011, on the European 2020 targets on Invasive Alien Species**

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

Having regard to the aim of the Convention which is notably to ensure the conservation of wild flora and fauna, by giving particular attention to species, including migratory species, which are threatened with extinction and vulnerable;

Recalling that under Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling Decision VI/23 of the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, and the definitions used in that text;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 99 (2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted 20 headline targets for 2020, organised under five strategic goals, taking into account that the goals and targets comprise both: (i) aspirations for achievement at the global level; and (ii) a flexible framework for the establishment of national or regional targets and that, within Strategic Goal B (*Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use*), one target is devoted to Invasive Alien Species: “*Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment*”,

Recommends that Contracting Parties adopt, at the national and European levels the following targets for Invasive Alien Species:

#### **European targets:**

1. By 2013, a EU European Strategy for Invasive Alien Species is adopted and its implementation started;
2. By 2015, a dedicated EU legislative instrument on IAS is concluded;
3. By 2015, priority IAS species in Europe are identified, controlled or eradicated;
4. By 2015, pathways for introduction of IAS are identified and prioritised; and measures are put in place to manage them;
5. By 2015, lists of invasive alien species to be excluded from trade are adopted and trade controls, implemented;

6. By 2015, an interpreted European Early warning and Response System on Invasive Alien Species is operative;
7. By 2018, a European Observatory on Invasive Alien Species is operative;
8. By 2014, invasive alien species used as bioenergy products are identified and phased out by 2016;
9. By 2016, European Codes of Conduct on Invasive Alien Species and a number of pathways and activities (horticulture, recreational fishing, hunting, zoological and botanic gardens, pet-trade) have been elaborated, translated as appropriate and their implementation started.

### Appendix 3



#### Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

#### Standing Committee

#### **Draft Recommendation No. ... (2011) of the Standing Committee, adopted on ... December 2011, on the European 2020 targets on Protected Areas**

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

Considering Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention;

Having regard to Resolution No. 1 (1989) on the provisions relating to the conservation of habitats;

Having regard to its Recommendation No. 16 (1989) on Areas of Special Conservation Interest;

Having regard to its Resolution No. 3 (1996) on the setting-up of a pan-European Ecological Network;

Having regard to its Resolution No. 5 (1998) concerning the rules for the Network of areas of special conservation interest (Emerald Network);

Recalling that the 10<sup>th</sup> COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted 20 headline targets for 2020 organised under five strategic goals, comprising both aspirations for achievement at global level and a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets;

Further recalling Goal B “*Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use*” and Goal C “*Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity*” of the Strategic Plan for biodiversity (2011-2020) of the CBD;

Recalling the Aichi Target 11: *By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes;*

Further recalling the Aichi Target 5: *By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced;*

Stressing that protected areas and ecological networks equally contribute to the achievement of several other Aichi targets: Target 6 calling for a sustainable management of fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants; Target 10 on minimising the impact of climate change on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems and Target 12 on preventing from extinction the most threatened species and improving and sustaining their conservation status;

Welcoming the EU 2020 biodiversity Strategy, adopted by the Council of the European Union in June 2011, which set several EU targets and more particularly its Target 1, calling on Member States to *Fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives* by completing the establishment of the Network and

ensuring its good management, finally aiming at halting the deterioration of and achieving a significant and measurable improvement in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation;

Further welcoming Target 2 of the EU 2020 biodiversity strategy stating that *By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems* and taking note of recent progress in the development of an EU Green infrastructure Strategy by 2012;

Welcoming the considerable efforts of Contracting Parties on the implementation of the Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network (2011 – 2020) in view of the identification of potential Emerald sites on their territory;

Considering that one of the objectives of the Bern Convention is to support as appropriate, the regional implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly in the fields of competence and expertise of the Bern Convention;

Recommends that Contracting Parties adopt, at the national and European levels, the following targets for Protected Areas:

**EU targets:**

Target 1: Fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives

Target 2: Maintain and restore ecosystems and their services

**Other European targets:**

1. By 2020, the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest is fully operational in all Contracting Parties and Observer states to the Bern Convention as planned in the 2020 Emerald Network Calendar (T-PVS/PA(2010)08revE).
- 1.1 By 2012, to help Contracting Parties to achieve the European and world targets, the Bern Convention Standing Committee adopts guidelines on management for the Emerald sites and the monitoring of their implementation.
- 1.2 By 2013, reporting guidelines on the management of the Emerald sites are developed and adopted by the Bern Convention Standing Committee.
- 1.3 By 2014, the list of endangered natural habitats requiring specific conservation measures (Res No. 4 (1996) and the list of species requiring specific habitat conservation measures (Res No. 6 (1998) are updated and amended for the whole pan European region.
- 1.4 By 2020, management arrangements for the designated Emerald sites are developed and fully implemented in all Contracting Parties and Observer states.
2. By 2020, in the light of the world Aichi targets, the Emerald Network is fully representative and covers at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of coastal and marine areas.
3. By 2020, the European Diploma of Protected Areas is fully representative for the whole European continent and its eleven biogeographical regions.
4. By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced, by the deployment of a broad European ecological network.