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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Group of Specialists - European Diploma of Protected Areas

4–5 March 2010
Room 8, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg

MEETING REPORT

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

The Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas met in Strasbourg on 4 and 5 March 2010.

The competent Committee is invited to:

1. Take note of the meeting report
2. Take note of a new application of the Sumava National Park
3. Consider, with a view to forwarding them to the Committee of Ministers for adoption:
 - The draft Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas for the following areas:

Appendix 3	Teberda National Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation)
Appendix 4	Oka National Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation)
Appendix 5	Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli (Italy)
Appendix 6	Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area (Czech Republic)
Appendix 7	Podyjí National Park (Czech Republic)
Appendix 8	Karlštejn National Nature Reserve (Czech Republic)
Appendix 9	Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve (Belarus)
Appendix 10	Berchtesgaden National Park (Germany)
Appendix 11	De Weerribben Nature Reserve (the Netherlands) and to its extension to the De Wieden Nature Reserve
Appendix 12	Boschplaat Nature Reserve (the Netherlands)
Appendix 13	Fair Isle National Scenic Area (United Kingdom)
Appendix 14	Scandola Nature Reserve (France)
Appendix 15	Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve (Italy)
Appendix 16	Doñana National Park (Spain)
Appendix 17	Ecrins National Park (France)
Appendix 18	Ipolytarnóc Protected Area (Hungary)
Appendix 19	Szénás Hills Protected Area (Hungary)
Appendix 20	Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania)
4. Consider, with a view to forwarding them to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention for follow-up, the conclusions of the Group concerning:
 - The non-renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas for: Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park (Belarus) and Bialowieza National Park (Poland) (Appendix 21-22)

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting was opened on Thursday 4 March 2010 by the Secretariat, who welcomed the participants and the three new members of the Group in particular. The participants are listed in appendix I.

II. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR

Professor Michael Usher (United Kingdom) was elected Chair and Mr Henri Jaffeux (France) Vice-Chair.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was adopted as set out in appendix II.

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Secretariat informed the Group that the draft Resolutions it had examined in 2009 had been adopted by the Committee of Ministers.

It gave a reminder of the Group's terms of reference:

- Analysis of applications, proposals to award and renew the European Diploma and drawing up of recommendations to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention.
- Analysis of annual reports.

It informed the Group of the outcome of the Madrid Conference organised within the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union and the Swiss Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE on the theme "Post-2010 Biodiversity Vision and Target: The role of protected areas and ecological networks in Europe".

V. CANDIDATURE FOR THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA

Sumava National Park (Czech Republic)

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Mr Michel Palka presented the application put forward by the Czech government.

The park is an area consisting mainly of forest ecosystems adjoining a site already holding a diploma, the Bayerischer Wald/Bavarian Forest National Park (Germany), with which it forms one of the largest transfrontier protected areas in Europe. It includes peatlands of great value as well as glacial lakes and a wide floodplain (of the Vltava River). It also presents great landscape and cultural interest.

The Group thanked Mr Palka for his presentation, recognised the park's European interest and recommended that an expert appraisal be organised.

It asked that the expert pay particular attention to the zonation of the area, the recreational and tourism activities, the management plan which was coming to an end, cooperation with the German park and the change of IUCN category.

De Wieden Nature Reserve (Netherlands)

The Group decided to examine the candidature at the same time as the renewal of the European Diploma held by the Weerribben Nature Reserve (item 6.2)

VI. RENEWAL OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA*T-PVS/DE(2010) 11***6.1 Areas for which the on-the-spot appraisal by an independent expert scheduled for 2008 was postponed to 2009****a) Oka State Nature Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation)***T-PVS/DE(2010)4*

Mr Hervé Lethier presented the characteristics of this alluvial reserve located in the catchment area of the River Oka, an area of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The site included a world-renowned crane breeding centre and a centre for rearing European bison. The reserve was extremely rich in species, including the highest density of the Russian desman. The scheme to extend and modernise the road inside the diploma-holding area, which had been a specific point to consider in the expert's brief, had been dropped.

The expert was in favour of renewing the European Diploma.

The Group wondered about the boundaries of the diploma-holding area and instructed the Secretariat to write to the Russian authorities, asking them to indicate the exact demarcation lines of the reserve.

b) Teberda State Natural Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation)*T-PVS/DE(2010)5*

The reserve was located on the northern slopes of the Great Caucasus mountain range. The expert emphasised its exceptional biological wealth and diversity (over 2,500 species of flora) and the remarkable integrity of the environment.

Developments regarding the overall management plan had been fairly positive since the previous visit.

The management of a new area, the Dautsky federal nature reserve (74900 ha) had been entrusted to the managers of the diploma-holding area without additional resources being provided. This raised the question of whether or not this area should be included in the diploma-holding area.

Mr Lethier mentioned the scheme to set up a network of protected areas in the Caucasus. He was in favour of renewing the European Diploma.

The Group approved the expert's conclusions. It proposed that the competent Committee should recommend that the Committee of Ministers renew the European Diploma of Protected Areas in respect of both reserves for 10 years and addressed to it for that purpose the draft Resolution set out in Appendix III.

6.2 Renewal of areas where a prior expert appraisal was carried out

a) Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore, Massaciuccoli (Italy)

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Mr Pierre Hunkeler presented the findings of his on-the-spot appraisal. He stressed that the quality of the Park, near Pisa, hinged on the preservation of vast natural or relatively unchanged areas along the Tuscan coastline and the presence of several large historic estates.

The park was an important and essential player. It maintained its prerogatives in the buffer zone. It was managed with great professionalism. The managers had taken substantial account of the conditions and recommendations attached to the European Diploma award in 2005. The expert thought that renewal of the European Diploma was fully justified.

The Group approved the expert's conclusions. It proposed that the competent Committee should recommend that the Committee of Ministers renew the European Diploma of Protected Areas for 10 years and addressed to it for that purpose the draft Resolution set out in appendices.

b) Bile Karpaty Protected Landscape, Podyji National Park and Karlstejn National Nature Reserve (Czech Republic)

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Mr Bernard Jacquat presented the findings of his visits to the 3 diploma-holding areas in the Czech Republic.

- Bile Karpaty Protected Landscape Area

He described the characteristics of the protected landscape which, together with the Slovakian White Carpathians, formed a large transfrontier protected ensemble.

The diploma-holding area consists of 53% woodland. Its species-rich flower meadows and pastures form the other dominant component of the landscape. He emphasised the remarkable work of the managers and the excellent relations with the local authorities, farmers and the community.

He mentioned the different issues notably that of the Radejov hunting reserve.

- Podyji National Park

This park protects a river valley with remarkable characteristics. Woodland covers 85% of its surface area. Collaboration with the adjacent Thayatal national park in Austria is excellent and is reflected in joint initiatives in the field. A transfrontier committee had been set up. The work carried out in the park was of high quality.

The only major problem which subsisted concerned the hydroelectric plant and dam at Vranov owing to the sluice regime and the lack of return flow downstream. The technical solutions had been discussed on the spot. A compensation turbine would be installed at the foot of the dam to limit unwanted sluice water fluctuations.

- Karlstejn National Nature Reserve

The expert reviewed the great natural assets and geological, paleontological and stratigraphical qualities of the site which is near Prague in the Bohemian karst landscape area.

He mentioned the not inconsiderable impact of mining, even though it takes place outside the perimeter of the protected landscape area (PLA), the shortcomings in terms of physical planning and land use, the question of moving the administrative headquarters and the major efforts being made to reconstitute deciduous forests.

The staff is motivated and competent but often worked in difficult conditions. The reserve benefits from the assistance of NGOs, which are actively involved on the ground.

The expert thought that, in view of the value and state of conservation of the 3 sites, renewal of the European Diploma was justified with conditions and/or recommendations attached, depending on the case.

The Group approved the expert's conclusions. It proposed that the competent Committee should recommend that the Committee of Ministers renew the European Diploma of Protected Areas for 10 years and addressed to it for that purpose the draft Resolution set out in appendices.

c) Berezinsky National Reserve (Belarus)

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Dr Rastislav Jakuš reported on his visit. The reserve is located 80 km from Minsk and protects an ensemble of water courses, lakes, marshes and forests which are virtually intact. The degree of naturalness is extraordinary.

The expert emphasised the high quality of the management plan and raised the issues of zoning, the fragmenting effects of the road crossing the park, tourism, educational game management activities and scientific research.

Mr J.-C. Genot of the Vosges du Nord Regional Nature Park described the cooperation between his park, the reserve and Kampinoski National Park (Poland) which focused *inter alia* on monitoring and aid for developing ecotourism. In view of the value and state of conservation of the site the expert was in favour of renewal.

The Group approved the expert's conclusions. It proposed that the competent Committee should recommend that the Committee of Ministers renew the European Diploma of Protected Areas for 10 years and addressed to it for that purpose the draft Resolution set out in appendices.

d) Berchtesgaden National Park (Germany)

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The expert, Mr Pierre Galland, presented the findings of his visit to the park, one of the oldest in the Alpine range.

He mentioned the progress made in the following areas:

- The placing of the national park under the highest state authorities,
- Transformation of unnatural forests into a more natural structure,
- Control of tourism activities, and
- Stabilisation of the staffing situation in terms of employment.

There is targeted action concerning the bark beetle. The research activities focus on the effects of climate change on alpine ecosystems. He stressed the need to supplement the management plan with sectoral plans, which were indispensable, in particular to limit the various pressures on the park.

He congratulated the entire team and also the State of Bavaria for the work carried out and was in favour of renewing the European Diploma with recommendations attached.

The Group approved the expert's conclusions. It proposed that the competent Committee should recommend that the Committee of Ministers renew the European Diploma of Protected Areas for 10 years and addressed to it for that purpose the draft Resolution set out in appendices.

e) De Wieden Nature Reserve (Netherlands)

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Mr de Haan presented the application from the reserve, which is the property of the Natuurmonumenten association, the managing body. The reserve's international importance is recognised under the Ramsar Convention. It is home to habitats and species listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives. It also plays a central role in the national ecological network.

Its highly diverse landscape consists of peatlands, grasslands and reedy marshes. Combined with the adjacent Weerribben nature reserve, it forms the Weerribben-Wieden National Park. The two reserves are linked by history, culture, the ecosystem and hydrology.

f) Weerribben Nature Reserve

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Mr Eckhart Kuijken presented the findings of his visit, pointing out that part of his brief had been to consider the question of extending the area to include the neighbouring De Wieden reserve.

Weerribben is one of the most important marshland areas in North-West Europe. The current landscape has been shaped by peat extraction and reedbed growing.

The two reserves present common characteristics. The management methods are identical (water level management, cutting etc); the same applies to the threats to the site, particularly those from water-based recreation. He believed that there no grounds for awarding two separate diplomas.

He stressed the high quality of management by the "Staatsbosbeheer" and raised certain issues:

- the barrier effect of the N333 road,
- development of leisure activities,
- wind farm projects, and
- exploitation of reedbeds that would be compatible with the interests of nature conservation.

The Group took note of the application.

The Group approved the expert's conclusions that there were no grounds for awarding two separate diplomas and was in favour of awarding a single diploma. It asked that the European Diploma for Protected Areas be renewed for 5 years for the Weerribben Nature Reserve and that, at the end of that period, a joint management plan be implemented.

6.3 Renewal for areas where no prior expert appraisal was carried out

The Secretariat presented the draft resolutions drawn up by the Secretariat in consultation with the managers of the diploma-holding areas.

It recalled the decision taken in 2003 with regard to visits prior to renewal, following the increase in the number of diploma-holding areas:

"The expertises prior to the renewal of the European Diploma, other than those linked to the first renewal, will not be organised systematically. The necessity of making a new on-the-spot appraisal will be decided in taking into account the current situation of the area concerned and the content of the two last annual reports or other information sources".

The manager of Doñana National Park presented information on the progress made in the last 5 years and pointed out that the national park now came under the regional government of Andalusia.

The Group made a few amendments to the texts presented by the Secretariat and proposed that the competent Committee should recommend that the Committee of Ministers renew the European Diploma of Protected Areas for 10 years for the following areas:

- Boschplaat Nature Reserve (Netherlands)
- Fair Isle National Scenic Area (United Kingdom)
- Scandola Nature Reserve (France)
- Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve (Italy)
- Doñana National Park (Spain)
- Ecrins National Park (France)
- Ipolytarnoc Nature Conservation Area (Hungary)
- Szenas Hills Protected Area (Hungary)
- Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania)

6.4 2008 renewals to be re-examined at the request of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention

Bialowieza National Park (Poland) and Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park (Belarus)

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The Secretariat recalled the decision taken in 2007 not to renew the European Diploma in respect of these two national parks until the conditions, particularly regarding their management plans, had been fulfilled. Some progress had been made since then.

- a) According to the information submitted by the managers of the Bialowieza National Park, the management plan should be finalised by the end of 2010 and an English-language summary of it sent to the Secretariat. Discussion on the extension of the park was ongoing. In the meantime, action was being taken to improve nature protection in Bialowieza forest:
 - preparation of management plans for the reserves located outside the boundaries of the national park,
 - change of status of several nature reserves (10690 ha) outside the park so that they benefited from a stricter protection regime.
- b) Where the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park is concerned, the management plan has been finalised. The Group of specialists had asked in 2009 that a peer-review of the management plan be carried out. Mr Eckhart Kuijken presented the findings. He emphasised the technical difficulties he had faced, as only a Russian version had been available. He found the content fairly satisfactory but voiced concerns, particularly over:
 - the change in zoning,
 - the cutting of old trees,
 - the organisation of hunting,
 - the drying out of peat bogs,
 - the presence of zones of intensive agriculture,
 - the bypass road scheme, and
 - the budget, 75% of which was allocated to setting up tourist infrastructures.

He expressed fears over the unsustainable use of resources and the failure to consider the carrying capacity of the forest as a whole. Economic considerations seemed to take precedence and it is vital for biodiversity conservation projects to be launched. He believed that additional guarantees should be obtained from the government. He also referred to the analysis carried out by Mrs Lyudmila Dimitrova (Bulgaria), who had provided technical assistance for the preparation of the management plan.

The Secretariat informed the Group of its discussions with the officials responsible for UNESCO World Heritage and the MAB Programme, in which the possibility of a joint visit had been mentioned.

The Group congratulated and thanked the expert. It emphasised the considerable European interest of this transfrontier site, thanked the managers for their efforts and instructed the Secretariat to send a questionnaire to the authorities listing the questions raised by the expert.

The Group acknowledged the importance of concerted action with the other conventions/programmes concerned. It was in favour of a joint visit in 2011 to analyse the content of the management plan of the Bialowieza National Park and the implementation of the plan for Belovezhskaya Pushcha, with a view to re-consider the renewal of the European Diploma in 2012.

Pending that visit, the Group proposed that the decision taken in 2007 not to renew the European Diploma be maintained (Appendix 21-Appendix 22).

VII. ANNUAL REPORTS

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a) The Secretariat informed the Group that a compilation of annual reports had been produced. Work had also been undertaken on an overview but, as not all the reports had been received, it had not been possible to complete it. It would be added to as further reports were received and then circulated to the members of the Group. The Secretariat stressed the difficulty of obtaining reports within the desired deadlines and in a form complying with the model plan. It reiterated that the reports should set out only the facts and problems of note as well as the implementation of conditions/recommendations attached to the award or renewal of the Diploma.

Examination of the reports received to date had not revealed any particularly worrying issues, except where Poloniny National Park was concerned.

b) Poloniny National Park (Slovak Republic)

The managers had repeatedly informed the Secretariat of their difficulties in fulfilling the conditions attached to renewal in 2008. Solving those problems was rendered particularly difficult by the multitude of players involved in the park's management, notably forestry administration. The park had limited powers where forestry and hunting management were concerned. In view of these problems, the Group decided to grant one more year in which to fulfil the conditions and invited the Slovak government to take its responsibilities seriously by ensuring that the park had greater powers and that the park's views were taken into account.

If no improvement was observed, an extraordinary visit, as provided for in article 8 of the regulations, might be organised in 2011.

c) Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve (Netherlands)

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The Secretariat recalled that the last renewal (Resolution CM/ResDip(2009) 6) had had the following condition attached:

"With regard to new information received concerning the development of the Lelystad regional airport, despite the condition attached to the award in 1999, any development of the airport must not have any negative impact on the reserve; this is to be confirmed once the full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure, including public consultation, has been finalised, and this should examine in particular:

- all alternative locations with least disturbing effects on the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve and its surroundings;
- all flight routes and heights and their risk of disturbing the fauna making use of the reserve and its surroundings as well as the risk of collision of birds with airplanes;"

The Secretariat informed the Group that the authorities wished to transfer some of Schipol airport's activities to regional airports. On the basis of the EIA's conclusions the Minister of Transport had informed the Secretariat that no flight path over the reserve was envisaged.

Mr Eckhart Kuijken had been instructed to analyse the EIA report and identify the potential adverse effects of the development of Lelystad airport on the reserve.

He pointed out that the analysis of the environmental consequences was accurate. Different options for this one site had been envisaged and it was the MMA option (most environmental friendly alternative) which had been selected. However, he regretted that no effort had been made to identify an alternative site within the EIA framework such as Dronten and that the ADC test (A: alternatives, D: compelling reasons of public importance, C: compensatory measures) had not been carried out. He warned of the cumulative effects of the airport's development and advised of the need to continue research into the disturbance caused to birds.

The Group thanked the expert for his highly detailed analysis and instructed the Secretariat to write to the Minister of Transport to inform him of the expert's conclusions, congratulate him on his choice of the MMA alternative and ask him to carry out the 'ADC test'.

d) The Group proposed that the task of reading the reports be split between the 6 members, each of whom would analyse the reports of the diploma-holding areas in their set of countries. The Secretariat was asked to consider a draft allocation of European Diploma areas to the 6 members of the Group, and advise members accordingly. The Group also thought that more should be made of this activity and that more importance should be attached to the study of reports and the requirements stepped up.

VIII. RENEWALS FORESEEN IN 2011

The Secretariat reported on information in the annual reports pointing to the need, or not, to organise visits prior to renewal. On the basis of this information, the Group decided to organise visits to the following areas:

- Piatra Craiului National Park (first renewal),
- Gran Paradiso National Park (first renewal) combined with Vanoise National Park,
- Bayerischer Wald National Park combined with Sumava National Park, and
- Camargue National Reserve.

It decided not to organise any visits to the following areas:

- Ekenas National Park,
- Seitseminen National Park,
- Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve,
- Siebengebirge Nature Reserve, and
- Peak District National Park.

IX. 2010 ACTIVITIES

The Group agreed to discuss at its next meeting the development of the European Diploma, and how to make better use of it, at its next meeting. It instructed the Secretariat to prepare a discussion paper, drawing on the proposals made at the last Seminar of managers of diploma-holding areas (Thayatal National Park)

X. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The members would be informed in due course.

Annex 1 List of participants

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THURSDAY 4 MARCH

CANDIDATURE AND 2010 RENEWALS

1. Opening of the meeting by the Secretariat

2. Election of the Chair

3. Adoption of the agenda

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4. General information on the terms of reference and on activities presenting an interest for the work of the Group.

Secretariat's report on the decisions of the Committee of Ministers related to the European Diploma of Protected Areas and on the Madrid Conference (26-27 January)

5. Candidature for the European Diploma of Protected Areas

- Sumava National Park (Czech Republic)

T-PVS/DE(2010)2 E

- De Wieden Nature Reserve: the discussion will be held at the same time that the renewal of the European Diploma to the Weerribben Nature Reserve

T-PVS/DE(2010)3 E

6. Renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to 18 awarded areas:

T-PVS/DE(2010)11 E

6.1 Zones in which on-the-spot appraisal has not been carried out by independent expert in 2008 and postponed in 2009. Discussion and proposals to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention

- Oka State Nature Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation)

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- Teberda State Natural Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation)

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6.2 Areas in which an on-the-spot appraisal has been carried out: presentation of appraisal reports, discussion and proposals to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention

- Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore, Massaciuccoli (Italy)

T-PVS/DE(2010)6 F

- Bile Karpaty protected landscape (Czech Republic)

T-PVS/DE(2010)7 F/E

- Podyji National Park (Czech Republic)

T-PVS/DE(2010)7 F/E

- Karlstjen Nature Reserve (Czech Republic)

T-PVS/DE(2010) 7 F/E

- Berezinsky National Rerve (Belarus)

T-PVS/DE(2010) 8 E

- Berchtesgaden National Park (Germany)

T-PVS/DE(2010) 9 E

- Weerribben Nature Reserve (Netherlands)

T-PVS/DE(2010) 10 E

6.3 Zones in which no on-the-spot appraisal has been carried out: presentation by the Secretariat of the draft Resolutions, discussion and proposals to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention

T-PVS/DE (2010)11 E/F

- Boschplaat Nature Reserve (Netherlands)
- Fair Isle National Scenic Area (United Kingdom)
- Scandola Nature Reserve (France)
- Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve (Italy)
- Donana National Park (Spain)
- Ecrins National Park (France)
- Ipolytarnoc Nature Conservation Area (Hungary)
- Szenas Hills Protected area (Hungary)
- Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania)

6.4. 2008 renewals to be re-examined, at the request of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention

- Renewal to the Bialowieża National Park (Poland)

T-PVS/DE(2010)12E

- Renewal to the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park (Belarus), Presentation of the *Peer Review* of the management plan by Mr Eckhart Kuijken

T-PVS/DE(2010)13 E

FRIDAY 5 MARCH

ANNUAL REPORTS AND 2010 ACTIVITIES

1. Annual reports:

- overview of annual reports

T-PVS/DE(2010)14 bil.

- discussion of reports which need special attention and presentation of the report of EIA on the possible negative effects of the development of the Lelystad airport on the natural reserve of Oostvaardersplassen

T-PVS/DE(2010) 15 E

2. Renewals foreseen in 2011 and proposals of the Secretariat concerning on-the-spot appraisals to be undertaken:

First renewal:

- Piatra Craiului National Park (Romania)
- Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy)

Others:

- Vanoise National Park (France)
- Bavarian National Park (Germany)
- Seitseminen National Park (Finland)
- Ekenas National Park (Finland)
- Camargue National Reserve (France)
- Hautes Fagnes Nature Rerve (Belgium)
- Siebengebirge Nature Rerve (Germany)
- Peak District National Park (United Kingdom)

3. 2010 Activities

4. Other business

5. Date of the next meeting

Annex 3

Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Teberda National Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (94) 23 on the award of the European Diploma to the Teberda national biosphere reserve

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 4 and 5 March 2010;

Renews until 5 September 2019 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Teberda National Biosphere Reserve,

Attaches the following 3 conditions to the renewal:

1. The tourist facilities in the protected area near Dombay will be neither extended nor developed. The co-operation between the reserve manager and the company running the tourist facilities on joint technical projects should be supported.
2. It will continue to be prohibited to drop off skiers by helicopter.
3. Any regionalisation or privatisation measures must in no way adversely affect the reserve's present protected status.

Attaches the following 6 recommendations to the renewal:

1. The management plan should be finalised and implemented.
2. Every effort should be made to provide the reserve with the funding required to maintain and, if possible, improve its functioning.
3. Information and education activities should continue to be further developed. The new museum in Teberda should serve as a showcase in keeping with its exceptional heritage value.
4. Scientific research activities should be pursued and the results serving environmental management purposes should be published. The reserve manager should be given the necessary means to be able to facilitate access to scientific facilities and results for foreign scientists and visitors.
5. Co-operation with the nature conservation authorities in Georgia should be pursued and stepped up with a view to creating a transfrontier protected area.

6. The Caucasus polygon, which was officially established in February 2010, should become effective on the ground.

Annex 4**Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Oka National Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma, as amended by Resolution CM/Res/Dip(2008)1 on the revised Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (94) 24 on the award of the European Diploma to the Oka national biosphere reserve;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 4 and 5 March 2010,

Renews until 5 September 2019 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Oka National Biosphere Reserve,

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. Any regionalisation or privatisation measures must not affect the reserve's present protected status.

Attaches the following 5 recommendations to the renewal:

1. To continue the efforts made over the last five years to provide the awarded area with sufficient resources to ensure proper operation of scientific research.
2. To conserve habitats of the desman population the reserve should be extended south-eastwards in the Lopata zone, as far as the river Pra in order to include some typical water meadow habitats not yet represented in the reserve, a number of oxbows and a portion of the Oka river bank. The prime desman habitats currently located outside the diploma-holding area should also be incorporated into the Biosphere Reserve. Furthermore efforts should be made to encourage the handover to the Oka National Biosphere Reserve of the hay meadows located on the left bank of the Pra, to the south of grid squares 169 to 171 in the central forest section.
3. Adequate resources should be provided for the purpose of raising the level of public education and information and develop links with local communities, making full use of the reserve's assets and the large stock of scientific data available. Additional efforts should be made by the authorities with a view to making suitable educational material available, particularly to a young target audience.
4. The measures to regenerate desman habitat in the Oka plain should be continued.
5. Management plan for the reserve should be produced and implemented.

Annex 5

Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli (Italy)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 4 and 5 March 2010;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 15 June 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli;

Attaches the following 10 recommendations to the renewal:

1. Care should be taken to ensure that new activities or developments do not harm either the natural or landscape heritage.
2. The deer- and boar-culling measures should be continued.
3. Consideration should be given to nature conservation in water management, especially when implementing hydrological measures.
4. More active consideration should be given to natural assets in the management of areas outside the nature reserves, especially in forest and agricultural areas.
5. The implementation of measures to minimise the negative impact on Massaciuccoli Lake, especially pollution caused by agriculture, should be speeded up and further efforts made to improve the quality of the lake's water.
6. The measures to better protect coastal dunes and to raise awareness of their importance should be continued and strengthened.
7. The efforts to combat exotic alien species should be continued.
8. Use should be made of every opportunity to improve wildlife crossing corridors under or over roads and railways.
9. Noise pollution in recreation areas should be minimised.
10. The process of relocating craft activities to the area around Massaciuccoli Lake should be completed.

ANNEX 6**Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area (Czech Republic)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (2000) 13 on the award of the European Diploma to the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area;

Taking into consideration the expert's report as presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists for the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 4 and 5 March 2010;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 20 June 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area;

Attaches the following 2 conditions to the renewal:

1. Obtain approval of the protected area's management plan by the Ministry of Agriculture in order to secure derogations from farming legislation needed to attain the objectives set.
2. Guarantee access to the Radejov hunting reserve (inter alia by removing the gate installed on the road) and eliminate non-indigenous game species, namely mouflon and fallow deer, control the pressure exerted by game so that the forest may regenerate, draw up a hunting plan in conjunction with the administration of the protected area, and finally refrain from building any new facilities (eg hunting lodge); this condition should be fulfilled by 2012.

Attaches to the renewal the following 5 recommendations:

1. Reassess and guarantee the requisite financial and human resources to ensure implementation of the management plan.
2. Arrive at a concerted type of agricultural management promoting the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area through close cooperation among the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment, the departments active in situ (agriculture, forestry and Bílé Karpaty departments) as well as the local authorities and other bodies involved.
3. Eliminate non-indigenous species, namely mouflon and fallow deer, from the nature reserves and the other strictly protected areas and further develop consultation between the ministries of environment and agriculture in order to control the big game populations.
4. Continue the current forestry policy of conversion to hardwood stands and encourage the natural regeneration of existing hardwood forests.

5. The European Diploma should be more visibly associated with the image of the Bílé Karpaty (for example, in the information centre, on publications and on the website).

Annex 7**Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Podyjí National Park (Czech Republic)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma as amended by Resolution CM/Res/Dip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (2000) 14 on the award of the European Diploma to the Podyjí National Park;

Taking into consideration the expert's report as presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists for the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 4 and 5 March 2010;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 20 June 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Podyjí National Park;

Attaches the following 8 recommendations to the renewal:

1. Ensure, in collaboration with the operator of the hydro-electric power station at Vranov, that the negative amplitudes in the flow regime from the dam sluices are reduced and that a minimum residual flow-rate is guaranteed.
2. Secure the adoption and implementation of the management plan for the period 2010-2019.
3. Control the development of leisure activities, and in particular avoid the use of the river Dyje for water sports.
4. Intensify the cooperation with the Thayatal National Park to adapt the fishing regulations within the national parks and reduce negative effects through fishery in the core zones.
5. Develop relations with municipalities and the local community in order to encourage sustainable management of their land within the national park in line with the principles and rules laid down in the management plan.
6. Pursue and improve the management of agricultural areas, particularly in the buffer zones.
7. Grant funding to public authorities for water supply and purification within the park's perimeter.
8. Undertake research on the influence of the artificial barriers to the ecosystem of the Dyje River. Mitigation measures on the riparian ecosystems should be adopted.

ANNEX 8

Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Karlštejn National Nature Reserve (Czech Republic)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (2000) 15 on the award of the European Diploma to the Karlštejn National Nature Reserve;

Taking into consideration the expert's report as presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists for the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 4 and 5 March 2010;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 20 June 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Karlštejn National Nature Reserve;

Attaches the following 6 recommendations to the renewal:

1. Continue the restoration of non-forested habitats of steppe forests and xerophilous calcareous grasslands through appropriate management; conclude contractual agreements, making funding available, with the goatherds and/or shepherds to in order guarantee grazing, and thereby maintenance, in the long term.
2. Continue the restoration of the broad-leaved forests, gradually eliminating conifer plantations; in the interests of allowing natural regeneration, avoid reintroducing non-native game species such as mouflon or fallow deer.
3. Make it compulsory to draw up land use plans (spatial development) and explore the possibility of reinforcing the special legal competences of the reserve staff and other authorities responsible for nature conservation; also stimulate the establishment of regular consultation procedures with relevant local and regional authorities, scientists and NGOs.
4. Improve signposting, including by translating the texts into English and possibly into German and by displaying the European Diploma logo on the signs.
5. Stimulate the development of high-quality visitors' centres and organise environmental education for the public at large; encourage local authorities to disseminate information on the merits of the nature reserve and its position in Europe in appropriate places (such as railway stations, camping sites, municipal halls, museums etc).
6. Ensure that the necessary budgets and resources are available for the manifold functions and operational tasks of the reserve's staff, including administration, research, surveillance, education and training and habitat management

Annex 9

Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve (Belarus)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008) 1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (95) 19 concerning the award of the European Diploma to the Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve;

Taking into consideration the expert's report as presented at the meeting of the Group of specialists for the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 4 and 5 March 2010;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 11 September 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. The protection regime and ownership of the land should be kept unchanged.

Attaches the following 5 recommendations to the renewal:

1. Sufficient resources need to be generated both by the Government and by the Reserve – to protect effectively the biodiversity resources and to continue scientific research. In addition to extra-budgetary sources of income, other sources should be tapped especially in cooperation with NGOs such as Okhova Ptushak Beloarusi - Belorussian BirdLife and WWF.
2. Further efforts should be taken to prevent negative effects of fragmentation of the Reserve by the M 3 road, and to preserve the integrity of the core zone.
3. Further study of the dynamics of the mammal populations, animal movements and fauna migration between the core and the buffer zones should be carried out – to monitor the current situation affected by hunting and manage the populations accordingly.
4. Continue with the efforts between the appropriate ministries to ensure that the development of tourism is well controlled.
5. In order to mitigate possible risks and hazards connected with climatic changes and possible large-scale disturbances on the reserve, the study program focused on these topics should be carried out.

Annex 10

Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Berchtesgaden National Park (Germany)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (90) 14 on the award of the European Diploma to the Berchtesgaden National Park in category A;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 4 and 5 March 2010;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 18 June 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Berchtesgaden National Park;

Makes the renewal subject to the following 9 recommendations:

1. Prepare and adopt by 2012 a new management plan including quantitative objectives to be reached during the next period, and to this effect provide the necessary financial and human resources.
2. Include in the plan provision for continuing a comprehensive long term research programme, in close collaboration with other alpine protected areas and other relevant networks.
3. Prepare sectoral plans for activities and resource use compatible with conservation objectives, as integrated parts of the new management plan and taking into account the background of climate change. Special attention should be placed on
 - a. military activities;
 - b. recreation and promotion of nature tourism, in particular in cooperation with the mountain guide organization; provide specific training courses for the guides;
 - c. visitor infrastructures, trail marking, mountain huts usage and maintenance;
 - d. mountain summer grazing, including water supply; and
 - e. water resources management taking into account the needs of the surrounding communities.
4. Pursue consequently the transformation of spruce forests in mixed forests until the integration of the intervention zone into the core area can be done.
5. Continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle development, but without enlarging the bark beetle management zone, and to maintain wildlife pressure to an acceptable level.

6. Anticipate and foster the natural return of large carnivores in the park area and communicate about the benefits it may bring; develop a strategy and an action plan to deal with this issue, including cattle protection measures and shepherds training.
7. Pursue the collaboration with the Austrian administration (Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung) and the Nature Park, develop synergies with the Berchtesgadener Alps Biosphere Reserve, and within the Natura 2000 network; promote exchanges of best management practices with other alpine protected areas.
8. Build and equip the park centre "Haus der Berge"; secure the personal resources to fully use its potential for information, as education centre and for promotion of the park's goods and services.
9. Further promote the development of the public transportation system within the park and adjacent protected territories. Develop a strategy to reduce the private vehicle traffic to and within the park.

Annex 11

Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Weerribben Nature Reserve (the Netherlands) and to its extension to the De Wieden Nature Reserve

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (95) 20 granting the European Diploma to the Weerribben Nature Reserve;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 4 and 5 March 2010;

Taking note of the application presented by the Government of The Netherlands on the De Wieden Nature Reserve;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 11 September 2015 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Weerribben Nature Reserve;

Resolves to combine the Weerribben and De Wieden as a single European Diploma site;

Makes the renewal subject to the following condition:

1. In view of the important enlargement of the Diploma area, the joint management plan will be implemented, within the framework of the National Park, within 5 years ;

Makes the renewal subject to the following 7 recommendations:

1. Continue the efforts for establishing a broader physical connection of the Weerribben and the Wieden reserves by further transforming the Wetering polders into marshland or extensive meadows; also extend the connection along the wet axis between the Rottige Meente and Staphorster Veld.
2. Consider modifying the road N333 crossing the corridor between both reserves to mitigate its barrier effect.
3. Translate the 'visitors management plan' into strict guidelines and binding regulations for all authorities and stakeholders concerned; persist in the permanent monitoring of recreation in order to collect relevant data for future impact assessments on nature.
4. Carefully investigate potential alternatives for reducing the recreational pressure caused by intensive boating on the Kalenberger Gracht and related facilities; also control if the

designated tranquillity of rest zones are respected by the public.

5. Continue the processes to change traditionally commercial reeds exploitations towards ecologically sound and sustainable reeds management (in line with recommendation 6 of 2005).
6. Develop up-to-date regulations concerning fisheries (zoning, activities and tools) that are compatible with the core nature conservation function of the reserve, in line with the Natura 2000 requirements; also ensure the development of a fish stock management plan covering all species.
7. Ensure the availability of habitats for breeding, foraging and resting of bird species (especially the red listed *Circus aeruginosus* and *Ardea purpurea*), notably the feeding grounds between the Weerribben reserve and Staphorster Veld; ensure that this open area becomes fully safeguarded from negative developments, such as intensification of agriculture and lowering of polder water levels, establishment of windfarms, extension of industry, active recreation or settlements.

Annex 12

Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Boschplaat Nature Reserve (the Netherlands)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (70) 25 on the award of the European Diploma to the Boschplaat Nature Reserve;

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of specialists of the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 30 June 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Boschplaat Nature Reserve;

Makes the renewal subject to the following 5 recommendations:

1. Sufficient financial resources need to be available on an ongoing basis in order to safeguard the interests of the Boschplaat's natural environment, especially monitoring, staff, public relations and communication.
2. Measures should be taken to restore the original dynamics in the eastern part of the reserve. The present function of the "Stuifdijk" (artificial sand dike) should be taken in consideration. New insights based on recent scientific research on restoring natural dynamics should be included in the management plan, including the consequences of the current rise in sea levels.
3. Communication with all those involved in the measures to be taken (which are still being contested locally) requires maximum attention and the deployment of resources.
4. Annual shipping incidents on the course of navigation in the North Sea to the north of the Boschplaat form a reason for concern for both people and the natural environment. There should be better guarantees of safety with regard to the transport of hazardous substances and oil.
5. The number of motorised vehicles on the beach should be reduced.

Annex 13**Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Fair Isle National Scenic Area (United Kingdom)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008) 1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (85) 14 on the award of the European Diploma to the Fair Isle National Scenic Area;

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of specialists of the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention

Renews until 21 September 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Fair Isle National Scenic Area;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. In recognition of the internationally important seabird colonies and associated marine environment currently experiencing severe pressure, the United Kingdom and the Scottish Governments should use the powers invested in them through the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 to implement the marine protected area which has been called for in successive Diploma renewals. A new Marine Protected Area should be in line with the Fair Isle Marine Action Plan.

Attaches the following 2 recommendations to the renewal:

1. The needs and aspirations of the local community as detailed in the FIMP should be fully taken into account as well as the fragile socio-economic well being.
2. All efforts should be made to solve the problem of the disposal of plastic generally and agricultural baling plastic in particular.

Annex 14

Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Scandola Nature Reserve (France)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (85) 11 on the award of the European Diploma to the Scandola Nature Reserve in category A;

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of specialists of the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 21 September 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Scandola Nature Reserve;

Attaches the following 2 conditions to the renewal:

1. Undertake between now and 2012 the planned extension of the marine part of the Scandola Nature Reserve, which should mean a significant enlargement of the site and more specifically of the integral section of the reserve. This project should be included in the works done in the framework of the implementation of the Law 2006 on the national parks, natural marine parks and natural regional parks and/or thoughts carried out within the regional analysis of Natura 2000 marine sites. In the meantime, take steps to reduce the impact of mooring on the *Posidonia* beds.
2. Introduce stricter rules in order to better control tourism-related activities, especially nautical activities, which cause major disturbance to species, in particular the fish species and the osprey, and to anticipate the impacts of new economic activities. Impose an immediate ban on jet skiing in the reserve, whether supervised or unsupervised.

Attaches the following 7 recommendations to the renewal:

1. Complete by end 2011 at the latest and implement as soon as possible the new management plan and include recommendations and objectives for effective monitoring of new, emerging and existing activities.
2. Continue the efforts already made in order to provide the manager with the necessary funds to manage the site in an ambitious manner commensurate with its reputation and outstanding character; increase the operating budget and the scientific research budget.
3. Move towards an increase of the Barnier tax (the revenues from which are used to finance the management of protected marine sites) through a review of the tax: that might mean

extending it to everyone who visits the site, increasing the amount of the tax, changing the way it is collected and/or monitoring the number of visitors carried by boat trip operators;

4. Continue to draw on the work of the scientific committee, in order to manage the site in a effective way; continue to ensure that the reserve serves as a reference point by including it in international programmes;
5. Deepen and widen the research, especially on climate change which has an impact on animal communities and ecosystems, both marine and terrestrial: publish the methods and findings in order to contribute to provide solutions to environmental problems in the Mediterranean;
6. Allow only fishing with highly selective gear and introduce medium- or long-term bans on trammel nets in areas populated by deep-water stands of *Cystoseira* and other species, at depths of between 30 and 90 metres and any other fishing gear (present or future) that has an unsustainable impact on marine ecosystems.
7. Continue and intensify the awareness among boat trip operators of the need to respect the environment in the Scandola reserve; any operators which fail to do so stated in a given time should not be allowed into the integral section of the reserve.

Annex 15

Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve (Italy)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma as amended by Resolution CM/RedDip(2008)1 on the regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (85) 12 on the award of the European Diploma to the Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve;

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of specialists of the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 21 September 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve;

Attaches the following 8 recommendations to the renewal:

1. The management plan for the Casentino Forests National Park should be implemented and the cooperation with the National park should be reinforced in order to coordinate all the activities especially in the field of the research.
2. The nature reserve should continue to stand out as the reference for nature protection in the region.
3. Care should be taken to ensure that the Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve and the adjacent biogenetic reserves continue to be managed as a cohesive whole.
4. Special attention should continue to be given to protecting Monte Falco in order to avoid, in particular, the construction of any new ski slopes.
5. The necessary funding should be provided in order to maintain the very high standard of scientific research.
6. Any further damage in the buffer zone such as the laying of new roads or significant improvement work on the ski slopes should be avoided.
7. The number of visits should not be increased and they should be restricted to researchers and people with a genuine interest in the site.
8. The possibility of extension of the European Diploma to the biogenetic reserves should be analysed.

Annex 16**Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Doñana National Park (Spain)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (95) 13 concerning the award of the European Diploma to the Doñana National Park;

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of specialists of the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 21 September 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Doñana National Park;

Attaches the following 2 conditions to the renewal:

1. The Spanish authorities should continue to take all necessary measures to ensure that the Port of Seville development projects have no significant environmental impacts on the Doñana ecosystems. Any decision should be conditioned by the results of a complementary study to the EIA report.
2. The Andalusian Government, responsible for management of the National Park and also for water management will ensure the high quality of water entering the National Park and eliminate practices of illegal extraction of groundwater. With a view to the Water Framework Directive, it should monitor the status of the aquifer underlying the National Park and surrounding lands, the extent of groundwater extraction and the water's quality.

Attaches the following 7 recommendations to the renewal:

1. All efforts should be made to restore the good ecological state of the river at the level of its catchment (river basin or water basin), in the sense of the Water Framework Directive. All appropriate measures should be taken in order to make water use and other activities, especially agricultural developments, in this catchment (basin) compatible with this aim.
2. A specific plan of Emergency for the Natural Space of Doñana should be prepared and a map of natural risks should be realised.
3. The implementation of the Action plans for the conservation of the flagship species, in particular Iberian lynx and Imperial eagle, should be actively pursued; new action plans for other threatened species should be drawn up if needed.

4. Concerning the Port of Seville development projects, the Spanish authorities should search for the best international scientific expertise to advise on ameliorating the effects of development and also work closely with the relevant international conventions and bodies such as the Bern Convention, the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention, the European Commission and the European Environment Agency.
5. The updating of the management plan should be started in 2011.
6. The extension of the Doñana 2005 Project to riparian vegetation, correcting erosion problems or extending its scope to adjacent areas of agricultural marsh should be undertaken.
7. The possibility of developing cooperation with others European Diploma sites which are deltas (Camargue National Reserve, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve) should be explored.

Annex 17**Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Ecrins National Park (France)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (90) 15 awarding the European Diploma to the Ecrins National Park;

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of specialists of the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 17 July 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Ecrins National Park;

Attaches the following 10 recommendations to the renewal:

1. Partnerships with the park's local authorities, intermunicipal bodies and local area plans should be strengthened in order to develop the necessary synergies for implementing a model policy for preserving the heritage with a view to sustainable development.
2. The mechanisms for the continuous reporting, cataloguing and dissemination of heritage data should be improved, with particular attention being paid to cultural data and data relating to local know-how and any expertise developed by the park and its partners under the charter should be reported.
3. The park's role as an environmental watchdog should be established, within networks of institutional partners, in response to the need to permanently monitor changes associated with global warming.
4. Further efforts should be made, in association with local players, to develop partnerships, emphasising the methodological support, evaluation and technical support tasks of the national park, with a view to ensuring that activities are environmentally integrated.
5. Closer partnerships should be forged with the national forestry department, the local forestry authorities and the managers of privately-owned forest (CRPF) to encourage more effective information sharing and the practice of exemplary multifunctional forestry management.
6. Efforts should be made to improve existing methods and tools for monitoring the physiognomy of the local area and awareness-raising tools, notably with a view to identifying areas of future work and alerting local players to major changes in the landscape.

7. Close attention should be paid to the development of various forms of leisure and sporting activities, for example through better monitoring of visitor numbers and by encouraging users to adopt practices that are more respectful of species and habitats.
8. Efforts should be made to monitor motorised and non-motorised flights over the core section of the park and to control the need for helicopter transport by holding discussions with mountain stockbreeders, owners and operators of mountain huts about the need to reduce the impact on species and nature in the areas concerned.
9. In connection with the guidance, co-operation and solidarity measures geared towards rural communities in order to better reconcile the return of major predators with stock-keeping activities should be continued.
10. The Charter should be finalised and then, the conventions and programmes adopted under the Charter should be periodically assessed and adjustments made if necessary.

Annex 18

Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Ipolytarnóc Protected Area (Hungary)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (95) 17 on the award of the European Diploma to the Ipolytarnóc Protected Area;

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of specialists of the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 11 September 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Ipolytarnóc Protected Area;

Attaches the following 5 recommendations to the renewal:

1. Recognising the site's high potential for further discoveries the geological interest – especially the palaeontological excavations – research should continue. All appropriate measures should be taken to preserve and, if possible, exhibit the natural resources. The results of scientific research should be made publicly available.
2. The Site should take an active role in the management of the Slovak-Hungarian trans-boundary Novohrad-Ngrd Geopark in order to preserve and interpret the natural assets of the involved region, and to become a focal, multilingual informative point for geotourism.
3. The entrance to the protected area should have an appropriate gateway displaying information in order to control tourism within the site and the buffer zone. The buildings along the geological trail should be further integrated into the landscape. The power line that runs between the village and the Visitor Centre should be replaced with an underground cable.
4. Gradual replacement of the exotic trees with indigenous species should be continued, by assisting the natural succession process, through ecologically sensitive land management practices; the control of the game - causing considerable damage in the vegetation and protected animal species - should be continued.
5. The balance between open spaces and wooded areas on the western side of the conservation area, close to the nearby settlement, should be maintained to preserve the mosaic structure of the landscapes there.

Annex 19

Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Szénás Hills Protected Area (Hungary)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (95) 18 on the award of the European Diploma to the Szénás Hills Protected Area;

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of specialists of the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 11 September 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Szénás Hills Protected Area;

Attaches the following 8 recommendations to the renewal:

1. The management of the Area should be executed by the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company in close cooperation. The activities of the finished LIFE Program, such as the conversion of black pine forests, reduction of game populations, visitor management, guarding and monitoring should be continued jointly. The area should be provided with human and financial resources commensurate with the site's national and European importance.
2. Inside and near the Area, permission should be given only for such game population management operations that are strictly consonant with the nature conservation objectives assigned to the area, particularly as regards eradication of the moufflon and reduction of the populations of large herbivores to a level compatible with the preservation of the dolomitic grasslands and natural woodlands; these population control operations should be planned on the basis of accurate population monitoring.
3. The fence enclosing the European Diploma Holding Area must be maintained in proper condition in order to prevent technical sport activities encroaching, and also to raise the effectiveness of game population regulation.
4. Visitor reception capacity should be improved by organising guided tours outside the most sensitive zones, to make the public more aware of the importance of preserving the habitats in the area. Measures should be taken to stop motor crossing on the area. The visitor centre at Pilisszentivan should be restored and modernized.
5. Regulations must be worked out for horse-riding paths in the area. Also a mountain bike trail should be designated, so as to avoid the fenced and strictly protected area.

6. The protected landscape status of the two areas adjoining the special protection area, which were also the subject of the Diploma application, should be maintained to keep them functioning properly as buffer zones. Building operations are not allowed.
7. Urbanization pressure must be handled properly. Any new Development Plans of Nagykovácsi, Pilisszentiván and Piliscsaba should be examined with special attention.
8. Cooperation with volunteers (schools, non-government organisations, local governments, scouts) must be continued, as well as with local residents, police and civil guards.

Annex 20

Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma as amended by Resolution (98) 29 on the regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (2000) 12 on the award of the European Diploma to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve;

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of specialists of the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Taking into account the Recommendation No. 111 (2004) of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, adopted on 3 December 2004, on the proposed navigable waterway through the Bystroe Estuary (Danube Delta, Ukraine)

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Renews until 20 June 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve;

Attaches the following 12 recommendations to the renewal:

1. The process of coordinating the ecological management of the delta system with the three countries concerned – Moldova, Romania and Ukraine – should be continued and strengthened and the possibility of establishing a cross-border protected area should be considered In the framework of the trilateral agreement signed by the three countries concerned under the auspices of the CoE.
2. The possibility to reactivate the cooperation between others European Diploma sites which are deltas (Camargue National Reserve, Doñana National Park) should be explored.
3. The monitoring of the ecological services and of the socio-economic activities performed in the reserve (fishing, hunting, shipping, agriculture, forestry, logging, tourism), should be strengthened, in relation with the carrying capacity of the natural ecosystems and the value of the reserve. Special attention should be paid to the shipping activities (movement of boats and over speeding) as well as to illegal fishing and hunting.
4. Potential external threats should be continually monitored, especially the likely adverse transboundary impacts on the ecosystem of the whole Delta of the works related to the Bystroe canal in the Ukrainian sector.

5. The opportunity to ban hunting, or to manage hunting on a demonstrably sustainable basis, in the DDBR (especially in the most sensitive areas) should be analysed.
6. A system for a better management of natural fisheries resources should be explored, for the benefit of the local people, in order to reduce the categories and number of intermediary actors/stakeholders; the fish resources should be managed by the DDBR Authority.
7. Information concerning access of boats to vulnerable parts of the reserve should be advertised better.
8. Noting that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure is in operation, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve authority should continue to bring technical and financial assistance to the local populations, municipalities and private operators in different fields (land planning, water supplies, sewage treatment) and for organising and developing activities compatible with the aims of the reserve such as ecotourism, bird watching, handicraft.
9. The restoration programme of the existing buildings should be continued, using traditional materials and natural local products; the cultural values of the reserve, especially the different ethnic roots of the populations should be enhanced with the engineering and technical input of specialized institutes.
10. An external review and assessment of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve's Conservation Strategy (for example, priorities, management objectives, operational objectives and financial requirement) should be organised in 2010, ten years after its declaration, with the support of the international expertise.
11. The adequate necessary funding should be provided in order to improve the capacities / performance of the DDBR authority. A feasibility study on a financial mechanism to be put in place should be undertaken so that all commercial activities and uses (not only tourism activity) contribute to the financing of the reserve.
12. The adoption of the legal framework (master plan, law on the Danube Delta, Law on the Protected Areas) should be accelerated.

Annex 21

Draft Resolution on the non-renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Białowieża National Park (Poland)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe;

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (97) 20 on the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to Białowieża National Park (Poland);

Taking into consideration the expert's report submitted to the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas at its meeting on 8 and 9 February 2007;

Having regard to the proposals to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

Taking into consideration the encouraging information of the representative of the national park, but due to lack of sufficient guarantee from the government,

Decides not to renew the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to Białowieża National Park until the following conditions have been satisfied:

- a peer-reviewed ten-year management plan for the national park should be drawn up by the end of 2009;
- all primeval forest stands and functional corridors linking the various reserves should be designated as part of the Białowieża forest and they should be afforded full protection;

Also recommends that:

1. national park regulations and forest management rules be revised to require districts (counties) located within the state forest and the Voivodship Nature Conservation Officer to work with national park management, the scientific council and independent experts, and that public consultation be undertaken in relation to planned activities in all protected areas;
2. existing forestry policy and practices be reviewed with a view to maximising biodiversity outside protected areas as well by maintaining the ban on cutting down old trees (more than 100 years old) and significantly increasing the volume of dead wood by ceasing to market wood from sanitation felling and protected reserves; that all data with regard to the characteristics of trees felled within the Białowieża forest complex (species, age, amount of sanitation felling and commercial exploitation) be communicated to the Council of Europe every year and analysed, in order to improve conservation measures;
3. education and training activities be stepped up so as to support the redistribution of jobs, with a shift away from the forestry sector towards the conservation and sustainable eco-tourism sector, thereby increasing the number of interesting local jobs for young people;
4. tourist access to fully protected areas be restricted to pre-2006 levels; this means critically reviewing the use of the existing narrow-gauge railway line, including rebuilt "railway stations", in accordance with the national park's admission capacity; kayaking and other aquatic leisure activities on the Narewka and Hwoźna rivers should remain strictly prohibited;

5. town planning be critically reviewed with a view to preventing the disappearance (as a result of urbanisation) of areas serving as buffer zones for the park and of historic rural landscapes, and guarding against the negative impact of any increase in cross-border motor vehicle traffic within the national park;
6. legislative decisions be taken to give Białowieża National Park authorities the necessary rights and resources to manage the free movement of European bison throughout the Białowieża forest, and that efforts be made to co-operate with a view to opening a large mammal corridor in the border fence between Poland and Belarus, inside the world heritage site;
7. a bilateral conservation agreement between the competent Polish and Belarus ministries be ratified by the end of 2008, confirming the necessary principles for cross-border co-operation between the Białowieża and Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Parks with regard to priorities for research, management, tourism and education, coupled with ecologically healthy forest management, bearing in mind the “Forest of Hope” appeal, the conclusions of the 2000 Kamenyuki Conference and the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

Annex 22

Draft Resolution on the non-renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park (Belarus)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe;

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (97) 23 on the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park (Belarus);

Taking into consideration the expert's report submitted to the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas at its meeting on 8 and 9 February 2007;

Taking into consideration the expert's report regarding the management plan submitted to the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas at its meeting on 2 and 3 March 2009;

Recognising the progress made in establishing the management plan and having it translated into English;

Regretting the lack of time to study the management plan and analyse whether the conditions have been met;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention,

Decides not to renew the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park until the following condition has been satisfied: that the prepared management plan be peer-reviewed;

Also recommends that:

1. existing forestry policy and practices be reviewed with a view to maximising biodiversity, in particular by considering a ban on felling old trees and providing for a significant increase in the volume of dead wood in all old-growth forest stands;
2. monitoring and applied research on the ecology of old-growth forests and the external impact of the drying out of peat-bogs and marshes be intensified and co-ordinated with a view to integrated management and habitat restoration;
3. core areas of the park's wilderness protection zone be further enlarged, that functional ecological corridors be established between fragments of old-growth forest and that the policy of acquiring ecologically sensitive marshes and peat-bogs around the park be stepped up;
4. research be undertaken regarding the possibility of removing parts of the artificial barrier inside the main areas (world heritage sites), so that bison and other large mammals have total freedom to spread out beyond the barriers;
5. efforts to monitor compliance with the total hunting ban inside the national park (except for the culling of sick herbivores) be stepped up, and that wolves be afforded full protection; tally figures should be submitted for the Shereshevo hunting reserve;
6. a critical study be undertaken regarding the hydrological and ecological impact of lake deepening on features of natural interest, and that the advisability of fishing (and restocking) be

reviewed; in addition, disturbances incompatible with the zone resulting from active water sports (such as water skiing) should be strictly avoided;

7. an environmental impact assessment be carried out in respect of mass tourism in the very heart of the national park, including a reappraisal of the boundaries, location and zoning of “Father Frost’s Manor”;
8. a bilateral conservation agreement between the competent Polish and Belarus ministries be ratified by the end of 2008, confirming the necessary principles and budgets for cross-border co-operation between the Białowieża and Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Parks with regard to priorities for research, management, tourism and education, coupled with ecologically healthy forest management, bearing in mind the “Forest of Hope” appeal, the conclusions of the 2000 Kamenyuki Conference and the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.