

Strasbourg, 23 March 2012
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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

32nd meeting
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2012

Specific Site - File open

**Akamas peninsula
(Cyprus)**

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Cyprus*

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REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT



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23rd March, 2012

URGENT – VIA EMAIL

Mrs. Ivana d' Alessandro
Secretary of the Bern Convention
Council of Europe
Biological Diversity Unit
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Dear Mrs. d' Alessandro,

FILE OPEN UNDER THE BERN CONVENTION – AKAMAS PENINSULA (CYPRUS)

We sincerely regret our absence from the meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention held between the 29th of November and the 2nd of December, 2011 but unfortunately we were not able to attend due to other commitments.

That said we would like to comment on the points of discussion summarized in your letter dated 18/01/2012 as follows:

- Regarding the reference of the representative of Terra Cypria about the inadequate designation of the Akamas area, as the competent authority dealing with this issue we would like to mention our disagreement towards this claim. The same applies for the claim of inadequate designation of “Polis-Gialia” and the protection of the marine turtles. We kindly remind the Committee that the area has the highest density of nesting, even higher than the strictly protected areas of Lara and Toxeftra. With regards to the developments surrounding the area, the competent authorities are in close collaboration and all procedures are followed in the procedures of granting building permits.
- Furthermore, we would like to state our disagreement towards the claim of the Birdlife representative. Cyprus has designated large SPAs for birds and has put maximum effort to ensure their protection.

On the subject of the Commission’s procedure regarding the Akamas peninsula, we have provided them with relevant scientific data and have made a commitment to provide more by the end of June. We are more than willing to present you with a full scientific package when all the information has been gathered.

Again we would like to emphasize our determination to continue working towards our common goal of nature conservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Despo Zavrou'.

Despo Zavrou
for Director