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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

33rd meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2013

Possible file

**THREAT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEAL
(*MONACHUS MONACHUS*)
IN TURKEY**

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT

*Document prepared by
The Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey*

- Update October 2013 -

GOVERNMENT REPORT ON

“Turkey: threat to the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*)”

At last Standing Committee Meeting (27-30 Nov.2013), the delegate of Turkey stated that the issue has been brought to National Courts and added that there will be no construction during the court reaches a final decision.

On the other hand, two letters from the Bern Convention Secretariat and Middle East Technical University were received by the Ministry on initiated construction of a dock in the framework of the Project. After receiving this information, the experts from local branch of the Ministry went to the Project area to prepare an official report on the current situation. In the light of this report and past Environmental Impact Assessment Report, the local branch of the Ministry stopped the construction for five months.

Underlining again that The Turkish Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs will be monitoring all progress and send all relevant information to the Secretariat as soon as the Turkish Justice Authorities reaches a final decision and the Ministry may take additional steps as soon as possible.

- Update for the Bureau meeting (September 2013) -

GOVERNMENT REPORT ON

“Turkey: threat to the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*)”

At last Standing Committee Meeting (27-30 Nov.2013), the delegate of Turkey stated that the issue has been brought to National Courts, there will be no construction during the court reaches to a final decision and the Ministry will be monitoring the developments and will inform the Secretariat as soon as possible.

On the other hand, two letters from the Bern Convention Secretariat and Middle East Technical University were received by the Ministry on initiated construction of the Project. After receiving this information, the experts from local branch of the Ministry went to the Project area to prepare an official report on the valid situation. The report is under inspection now and the Ministry will respond as soon as the inspection of the report finalized.

Underlining again that The Turkish Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs will be monitoring all progress and send all relevant information to the Secretariat as soon as the Turkish Justice Authorities reaches a final decision, and the Ministry may take additional steps as soon as possible.

- Update for the Bureau meeting (April 2013) -

GOVERNMENT REPORT ON

“Turkey: threat to the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*)”

As it was raised by Middle East Technical University (METU) in the complaint form, there was a “re-construction of a marine terminal and construction of a road Project” in Yeşilovacık. The missing point in that complaint was that: all **EIA procedures** for the Project were held, the **EIA report** was finalized and an “**ecosystem evaluation report**” was conducted by three Professors from Ankara University.

In addition, after the meeting of sub-committee on Monk Seals were held within the Ministry in 27 September 2012, two members (METU and SAD-AFAG) decided to take this issue to the Turkish Courts.

Underlining that, as this file is also under consideration of a Turkish National Court, it will not be possible to make any further comments on this issue as soon as the court reaches a final decision.

So, The Turkish Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs will be monitoring all progress and send all relevant information to the Secretariat as soon as the Turkish Justice Authorities reaches a final decision.