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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

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**MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION  
BETWEEN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE,  
AND THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

*Document prepared by  
the Directorate of Democratic Governance and  
the European Environment Agency*

## **MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

The Council of Europe (CoE) and the European Environment Agency (EEA),

*Noting* that their Memorandum of Co-operation signed on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2001 has proved to be a catalyst for intensifying and streamlining cooperation between the two organisations in the past fifteen years;

*Noting* that their collaboration is mutually advantageous and complementary and allows both organisations to have a greater reach and a geographical and thematic extension of their activities;

*Recalling* that their joint work supports the alignment of standards, procedures and tools between the EU's Natura 2000 Network, in which EEA supports the European Commission, and the Council of Europe's Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest under the Bern Convention and thus contributes to the establishment of a coherent network of protected sites at pan-European level;

*Stressing* that their joint efforts further contribute to harmonise the delivery of biodiversity related information throughout the European continent using the EIONET and its Reportnet for supporting and improving biodiversity data flows, in a global context as well as supporting the Streamlining European biodiversity indicators 2020 (SEBI) process and producing reports on the state of biodiversity at pan-European level Europe;

*Confirming* that the current Memorandum of Co-operation supersedes and replaces the Memorandum of Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Environment Agency signed on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2001;

Agree as follow:

### **Subject of the MoC**

**Article 1** – The purpose of this Memorandum of Co-operation is to elaborate on the co-operation between CoE and EEA. It focuses specifically on cooperation in the area of synergies between the EU's Natura 2000 Network, in which EEA supports the European Commission, and the Council of Europe's (Bern Convention) Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.

### **Principles of the cooperation**

**Article 2** – Co-operation between the CoE and EEA shall be based on the principles of reciprocity and work sharing. If necessary, an annual meeting will be held between CoE and EEA to follow up on this memorandum and to establish and review a workplan to implement the memorandum.

**Article 3** – The co-operation between the CoE and EEA shall be based on their respective work programmes and be focused on ensuring mutual compatibility of data, information and approaches for measurement, analysis and assessment in the environmental field, to help fully address both the natural and socio-economic dimensions, and avoid duplication of activities. The two organisations shall work in consultation to formulate environmental information requirements, reports, guidelines, action plans, etc.

**Article 4** – The CoE will provide the results of its work programmes and activities, in the context of their action in European countries beyond the European Union.

**Article 5** – The EEA will provide the results of its work programmes, in the context of the work with the knowledgebase for protected areas and Natura 2000 in EIONET and the EU area.

### **Resources and Work Programmes**

**Article 6** – The objectives and principles outlined above on which EEA-CoE co-operation are based imply a free flow of mutually useful information between the two organisations, without accompanying financial implications.

**Article 7** – However, contracts planned and awarded on each side, where thematically relevant, should include a respective exchange of results, products or services that can foster the cooperation. To facilitate this, terms of references of relevant contracts can be exchanged before awarding.

**Article 8** – Specific work projects shall be discussed and agreed upon with reference to the EEA and CoE work programme, taking into consideration the appropriate project formulation processes, existing competencies and available budgets of both parties. These will be selected on a regular basis according to mutual geographic and thematic priorities, and specified in future exchange of letters.

**Article 9** – As far as possible, decisions shall be taken at an operational level between the contact points referred to in points 10 and 11 below, or at the concrete project level between other responsible personnel.

### **Working relationships and procedures**

**Article 10** – The working links between the EEA and CoE at an operational level will be handled by regular contacts between a designated members from each organisation.

**Article 11** – EEA shall inform CoE of its work programmes, National Focal Points, designation of Topic Centres and of the tasks undertaken by the Topic Centres.

**Article 12** – CoE shall inform the EEA of its work programmes and contact points within its network.

**Article 13** – EEA and its Topic Centres may invite CoE to participate in working meetings organised by the EEA, or by the Topic Centres when relevant to environmental issues. The same applies to CoE. Normally the party involved in such travel will pay its own expenses.

**Article 14** – The copyright of joint publications shall be decided each time on a case-by-case basis.

**Article 15** – EEA makes the Eionet account system and the support from Eionet helpdesk available to countries reporting for the Bern Convention's Emerald network, also when countries are not EEA member or cooperating countries (and thereby inherent part of the Eionet), and the CoE encourages countries under the Bern convention to use this as standard tool.

### **EEA-CoE Joint Activities**

**Article 16** – EEA and CoE have mutually complementary activities, goals and requirements to satisfy. The EEA-CoE collaboration is therefore based on geographic, practical (resource-related) and thematic priorities. EEA can support a close alignment between the Emerald and the Natura 2000 networks, in line with its involvement in the implementation of Natura 2000 in support of and in cooperation with (1) the European Commission DG ENV and (2) its EIONET partnership and the CDDA work beyond the EU-28.

**Article 17** – The main specific areas of co-operation between EEA and CoE are grouped under three main headings listed in articles 18, 19 and 20 of the present memorandum. Details assuming the form of co-operating and/or specific work projects will be agreed upon by exchange of letters.

**Article 18** – Co-operation on the harmonisation of standards, tools and processes of the international designations of EU Natura 2000 Network and the Bern Convention Emerald Network.

**Article 19** – Co-operation on building up and updating the Common Database on Designated Areas (CDDA), which addresses designations at the national level.

**Article 20** – Co-operation and streamlining of work on species and habitats, in particular concerning the collection and harmonisation of data on species and habitats in EU and non-EU countries.

### **Amendment and termination**

**Article 21** – This Memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement using an exchange of letters. Such amendment shall come into force on the date it is signed by the two parties.

**Article 22** – Either party may terminate this Memorandum by giving six months written notice to the other party.

### **Entry into force**

**Article 23** – This Memorandum shall come into effect upon signature, and shall be extended automatically every twelve months unless one of the signatories indicates otherwise in writing.

For CoE:  
On behalf of the Secretary General  
of the Council of Europe  
Mr Eladio Fernández-Galiano

For EEA:  
The Executive Director  
  
Mr Hans Bruyninckx

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Copenhagen, on ....

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