

Communication from Council of Europe (Bern Convention)

The Council of Europe and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) is very pleased to welcome this 10 COP of CMS and note the considerable progress in activities, issues and plans from the previous COP and their significance for migratory species. We are certainly very keen to recognise the excellent conservation work and forward-looking strategy of CMS, a convention which the Council of Europe values very highly. Following many years of fruitful cooperation with our organisation, a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and the CMS Secretariat was signed in November 2009, a year in which both sister conventions were celebrating their 30th anniversary.

We appreciate CMS involvement and contribution in a number of issues of importance for the Council of Europe and the conservation community, on adaptation of biodiversity to climate change, on the fight against the introduction and spread of invasive alien species that threaten biological diversity, on the threats to migratory birds from windfarms, on the respect and implementation of legislation protecting migratory birds and, of course on the work of CMS on a number of species or groups of species protected under the Bern Convention, including marine turtles, marine mammals, sturgeons, migratory waterfowl, European bats and other species.

We welcome also new fields of action of CMS, particularly on the role of protected areas and ecological networks for migratory species, where we think that the joint work of a number of International MEAs through improved synergies can deliver better results for threatened migratory species. In this context we are pleased to inform COP10 of CMS that the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest of the Bern Convention is advancing very fast and we are ready to team with CMS for exploring its positive influence in the conservation of threatened migratory fauna.

Finally we welcome the ambitious and comprehensive CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2014, an ambitious and coherent list of actions and a sensible approach to achieve the goals of the Convention. From the Council of Europe we reaffirm our commitment to work in partnership with CMS so that we all support governments in a coordinated way in the noble task of achieving the Aichi targets decided last year at the COP of the Convention of Biological Diversity and which also form the backbone and guideline of the Bern Convention for the next years.