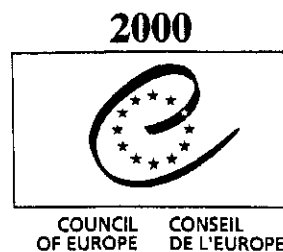


CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY



**MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT
FOR THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
AND THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME IN THEIR CAPACITY
OF JOINT SECRETARIAT TO THE PAN-EUROPEAN BIOLOGICAL
AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY STRATEGY**

Reaffirming the importance of, and the need to promote international, regional and global co-operation as well as synergy at all levels for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components,

Recognizing the importance of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, (hereafter called "the Pan-European Strategy") as a regional contribution and one of the instruments for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereafter called "CBD"), and for the promotion of the Convention's objectives,

Recalling that Paragraph 1 (d) of Article 24 of the Convention on Biological Diversity provides that a function of the Secretariat of the Convention is to co-ordinate with other relevant international bodies and, in particular, to enter into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its functions,

Recalling further decision IV/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) which reaffirmed the importance of developing mutually supportive activities under the Convention and those undertaken by other international institutions,

Recalling further decisions II/13, III/21 and IV/15 of the COP which requests the Executive Secretary to continue to co-ordinate with relevant institutions, with a view to, *inter alia* : facilitating the exchange of information and experience ; and consulting on how such bodies can contribute to the implementation of the provisions of the CBD,

2.

Noting that the 2nd meeting of the Council for the Pan-European Strategy (Strasbourg, 6 and 8 April 1998) requested the Council of Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme (hereafter called "UNEP"), in their capacity as Joint Secretariat to the Pan-European Strategy, to conclude a Memorandum of Co-operation with the Secretariat of the CBD,

Aware that at both the intergovernmental and secretariats' levels, co-operation in the implementation of the CBD and the Pan-European Strategy is ongoing and that the need for similar and intensified synergies is required,

Therefore, the Council of Europe and UNEP in their capacity as Joint Secretariat to the Pan-European Strategy and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereafter called "the Secretariats") will consult each other on matters of common interest to the Secretariats with a view to ensuring maximum co-ordination of their respective work and activities.

It is understood that the Council of Europe, UNEP and the Secretariat of the CBD will act, within the terms of this agreement, according to their respective rules and regulations.

The Secretariats hereby agree upon the following :

Article 1 - Institutional Co-operation

- a) In accordance with procedures applicable to each meeting or conference, the Secretariats will invite each other to send representatives to meetings or conferences convened by or under the auspices of the other to consider matters in which they have a common interest.
- b) The Secretariats will inform their respective Parties' national focal points of their co-operative activities and will seek to promote consultation and co-operation between focal points in those Parties where the focal points for the CBD and the Pan-European Strategy are different, including the preparation of national reports or communications for the COP and the Council for the Pan-European Strategy.
- c) The Secretariats may consult, where appropriate, on the use of personnel, materials, service, equipment and facilities for joint undertakings, which may be agreed between them in common fields of interest.

Article 2 - Regional Meetings

The Secretariats will further develop the regional meetings which they have co-organised in the past, with a view to promoting the implementation of both the Pan-European Strategy and the CBD, as well as synergy between the two processes.

Article 3 - Reporting

- a) The Secretariats will consult with their Parties with a view to encouraging governments to consider including possible reporting on the Pan-European Strategy as inputs to the National Reports required by the CBD.
- b) The Secretariats will report on progress in the implementation of the Pan-European Strategy and the CBD to the Council for the Pan-European Strategy and to the COP respectively.

Article 4 - Co-ordination of Programmes of Work

Subject to such arrangements as may be necessary for safeguarding confidential information, the Secretariats will exchange information and keep each other informed of projected activities and programmes of work in fields of common interest. Accordingly, when either Secretariat proposes to initiate a programme or activity on a matter of mutual interest, they will endeavour to consult the other Secretariat with a view to harmonising their efforts as far as possible, taking into account their respective responsibilities and any decisions or wishes of the appropriate governing bodies of the respective Secretariat.

Article 5 - Joint Action

- a) The Secretariats will enhance their capacities to represent each other, upon request, at meetings or other activities and provide assistance to each other at their respective headquarters in Strasbourg/Geneva and Montreal.
- b) The Secretariats will institute measures to ensure consultations on the implementation of this Memorandum. To this end, the Executive Secretary of the CBD, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Director of UNEP's Regional Office for Europe will endeavour to ensure regular contact between the staff of their respective organisations, including the possibility of exchanges of staff on a temporary basis.
- c) The Secretariats will institute measures for consultation on the implementation of this Memorandum and will report accordingly to their respective governing bodies and seek further guidance on new areas of co-operation.

Article 6 - Non-Binding Nature of the Agreement

- a) It is further agreed that nothing in this agreement shall bind any of the Contracting Parties of the CBD jointly or severally. Similarly, the agreement shall not bind any of the States participating in the implementation of the Pan-European Strategy jointly or severally.
- b) Any additional annexes to this Memorandum shall form an integral part of this Memorandum and, unless otherwise expressly provided for, a reference to this Memorandum constitutes, at the same time, a reference to any annexes thereto.

Article 7 - Revision and Termination

This agreement shall be subject to revision on acceptance of the Secretariats, and by giving six months written notice to the other party.

Either Secretariat may terminate this agreement by giving six months written notice to the other party.

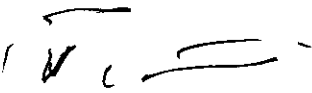
Article 8 - Entry into Force

This agreement shall be deemed to have come into force on signature by the Executive Secretary of the CBD, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Director of UNEP's Regional Office for Europe. It will be transmitted for information to the Council for the Pan-European Strategy and the COP.

Done in three copies

Riga, on 21st March 2000

On behalf of UNEP



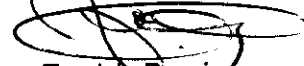
Frits Schlingemann
Director and
Regional Representative

On behalf of the Secretariat
of the Convention on
Biological Diversity



Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

On behalf of the
Secretary General of the
Council of Europe



Tarcisio Bassi
Director of Environment
and Sustainable
Development