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Item 26 of the provisional agenda*

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN THE PAN EUROPEAN
REGION: STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL OF THE PAN EUROPEAN BIOLOGICAL AND
LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY STRATEGY (PEBLDS)**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a statement by the Council of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) on the implementation of the Convention in the Pan-European region.
2. The statement is being circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat of the Convention.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/7/1 and Corr.1.

Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS)

Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Pan European Region

Statement by the Council of the PEBLDS

Executive Summary

The Council of the PEBLDS has prepared this statement for the Seventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to report on the implementation of the CBD in the pan European region, as well as to increase the cooperation and collaboration between the PEBLDS process and the bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Council of the PEBLDS considers it highly important to share relevant experiences between the regions regarding implementation of the Convention.

Furthermore, given the SBSTTA 9 recommendation inviting “Parties and Governments to develop national and/or regional goals and targets, and, as appropriate, to incorporate them into relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans”, the Council of the PEBLDS wishes to contribute the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity (Annex) to the discussion of agenda item 26 on *Follow up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, strategic plan and operations of the Convention* at the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourage other regions and the Conference of the Parties to continue defining concrete and measurable targets for the achievement of the overall 2010 goal.

This document briefly highlights the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity and its proposed action plans, the PEBLDS partnerships and the regional instruments for implementation that assist the PEBLDS process in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the pan European region.

1. Introduction

The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) was designed as an innovative and proactive approach to stop and reverse the degradation of biological and landscape diversity in Europe. The Strategy does not create new programmes but instead introduces a coordinating and unifying framework for strengthening and building on existing initiatives.

The PEBLDS was endorsed by the 53 European Ministers at the Third *Environment for Europe* Ministerial Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria in 1995, as well as by many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations involved in nature conservation, biodiversity and environment protection in Europe. Its implementation is governed by a Council consisting of representatives from the European member countries of the UNECE, but other governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations may also participate as observers in the meetings. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Council of Europe jointly provide the Secretariat of the PEBLDS.

The Council of the PEBLDS organizes the *Biodiversity in Europe* Intergovernmental Conferences, which serve as the preparatory regional meetings for the Meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. At the Second Intergovernmental Conference *Biodiversity in Europe*, held in February 2002 in Budapest, it was confirmed that the PEBLDS process is a well-established forum for discussions on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and

landscape diversity in Europe, and is an important regional instrument for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the pan European region. The PEBLDS is also recognized as a vehicle for promoting, *inter alia*, the integration of biological and landscape diversity considerations into all relevant horizontal and sectoral policies.

2. *Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity*

At the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Parties committed themselves to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, Governments also agreed at the global level to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development stressed the need to “implement the Convention and its provisions, including active follow up of its work programmes and decisions through national, regional and global action programmes, in particular the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and strengthen their integration into relevant cross-sectoral strategies, programmes and policies, including those related to sustainable development and poverty eradication, including initiatives which promote community-based sustainable use of biological diversity.”

In response, and at the request of the PEBLDS Council, the European Ministers at the Fifth *Environment for Europe* Ministerial Conference (Kyiv, May 2003) adopted the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity in which they committed themselves to halt the loss of biological diversity in the pan European region at all levels by the year 2010, and to work towards it through concerted actions on nine key targets in the areas of forests and biodiversity, agriculture and biodiversity, protected areas and ecological networks, invasive alien species, biodiversity indicators and monitoring, financing biodiversity and public participation and awareness. The Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity was highlighted in the Ministerial Declaration of the Kyiv Conference.

3. *PEBLDS Action Plan Proposals to achieve the 2010 targets*

Reaching the key targets and the overall pan European 2010 target requires a broad range of actions at the national and regional levels. Actions at the national level should focus on the implementation of crucial elements of the national biodiversity strategies including tackling problems of a trans-boundary nature and participation in (sub) regional and international negotiations aimed at creating the right environment and incentives for biodiversity conservation. There are many international fora (PEBLDS; CBD; EU/EEA groups; WTO committees, etc.) and instruments (Global Environment Facility, the UNEP/ECNC/IUCN/REC Biodiversity Service, etc.) to help PEBLDS countries undertake these actions. Additionally, the Council of the PEBLDS is developing action plan proposals for each of the key targets that highlight and address some core catalytic elements that best can and should be undertaken under the direct umbrella of the PEBLDS, through concerted actions and regional cooperation, with the involvement of governments, non-governmental organizations, relevant stakeholders, and economic sectors. The action plan proposals strive to take into account ongoing work in the pan European region and emphasise the achievement of results rather than the implementation of activities.

4. *PEBLDS Partnerships*

The PEBLDS has developed partnerships with other organizations and processes active in the region for the implementation of its programme of work and the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity. These partnerships provide a powerful mechanism to achieve the objectives of the Strategy. The PEBLDS and its Joint Secretariat promote synergies of Strategy activities with those of other international organisations and biodiversity related conventions, in particular such processes as the Ramsar Convention, the Barcelona Convention, CITES, the Convention on Migratory Species and its

Agreements and the World Heritage Convention. The main PEBLDS partners are Council of Europe, United Nations Environment Programme, European Union (EU), European Environmental Agency (EEA), Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and a number of international non-governmental organizations.

PEBLDS and the Council of Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

As mentioned above, the Council of Europe and UNEP jointly provide the Secretariat of the PEBLDS. Additionally, UNEP and the Council of Europe actively promote and profile the Strategy in other international *fora* and with other bodies. The Joint Secretariat ensures close coordination of activities of the Strategy with those under the Convention on Biological Diversity, as established in the Memorandum of Co-operation signed by the Council of Europe, UNEP and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

UNEP and the Council of Europe endeavour to provide their technical support to the implementation of the PEBLDS Programme of Work in their areas of competence, comparative strength and advantage. UNEP, in particular, assists states in developing and implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, provides policy guidance on biodiversity related issues, and undertakes institutional strengthening and capacity building. The Council of Europe provides guidance in matters of its expertise, *inter alia* ecological networks, environmental awareness, threatened species and habitat types, invasive alien species, landscapes, and integration of biological diversity considerations into sectoral policies.

PEBLDS and the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)

The European ministers responsible for forests have recognized the fact that the conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in all types of forests is an essential element in sustainable forest management. The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) has therefore tackled the subject since its beginnings in 1990 through commitments at the Ministerial Conferences and subsequently in the follow-up processes. The 2nd Ministerial Conference in 1993 in Helsinki explicitly adopted General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests in Resolution H2 in response to the forests related outcomes of the UNCED 1992, especially the CBD. In addition, biodiversity conservation was explicitly included in the Guidelines for Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe, adopted by the Ministers as Resolution H1. The MCPFE is co-operating with the CBD to contribute to the regional implementation of the decisions on forest biological diversity.

The respective priorities of both the MCPFE and PEBLDS processes in the conservation of biological diversity in European forests are the basis of the Kyiv target on forests and biodiversity. MCPFE and the PEBLDS have adopted a framework for cooperation, which will focus on pan-European priorities in forest biodiversity conservation in the implementation of the Expanded Work-Programme of the CBD and the UNFF Multi-year Programme of Work and Plan of Action. The forest biodiversity related commitments of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe are an important basis for the selection of common themes and related tasks for co-operation. The specific themes and related tasks to be selected will especially contribute to creating synergies between the two ministerial processes and facilitate a joint regional contribution to ongoing global processes.

PEBLDS and the European Union

The European Council met in Goteborg in June 2001 and made a commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity in the European Union by 2010, as stated in the 6th Environmental Action Plan. The European Union, at the 5th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Kyiv last year, supported the 2010 targets contained in the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity. And at the recently concluded Third

Intergovernmental Conference *Biodiversity in Europe* held in Madrid, the European Commission expressed a commitment to work with the PEBLDS to achieve the 2010 biodiversity goals.

Consequently, the PEBLDS Council will further review the action plan proposals prepared for catalysing pan European actions and cooperation in partnership with the European Union Member States and institutions of the European Union. This partnership is expected to constitute a significant contribution to the activities of the ECE region as a whole, towards reaching the targets in the pan European region.

PEBLDS and the European Environment Agency (EEA)

The PEBLDS Council extended an invitation to the European Environmental Agency to assist with the implementation of the activities to achieve the monitoring and indicators target of the Kyiv Biodiversity Resolution. The expertise of the EEA, particularly in the development of a core set of biodiversity indicators for Europe, makes it an ideal partner in the work the PEBLDS intends to promote in the pan European region. Furthermore, the joint work of the EEA with the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC) on the European Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicators Framework, with UNEP-WCMC, as well as the increasing collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity on biodiversity indicators, provide the necessary background for the successful implementation of the activities under the biodiversity monitoring and indicators target.

The EEA is committed to lead a pan-European activity in collaboration with ECNC, UNEP-WCMC and others as proposed by the PEBLDS Council. In particular, there is a need to establish a programme to review, prioritise and document the information and indicators most appropriate to monitor and influence progress towards the 2010 targets and hence to specify the monitoring and data required to provide these indicators.

A more comprehensive, coordinated approach is now required to consolidate, and provide a focus for continuing, the various initiatives underway in the pan European region. In this regard, the EEA, in partnership with the European Centre for Nature Conservation, Birdlife International and Wetlands International, will shortly hold a meeting on how to work towards a common framework for a set of biodiversity indicators and related monitoring at the European level which will meet the needs of policy and decision makers to protect biodiversity in line with the various global, pan-European and European Union agreements and targets.

PEBLDS and the private sector

The CBD and the PEBLDS have given a higher priority to the issue of financing biodiversity and cooperation with the financial sector. A combination of public funds with bankable investments – in the form of equity participation and loans – as well as technical assistance grants, could considerably increase the scope for biodiversity resourcing.

In order to make financial resources available, the European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative (EBRI), was initiated in the framework of the PEBLDS, following the request at the Fourth Ministerial “Environment for Europe” Conference in Aarhus for the financial sector to increase their involvement in sustainable development issues. EBRI was also a European response to the growing interest within the CBD framework for additional financial resources, which, *inter alia*, was reflected in Decision VI/16.

A European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity has been established, based on a decision of the Budapest “Biodiversity in Europe” Conference. The work of the Task Force is to advise the PEBLDS process on the issue of banking, business and biodiversity in a European context, and more in particular to advance the establishment of a Biodiversity Finance Facility for biodiversity-related investments and a European Biodiversity Investment Partnership for involving the private sector in supporting such investments. The Task Force has determined that a complementary European

Biodiversity Technical Assistance Facility should also be established during the first years of operation of the Biodiversity Finance Facility, in order to 'prime the pump' by soliciting project proposals and then controlling their eligibility from both the biodiversity and financial perspectives, and also offering advice and some technical support when necessary in order to bring promising proposals up to the required level of acceptability for consideration by the Biodiversity Finance Facility.

PEBLDS and Non-Governmental Organizations in the pan European region

The PEBLDS has benefited from the support of non-governmental organizations such as the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC), the IUCN-World Conservation Union, Eco Forum, the Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity (CEEWEB), Birdlife International and others. Building on achievements of the long-term successful cooperation between the PEBLDS and these non-governmental organizations, the PEBLDS invites and welcomes further support, assistance and input from these organizations, for both Secretariat related tasks and for advancing the implementation of the PEBLDS. The PEBLDS also seeks closer collaboration with, and technical/scientific support from, other relevant European and global non-governmental organisations, and especially welcomes the commitment of the consortium of international NGOs to provide and mobilise technical and financial support for the implementation of the protected areas programme of work of the CBD, through the establishment of cooperative partnerships between governmental agencies and civil society.

5. Instruments for implementation of the PEBLDS workprogramme and Kyiv Resolution

UNEP/ECNC/IUCN/REC Service for the Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

A consortium of four organizations, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), established the Biodiversity Service to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (CEECCA), helping to address specific biodiversity related problems faced by countries of the region during the early stages of implementation of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland as well as the European Commission and UNDP/GEF, under the UNDP-UNEP Biodiversity Planning Support Programme, have made contributions to the project. The Service has established a Steering Committee composed of representatives of donor Governments and the representatives of the consortium partners.

The overall objective of the Biodiversity Service is to strengthen capacity in CEECCA countries to fulfil their obligations under the CBD through: facilitating the process of NBSAP implementation in CEECCA countries; and stimulating synergies in implementation of national (NBSAP), regional (PEBLDS) and global (CBD) instruments for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The mechanisms used to accomplish the overall objective are: expert and advisory services, policy recommendations and guidelines, up to date information, experience exchange and training.

Target beneficiaries of the Biodiversity Service are national Governments, non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) and other institutions from the countries of CEECCA, involved in CBD implementation. A number of countries have received assistance since the inauguration of the project: Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Moldova, Romania, Poland, the Russian Federation, and the Ukraine. In addition, IUCN has established a roster of experts with regional knowledge and experience, as well as the ability to work in local languages and ECNC has developed a web page for the Service. In its next phase the service will broaden its scope and provide assistance for the implementation of the Kyiv Biodiversity Resolution and the programme of work of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy as a whole.

IUCN Countdown 2010 Initiative

IUCN – The World Conservation Union, Regional Office for Europe is developing the Countdown 2010 Initiative with broad participation and support from governments and non-governmental organizations throughout Europe. The Countdown 2010 will work for, and with, the 347 European IUCN members and other interested organizations. The initiative is a platform that will serve as an amplifier and facilitator of existing activities to ensure the commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 can be met. It will add value to ongoing activities in terms of public and stakeholder awareness and through a policy-practice-science interface.

The Countdown 2010 has five objectives:

- Focus public and stakeholder attention on the 2010 biodiversity targets, and to keep biodiversity on the political agenda.
- Keep pressure on all stakeholders to achieve the 2010 biodiversity targets.
- Mobilize all stakeholders to contribute to achieving the 2010 biodiversity targets.
- Catalyze and facilitate collective action for implementation.
- Focus working programmes of IUCN members and other organizations.

The PEBLDS Council will associate the action plan proposals related to the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity with the IUCN Countdown 2010 Initiative to monitor the implementation of activities to achieve the 2010 target and sub-targets.

ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE
UN ENVIRONNEMENT POUR L'EUROPE
ОКРУЖАЮЩАЯ СРЕДА ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ
ДОВКІЛЛЯ ДЛЯ ЄВРОПИ
Kyiv, 21-23 May 2003



FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE

KIEV, UKRAINE
21-23 May 2003

KYIV RESOLUTION ON BIODIVERSITY

submitted by

the Council of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Strategy
through the Ad Hoc Working Group of Senior Officials



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity

Noting with great concern, despite previous efforts, the continued degradation of biological and landscape diversity in the pan European region as illustrated in the recent report prepared by the European Environmental Agency, and *recognising* that the continued loss of biological and landscape diversity will undermine sustainable development and the social and cultural integrity of the Earth's populations,

Affirming the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy process and its mandate to provide a framework to promote a consistent approach and common objectives for national and regional action in the pan European region to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Welcoming the progress in the implementation of the programme of work of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, in particular in the areas of ecological networks, financing biodiversity, biodiversity monitoring and indicators, and in the integration of biodiversity and landscape concerns into sectoral policies such as agriculture and forestry,

We, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity.

- a. Endorse the emerging role of the PEBLDS as an important instrument for regional implementation of the CBD, and as a vehicle for promoting, *inter alia*, the integration of biodiversity and landscape concerns into all relevant horizontal and sectoral policies;
- b. Adopt the Framework for Co-operation between the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy and request the Joint Secretariat of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy to operationalise the agreement by identifying objectives and activities in collaboration with the Liaison Unit of the MCPFE;
- c. Recognise the need to further promote the development of national ecological networks, as proposed in the background documents prepared for the Kyiv Conference and endorse the statement in support of the Pan European Ecological Network, as appended to this Resolution;
- d. Welcome the Final Declaration on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity in the Framework of Agricultural Policies and Practices, adopted at the High-level Pan-European Conference on Agriculture and Biodiversity in June 2002 in Paris, and invite the Joint Secretariat of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy to explore the possibility of organising a joint Ministerial Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and Environment in 2005;
- e. Take note of the Code of Practice for the Introduction of Biological and Landscape Diversity Considerations into the Transport Sector submitted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and presented in the background documents prepared for the Kyiv Conference;
- f. Invite the UNEP/ECNC/IUCN/REC Service for the Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans to continue to provide expert biodiversity services to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to overcome the obstacles in the implementation of their Strategies and Action Plans;

We, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity, reinforce our objective to halt the loss of biological diversity at all levels by the year 2010, and to work towards it through concerted actions and a joint commitment to achieve the following key targets:

Forests and biodiversity:

1. By 2008, contribute to the implementation in the pan European region of the Forest Biodiversity Expanded Programme of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity through, *inter alia*:
 - a) Implementation of the objectives and activities of the Framework for Co-operation between the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy;
 - b) National Forest Programmes according to the MCPFE Approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe (adopted at the Vienna Conference in April 2003);
 - c) Application of the ecosystem approach.

Agriculture and biodiversity:

2. By 2006, the identification, using agreed common criteria, of all high nature value areas in agricultural ecosystems in the pan European region will be complete. By 2008, a substantial proportion of these areas will be under biodiversity-sensitive management by using appropriate mechanisms such as rural development instruments, agri-environmental programmes and organic agriculture, to *inter alia* support their economic and ecological viability.
3. By 2008, financial subsidy and incentive schemes for agriculture in the pan European region will take the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in consideration.

Pan European Ecological Network:

4. By 2006, the Pan-European Ecological Network (core areas, restoration areas, corridors and buffer zones, as appropriate) in all States of the pan European region will be identified and reflected on coherent indicative European maps, as a European contribution towards a global ecological network.
5. By 2008, all core areas of the Pan-European Ecological Network will be adequately conserved and the Pan European Ecological Network will give guidance to all major national, regional and international land use and planning policies as well as to the operations of relevant economic and financial sectors.

Invasive Alien Species:

6. By 2008, the pan European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species developed under the Bern Convention, fully compatible with the Guiding Principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity, will be implemented by at least half of the countries of the pan European region through their respective Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

Financing Biodiversity:

7. By 2008, there will be substantially increased public and private financial investments in integrated biodiversity activities in Europe, via partnerships with the finance and business sectors, that have resulted in new investment opportunities and facilities as outlined by the European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative, taking into account the special needs of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicators:

8. By 2008, a coherent European programme on biodiversity monitoring and reporting, facilitated by the European Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicator Framework, will be operational in the pan European region, in support of nature and biodiversity policies, including by 2006 an agreed core set of biodiversity indicators developed with the active participation of the relevant stakeholders.

Public Participation and Awareness:

9. By 2008, at least half of the countries in the pan European region are implementing national Communication, Education and Public Awareness action plans, in line with the CBD's Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, in order to communicate biodiversity and landscape policies and to increase multi-stakeholder participation, particularly indigenous and local communities, in their implementation.

While adopting this Resolution, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity,

Recognised that biological and landscape diversity is not only significant for its intrinsic value but is also important for the valuable goods and services it provides to humankind, including the social and economic relevance of biological diversity for agriculture, forestry, tourism, water management, human health, quality of life, rural development and other sectors,

Recalled the endorsement of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Strategy at the Third Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' in October 1995 in Sofia, Bulgaria, involving 55 States,

Recognised the outcome of the Second Intergovernmental Conference 'Biodiversity in Europe', held in February 2002 in Budapest, where it was confirmed that the PEBLDS process is now a well-established forum for essential discussions on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity in Europe,

Acknowledged the important progress in the implementation of the Emerald Network under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979),

Acknowledged the important progress of the European Community in the implementation of the European Community Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plans, of the Council Directives on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora and on the Conservation of Wild Birds, including the establishment of the Natura 2000 Network and of biodiversity actions under the Sixth Environmental Action Programme and Sustainable Development Strategy and, recognizing the progress of the candidate states in application of the EC biodiversity *acquis*,

Welcomed the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of the European Landscape Convention and its opening for signature on October 2000 in Florence (Italy),

Acknowledged the important progress of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar, 1971) in developing in Europe the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List).

Welcomed the outcome of the 6th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010, the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the pledge to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, and taking into account the Millennium Development Goals,

Noted para 42 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development that, *inter alia*, states, "...Implement the Convention and its provisions, including active follow up of its work programmes and decisions through national, regional and global action programmes, in particular the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and strengthen their integration into relevant cross-sectoral strategies, programmes and policies, including those related to sustainable development and poverty eradication, including initiatives which promote community-based sustainable use of biological diversity,"

Appendix

Statement on the Pan European Ecological Network

We, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity:

Consider that the Pan-European Ecological Network is a major means for implementing the aim of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Strategy for the conservation and management of species, ecosystems, habitats, and landscapes;

Are convinced that the Pan-European Ecological Network has the potential to be used as a spatial planning tool for Europe;

Express our strong support to the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network and its establishment by 2015;

Engage ourselves to provide appropriate resources to the implementation of this major instrument;

Encourage financial institutions and mechanisms to prioritise green investments in relevant parts of the Pan-European Ecological Network and to avoid investments in these areas that will harm biological diversity and landscapes;

Welcome the maintenance or development of a sustainable relationship between agriculture and biological diversity in and around relevant parts of the Pan-European Ecological Network;

Welcome the indicative map of the Pan-European Ecological Network for Central and Eastern European region as a communication tool for promoting the establishment of the network in this region, and encourage the further extension of the map towards other regions in Europe;

Encourage:

- the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy to give a priority to the development of the Network by supporting the programme of activity of the intergovernmental body (the Council of Europe) entrusted with it, developing national ecological networks comprising both areas of national and international importance and promoting programmes for the implementation of transboundary networks;
- the Central and Eastern Europe States and the Newly Independent States to give particular attention to the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in synergy with the Bern Convention Emerald Network and Natura 2000, as a way to protect their rich landscape and biological diversity and express the wish that enough resources be allocated to the relevant programmes;

Invite:

- the institutions and intergovernmental organisations engaged in the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in particular the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly and the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC), to pursue and develop the work already undertaken;
- UNESCO to co-operate for the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in particular through its programme Man and Biosphere, Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites;
- the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe to co-operate in the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network;

- the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) to take into account the building-up of the Pan-European Ecological Network and its integration in the priorities and programme of activities for regional and spatial development in Europe;
- the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Culture to take into account the protection of all aspects of landscapes with a view of maintaining their biological and landscape diversity, in co-operation with the national authorities responsible for the protection of natural environment and landscapes;
- the local and regional authorities to implement the Pan-European Ecological Network at their level and be closely involved in development of transnational networks, and involve all local stakeholders;
- the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe of the Council of Europe, to contribute to the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network by providing appropriate resources to the programmes and activities to be implemented in this framework.
