

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979)

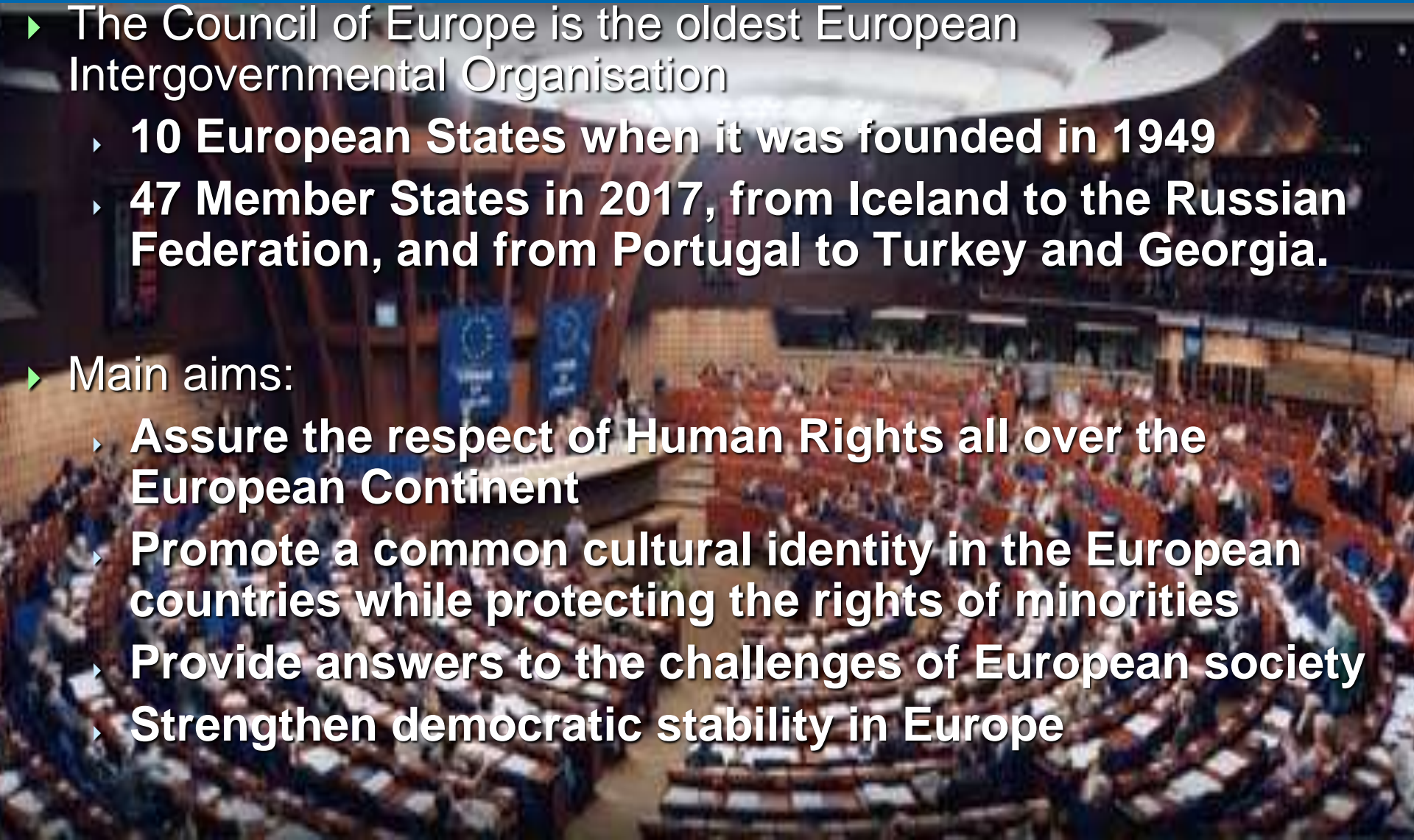


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Council of Europe



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

- ▶ The Council of Europe is the oldest European Intergovernmental Organisation
 - ▶ **10 European States** when it was founded in 1949
 - ▶ **47 Member States** in 2017, from Iceland to the Russian Federation, and from Portugal to Turkey and Georgia.
- ▶ Main aims:
 - ▶ **Assure the respect of Human Rights** all over the European Continent
 - ▶ **Promote a common cultural identity** in the European countries while protecting the rights of minorities
 - ▶ **Provide answers to the challenges of European society**
 - ▶ **Strengthen democratic stability** in Europe





Bern Convention

- Negotiated at the Council of Europe
- Signed in Bern, Switzerland, in 1979
- In force since 1982
- 51 Contracting Parties (all European states except Holy See, Russia and San Marino)

Bern Convention membership

➤ 51 Contracting Parties:

- 45 CoE member States (including 28 EU)
- European Union
- Burkina Faso
- Morocco
- Senegal
- Tunisia
- Belarus

Aims of the Convention

- To conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats
- Promote co-operation among States
- Particular emphasis is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including migratory and endemic species

Obligations on IAS

- Article 11, paragraph 2 requests parties to

« *strictly control the introduction of non-native species* »

Ways of accion:

**Reports, Recommendations, Strategies,
Action Plans**

First recommendations

- Recommendation No. R(84)14 of the Committee of Ministers concerning the introduction of non-native species;
- Recommends governments of member states to:
 - 1. prohibit the introduction of non-native species into the natural environment;
 - 2. authorise certain exceptions to the prohibition (on the condition of risk-evaluation studies);
 - 3. take steps to prevent accidental introductions
 - 4. inform other governments on introduction schemes or accidental introductions .

1993 Group of Experts on IAS

Mandate:

- centralisation of existing information on IAS
- analysis of legal and administrative measures taken
- design of an overall risk management policy on introductions
- elaboration of guidelines and codes of conduct on IAS
- identification of priority species and control mechanisms
- identification of sensitive areas, particularly selected islands
- identification of emergency situations
- elaboration of public awareness mechanisms on IAS
- elaboration of guidelines on eradication and control measures
- problems of civil liability and international cooperation



Main work since 1993 (I)

- 2003 European Strategy on IAS
- Specific recommendatin and action on key species (non-native crayfish, *Caulerpa taxifolia*, *Sciurus carolinensis* , *Sylvilagus* sp, list of priority mamals for eradication or containment)
- Identification of plant species for whcih eradication or containment is recommended
- <https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/on-invasive-alien-species>

Main work since 1993 (II)

- Specific attention to habitats vulnerable to IAS (mainly islands). Several seminars, special attention to the effects of feral ungulates on island biodiversity, etc
- Pathways: identification of species to be banned from trade
- Guidelines: eradication of terrestrial vertebrates
- Eradication plans: Ruddy duck


Main work since 1993 (III)

- **Codes of Conduct:**
- Horticulture and IAS
- Pets and IAS (including ornamental fish)
- Code of Conduct for Botanic Gardens on IAS
- Zoological Gardens and Aquaria and IAS
- Hunting and IAS
- Recreational Fishing and IAS
- Recreational Boating and IAS
- Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS
- **Coming...**International Travel & IAS.....Alien Trees

Latest work

- 2015: Recommendation to take further the EU Regulation:
 - **The Bern Convention and EU Regulation 1143/2014 on the Prevention and Management of the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Alien Species**
- This implies collaborating with states on:
 - providing guidance for governments on IAS Pathways Action Plans
 - providing methodology to carry out risk assessment for mammals

Partnerships

- European Commission
 - CBD
 - IUCN /SSC ISSG
 - NOBANIS
 - EPPO
 - Botanic Gardens Conservation International
 - EAZA
 - And many others...
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Thanks for your kind attention