

Dear Carpathian Convention Secretariat,

Since its formal launch in 2009 Wild Europe has developed a range of initiatives in support of wilderness and wild areas in Europe.

Our Brussels conference in 2017 highlighted the value of old growth forest, and proposed Europe's first comprehensive Protection Strategy² for this threatened habitat, raising over 550,000 Euro to begin its implementation.

Our follow-up Bratislava conference, in November 2019 under the patronage of Her Excellency Zuzana Caputova, President of Slovakia, took stock of achievements over the last decade for wilderness and its key element of old growth/primary forest.

The Carpathian Convention offers a good regional legal tool, linking EU members states and non-member states in order to tackle challenges linked to the post COVID19 recovery. This recovery must be a green recovery and initiatives furthering the protection of the natural capital of this precious mountain region should be supported in the coming years.

The followings should be taken into account when planning projects in the coming years:

- The 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy
- The 2019 EU Green Deal
- The EU 2021 Forest Strategy

The EU Climate Law and ambition to become Carbon neutral by 2050

- National policy in EU and non-EU countries
- The UN Decade for Ecological Restoration
- The Bern Convention and other European instruments
- The CBD Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
- The UN Framework on Climate Change & the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement

Wild Europe will be happy to work with the Convention Secretariat and the Polish Presidency in the coming 3 years

Sincerely yours

Zoltan Kun, Head of Conservation

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