

Brussels, 8th December 2004

Role of CEEWEB and the Biogeographic Seminars

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to write on behalf of the European Habitats Forum (EHF) to clarify the role of CEEWEB regarding the Biogeographic Seminars in the new Member States.

The EHF is a group of 14 NGO networks that work together to advise and influence the development and implementation of European nature conservation policy and legislation. The EHF works closely with the European Commission, particularly to support the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives and the EU Biodiversity Action Plan. The group comprises a wide range of NGOs including CEEWEB, WWF, Birdlife and EEB, and the Secretariat is held with IUCN in Brussels.

Due to the role of the EHF as a focal point between nature conservation NGOs and the European Commission, it has been asked to co-ordinate technical input into the Biogeographic Seminars from relevant NGOs within the new EU Member States. This includes selecting experts from within each country who can represent the views and concerns of these NGOs within the seminars. In the last meeting of the EHF (October 2004), the members agreed that this work would be co-ordinated by CEEWEB on behalf of the group, in liaison with the EHF Secretariat.

Yours sincerely

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EHF Secretariat