

Thank you for your letter of 18 November 2002 on the draft resolution on oceans and the law of the sea to be adopted by the General Assembly. As requested, I provide you with information on the activities of the Council of Europe focusing on coastal and marine ecosystems.

The Council of Europe is particularly interested in having a closer co-operation on that topic. This year we organised a "Workshop on marine ecological corridors", in the framework of the setting up of the Pan-European Ecological Networks, please find herewith for your information the declaration and the report adopted at the Workshop.

In the programme of activities of the Bern Convention for 2003, we have planned to organise a "Workshop on marine and coastal biological diversity in European seas". The idea is to be able to prepare a European input into discussions at the next Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity focusing, *inter alia*, on protected areas. Two reports, identifying priorities for conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity for *a.* the Mediterranean and the Black Seas, and *b.* the Atlantic Ocean and the Baltic Sea have been prepared by experts. The Workshop that we are preparing in autumn 2003, could be build on SBSTTA proposals (10-14 March 2003).

Moreover, I take pleasure in sending herewith you the "Model Law and the European Code of conduct for coastal zones", adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on September 1999, which provide clear recommendations concerning good practice to coastal authorities, engineers, project developers and other user groups.