

Regensburg, 16.09.2013

Award of the EUROPARC Transboundary Certificate

Dear Mr. Leplat, dear Mr. Marchyllie,

In February this year you have submitted a common application for the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme from

Escaut Plaines Nature Park (Belgium) and

Scarpe-Escaut Regional Nature Park (France) forming together

HAINAUT CROSS-BORDER NATURE PARK.

This summer we carried out an evaluation and verification mission to assess the level of transboundary cooperation in and between these two parks. The evaluation report handed in by the two verifiers Leo Reyriink and Kari Lahti, shows that your parks fulfil successfully the EUROPARC Basic Standards for Transboundary Cooperation.

On the basis of this report, the Transboundary Steering and Evaluation Committee (STEC) recommended the award of the EUROPARC Transboundary Certificate to the Council. Yesterday I received the note that the EUROPARC Council agrees on awarding Hainaut cross-border Nature Park with this certificate. We congratulate you on this achievement!

The official Award Ceremony will take place at the forthcoming EUROPARC Conference in Debrecen/Hungary. The event will take place during the closing ceremony of the Conference on Saturday, 12th October 2013. We are very much looking forward to handing over the Certificate to you personally.

The transboundary cooperation between your parks has already a considerable history. The achievement of the EUROPARC Basic Standards and the receipt of the Certificate represent a significant milestone in the development of this cooperation.

However, the EUROPARC Transboundary Award should not be seen only as recognition of your work achieved to date, but rather as a stimulus to continue improving cooperation, extending the scope of your joint activities and ensuring the stability of the transboundary relationship for the benefit of nature, landscapes and communities in your common region.

For this reason, we commend to you the specific recommendations made by the verifiers in their evaluation report, which is being sent to you by separate mail.

Progress made on these points will be reviewed in five years time, as part of a re-evaluation of the certificate.

We congratulate you again on this award and wish you success with your future activities!

Yours sincerely,



Thomas Hansson
President
EUROPARC Federation