

**13. EUROPARC CONFERENCE 2007: APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES (A.924/EWJ)**

**Proposal**

1. To authorise the attendance of the Chair of the Authority and one Member to attend the Europarc Conference 2007

**2. RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Chair of the Authority and one Member be appointed as the Authority's delegates to the Europarc Conference on 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September 2007.**

**Policy/Legal Background**

3. Europarc is the umbrella organisation of Europe's protected areas uniting national parks, regional parks, nature parks and biosphere reserves in 37 countries with the common aim of protecting Europe's unique variety of wildlife, habitats and landscapes.

**Key Issues**

4. The Conference will be organised by the Czech Ministry of the Environment and the EUROPARC Federation together with the EUROPARC Czech Republic and will take place in Český Krumlov from Tuesday to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September 2007
5. The Chair of the Authority and one other Member usually attend the annual conference.

## **APPENDIX**

### **Background**

1. The main theme of the conference will be trans-European co-operation in nature and landscape protection, which is expressed by the Conference motto „NATURE – BRIDGING BORDERS“. Key-speeches and topical workshops will be focused on problematic areas such as
  - Perceptions of borders and bridges in nature, landscapes and in human mind
  - Co-operation in the management of NATURA 2000 sites
  - Ecological and nature protection aspects of European bio-corridors
  - Principles of a common strategy for sustainable tourism activities
  - the “bridging” EUROPARC Junior Ranger programme and othersThere will also be study tours to the protected areas of Southern Bohemia.
2. The principal conference venue is the Conference Centre in Český Krumlov. Accommodation is available at a range of hotels in the town at an additional cost.

### **Resources**

4. The delegate’s fee, which will be affected by the exchange rate at the time of payment, is likely to be in the region of £200. In addition to this there will be 4 nights hotel accommodation costing approximately £175 and the cost of travel. Attendance at the conference is an approved duty for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances. All expenses for attendance at the conference will be paid out of the Members budget.

### **Risk Management**

5. There are no risks arising out of the proposal.

### **Human Rights, Equalities, Health & Safety**

6. There are no issues that arise out of the proposal.

### **Consultees**

7. None

### **Enclosures**

8. None

### **List of Background Papers** (not previously published)

9. None

### **Report Author**

10. Eugene Judge, Democratic Services Manager.

### **Publication date**

11. 28 June 2007.