

EUROPEAN ECOLOGICAL NETWORK : LEGAL PRINCIPLES FORMING

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The article investigates international legal standards forming the European ecological network, determining the characteristics of its formation in the European Union.

Environmental Network, European ecological network, ecological system, biological and landscape diversity, international legal standards.

In 1995 the Council of Europe adopted the European strategy for biological and landscape diversity, which identified priority direction forming the European ecological network as a single integrated system of national conservation and restoration of natural resources across the continent. The main objective in forming the European ecological network should be the construction of an integrated system of natural and cultivated areas and conservation.

The article aims to determine the legal basis for forming the European ecological network.

The legal basis for the formation of the European ecological network is a European strategy for biological and landscape diversity on October 25, 1995.

The strategy defines the basic elements of ecological networks: *natural or cell nucleus (core areas)* – site conservation of ecosystems, habitats, species and landscapes of European importance; *ecological corridors* or transitional zones to improve the interaction of natural systems; *restoration areas* where damaged elements of ecosystems, habitats and landscapes of European importance are

restored, and some fully playable territory; *buffer zones*, which support and protect the network from harmful outside influences.

The legal basis for determining the natural nuclei European ecological network are the two EU directives: 1) Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, after amendment – Directive 2009/147/EC on the protection of wild birds, providing conditions for the protection, management and control for populations of wild birds, and regulate the use of these species in the EU; 2) Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora, supplementing Directive 79/409/EEC, 2009/147/EC. The main aim of this Directive is to promote the conservation of biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of flora and fauna that are important to the public in the territory of the Member States.

An essential tool for tasks Directive 92/43/EEC is identifying areas important for the EU – Sites of Community Importance, which together with the Special Protection Areas, designated in accordance with Directive 79/409/EEC, 2009/147/EC, form a network Natura 2000. Natura 2000 network – a protected area, aims to support biodiversity conservation through specifically targeted habitat types and certain species of wild flora and fauna in Europe. The Natura 2000 network is not limited to key areas that are of exceptional importance for biodiversity conservation, and includes the buffer zones and ecological corridors necessary for the conservation of migratory species.