



# Transboundary Parks...following nature's design

## TransParcNet Meeting 2021: *The contribution of the Transboundary Protected Areas to the EU Green Deal*

Thursday, 10th of June 2021, 09:00-16:00 CET, Online

Report by Stefania Petrosillo

The **Annual TransParcNet meeting** is usually hosted by one of the members of the cross-border areas certified by EUROPARC in the framework of the **EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme “Following Natures Design”**. This year, as in 2020, due of COVID19 emergency and travel restrictions, it was organized online.

The event was restricted to TransParcNet members and some specially invited crossborder areas. More than 70 participants from 24 countries and from the EU institutions attended the event.

The event was facilitated by **Stefania Petrosillo, Policy officer of EUROPARC and person in charge of the Transboundary Parks Programme**, with the support of **Esther Bossink, EUROPARC Communication officer**, and the special collaboration of **Elisa Tuaillon, former EUROPARC intern**.

The topic of this year was the EU Green Deal. *“The European Green Deal is the plan to make the EU's economy sustainable. We can do this by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities, and making the transition just and inclusive for all” (European Commission)*. What can this new approach offer to the cross-border Protected Areas? And which is the contribution that EUROPARC Transboundary Areas can provide to reach this crucial objective for the whole European continent?

The morning session was devoted to the role of the crossborder Protected Areas can play in the EU Green Deal. **The welcome words from the EUROPARC President Ignace Schops** underlined the new exciting political *momentum* of the recognition of the importance of the biodiversity protection and Protected areas at the higher political level.

[Download the presentation by Mr. Ignace Schops.](#)





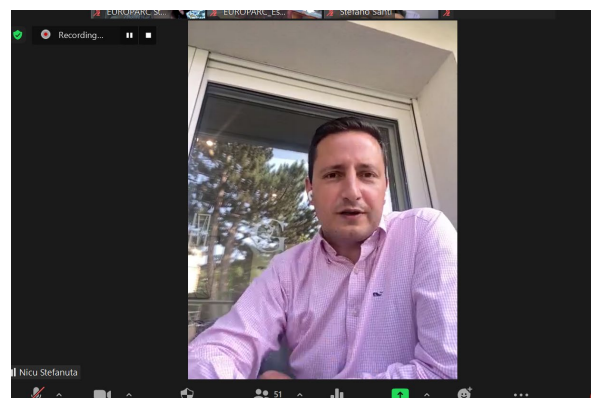
What the **Transboundary Parks Programme** is and what happened in the **network** since the last [TransParcNet meeting in December 2021](#): **Mr Rolands Auzins and Mr Stefano Santi, Co-chair EUROPARC TB Task Force** answered to these questions. See their presentation and go to the EUROPARC website to discover more: <https://www.euoparc.org/nature/transboundary-cooperation/>

[Download the presentation of Mr Rolands Auzins and Mr Stefano Santi.](#)

The commitment of the **European Parliament** for the biodiversity and European crossborder cooperation was presented by the **Mrs Jutta Paulus, Member of European Parliament (Greens-EFA, Germany)**, and **Mr Nicolae Ștefănuță, Member of European Parliament (Renew, Romania)**.

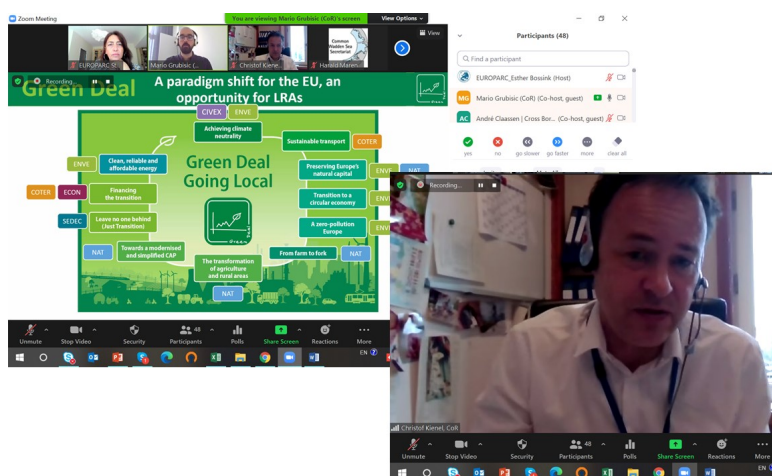
They stressed the importance that the new Common Agriculture Policy (“the elephant in the room”, as Mrs Paulus called it) and the future EU Forestry are coherent with the Biodiversity Strategy and the Green Deal principles. Both MEPs are also very supportive of the crossborder Protected Areas, through the Green Belt initiative. The dialogue between EUROPARC and the MEPs will certainly continue in the next future, hoping to develop fruitful cooperations.





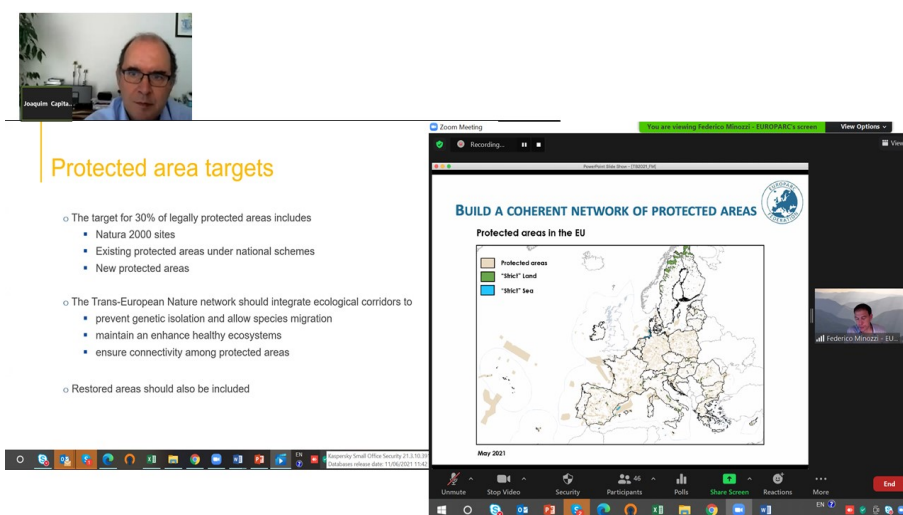
The **Committee of Regions** is involved in two initiatives very important for the TransParcNet. The **“European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance”**, presented **Christof Kienel, Head of Unit, Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER)**, was launched in 2020. It is an initiative that aims to improve the life of European citizens living in the EU's border regions. The European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance has multiple stakeholders, including the European Committee of the Regions. The initiative is based on the *“Declaration of the European Cross-border Citizens' Alliance: Cross-Border regions at the heart of tomorrow's Europe”*. The signatories *“underline the importance of cross-border cooperation for the process of integration of the European Union and ... call for cross-border regions to be placed back in the central political and legislative focus of the European Union; (art 1)”*. EUROPARC and the TransParcNet are evaluating to join the Alliance. More information and the declaration in all languages are available here: <https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/Pages/cross-border-alliance.aspx>

Mr **Mario Grubišić, Policy Officer, Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE)**, presented the second CoR initiative: the **“Green Deal Going Local”**, that aims at placing cities and regions at the core of the European Green Deal. Definitely crucial not only for the transboundary parks but for all EUROPARC members that work in deep connection with the local authorities. More information here: <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/The-European-Green-Deal-is-Going-Local-.aspx>



[Download the presentation of Mr Mario Grubišić here.](#)

EUROPARC will agree with our CoR's contacts when and how to present during the CoR meetings the Transboundary Parks programme and the work of the TransParcNet.



The core of our work: the Biodiversity. Mr Joaquim Capitão, Policy Officer, DG ENV of the **European Commission** presented the Targets, criteria and implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and Mr Federico Minozzi, EUROPARC Managing Director illustrated the position of EUROPARC.

[Download the Presentation of Mr Joaquim Capitão](#) and the [presentation of Mr. Federico Minozzi](#).

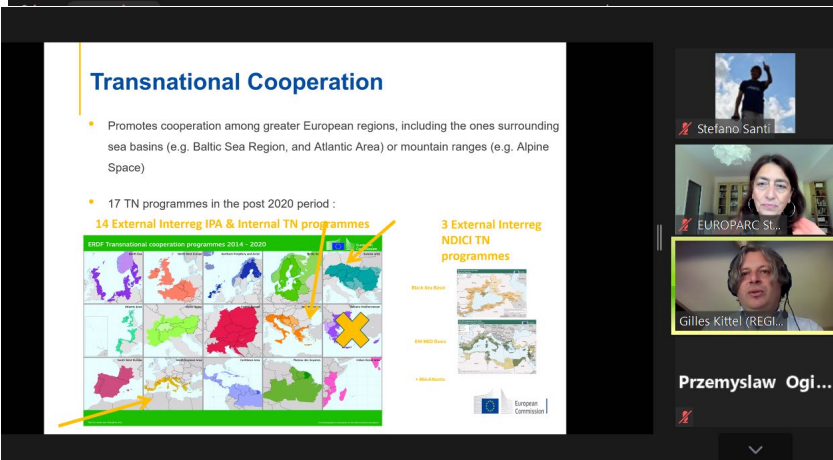
Finally, after so many years of dialogue with the EU institutions, EUROPARC is happy to see the national and regional Protected Areas recognized as part of the EU network for the protection of nature. The new criteria and guidance for Protected Areas designations and management offer to our TransParcNet a big role to play and “lobbying” at national and EU levels, in terms of enlargement of areas through ecological corridors and better management thanks to the crossborder cooperation.



Last but not least:

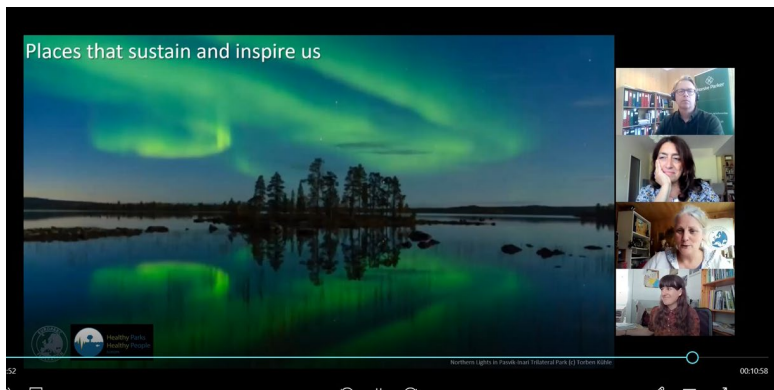
How can some **European programmes and funds** support cross-border cooperation to achieve the biodiversity targets?

With the contributes from **Mr Przemek Oginski**, Policy Officer in DG ENV, **Mr Gilles Kittel**, IPA CBC Team Leader in DG REGIO; and **Mrs Marta Munoz**, Policy Officer in DG EAC (Erasmus+), of the **European Commission**, we discovered many opportunities for our TransParcNet's future projects.



Download the [presentation of Mr Przemek Oginski](#), the [presentation of Mr Gilles Kittel](#) and [Mrs Marta Munoz here](#).

The afternoon was devoted to the **internal life of the network**. New projects ideas, the Transboundary Task Force work in the next months, how to better communicate the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme, the verifications visits and evaluations of 2021 and 2022, and the announcement of the **TransParcNet meeting 2022**, in Binntal Veglia Devero Transboundary Park (CH-IT), in presence!!



Lastly, **Mrs Carol Ritchie, EUROPARC Executive Director** concluded the day with final inspiring words.

**EUROPARC THANKS EVERYONE FOR THE PARTICIPATION!**



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SEE YOU AT THE TRANSPARCNET MEETING 2022 IN PRESENCE!!!!

