To celebrate the work of protected areas towards the implementation of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, the EUROPARC Federation and the Patronat de Turisme Costa Brava Girona (Catalonia, Spain), are delighted to invite you in Brussels, on the 7th December, for the Charter award ceremony 2016.

The Award Ceremony will take place at the European Parliament, kindly hosted by the Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, from the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe.

It will be an outstanding opportunity to celebrate successes, looking at the benefits that sustainable tourism strategies provide for people, environment and local economy within protected areas.

The ceremony will be once more a chance to raise the voice of Protected Areas at the highest European institutional level, with the opportunity to share good practices and case studies from the ground.

Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission and Members of the Committee of the Regions will contribute to the debate, providing the EU perspective, with highlights on recent policy developments and upcoming priorities.

The event is addressed to Protected Areas, local authorities, tourism experts and verifiers, partner businesses and tour operators, EU Institutions representatives, NGOs and other interested organisations.

After the award ceremony, the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the EU will welcome speakers, awardees and participants to join for a side event and a cocktail in the Catalanian representation office.
7th December 2016, Charter Award Ceremony, European Parliament

European Parliament, Place de Luxembourg, Brussels
Building: Paul-Henri Spaak; Room: PSB001

08:00 Registrations of participants
(Meeting at the entrance Altiero Spinelli of the European Parliament: see detailed instructions attached)

09:00 Welcome and introduction
MEP Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)
Jaume Dulsat, Representative of the Patronat de Turisme Costa Brava Girona
Carol Ritchie, Executive Director - EUROPARC Federation
The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, benefits for people and for nature.

09:30 Awards to new Charter Parks
Moderated by Stefania Petrosillo, Policy Officer
EUROPARC Federation

Greece
National Park of Tzoumerka, Peristeri and Arachthos Gorge
Chelmos Vouraikos National Park & Unesco Global Geopark

Spain
Parc Natural del Montgrí, les Illes Medes i el Baix Ter
Parc Natural de Montsant

Portugal
Terras do Lince

10:00 The value of biodiversity in the EU and the role of parks: benefits for people and local economy
Nicola Notaro, Head of the Nature Unit, DG Environment, European Commission

10:10 Awards to new Charter Parks
Italy
Parco Nazionale Arcipelago Toscano
Parco Nazionale del Cilento Vallo di Diano ed Alburni
Ente di Gestione delle Aree Protette del Monviso
Area Marina Protetta e Riserva Naturale dello Stato di Torre Guaceto
Riserva Naturale Statale Gola del Furlo

Italy/Slovenia
Transboundary Ecoregion Julian Alps (Prealpi Giulie NP/Triglav NP)

10:40 Implementing a sustainable tourism strategy in a Transboundary protected area
Representative of Triglav National Park and Prealpi Giulie Regional Park
Greetings from MEP Igor Šoltes (Slovenia) and MEP Isabella de Monte (Italy)

11:00 Awards to Charter Parks re-evaluated
France
Parc naturel régional des Alpilles
Syndicat mixte du Parc naturel régional Livradois-Forez
Parc naturel régional du Vercors
United Kingdom
The Broads National Park

11:20 The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism: values and benefits for parks
Bruce Hanson, The Broads Authority (UK)

11:25 Awards to Charter Parks re-evaluated
Spain
Parque Nacional de Cabañeros
Parque Natural Montseny
Parque Natural de Sant Llorenç del Munt i l’Obac
Parc Natural de la Zona Volcànica de la Garrotxa

11:45 Conclusions
Carol Ritchie, Executive Director - EUROPARC Federation

At the end of the Award Ceremony we invite all the participants to gather for the official group picture.

12:00 Transfer to the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia
Espai Catalunya Europa
Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the European Union, Wetstraat 227 Rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels
Side Event and Cocktail

Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the EU
Espai Catalunya Europa
Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the European Union
Wetstraat 227 Rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels

The Girona Provincial Council’s Costa Brava Girona Tourist Board, the Catalan Tourist Board and the Government of Catalonia’s Department of Territory and Sustainability are pleased to invite you to the presentation of the Costa Brava and Girona Pyrenees’s nature tourism and natural parks, which will take place on Wednesday 7th December 2016 at the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the European Union’s Espai Catalunya Europa.

The event will foresee the participation of the EUROPARC Federation, all Charter Parks awarded, all the participants at the Award Ceremony, specialized press and NECSTouR - Network of European Regions for Competitive and Sustainable Tourism.

Guests will enjoy a gourmet lunch prepared with Girona Excel·lent products during the side event.

Invited Authorities
European Parliament - MEP Ramon Tremosa i Balcells
Government of Catalonia
Diputació de Girona
Costa Brava Girona Tourism Board
EUROPARC Federation

Programme
12:45 Guests’ arrival
Welcome by authorities
Intervention Josep Maria Prats
Tourism in natural parks accredited with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas and the relationship with tourist organisations - the case study from the Zona Volcanica de la Garrotxa Nature Park.

Gourmet lunch and networking among the guests

15:00 End of the event

Extra information

Accommodation
As prices fluctuate from day to day in Brussels, follow the links to find an accommodation:
Option 1
Option 2
Option 3
Here some information on how to reach the city centre from the airports.

We kindly recommend arriving at 8:00 am for the registration procedure.

The ceremony will be in English.
For further information please contact:
+32 484137446 / info@european-charter.org

The organisation of this event is supported by the European Commission’s LIFE15 funding programme of operating grants for European Environmental NGOs.