



Centre for  
Environmental and  
Energy Law



AGENCY FOR  
NATURE & FORESTS

## XXIX International hamster workgroup meeting 2022 – Program (draft 27/09/2022)

**Wednesday 12 October 2022 (Havenlaan 88, 1000 Brussels, Herman Teirlinck building (see practical information document / online))**

### **I. The Wild hamster in Flanders**

9:15 *Welcome*, Prof. Dr. Hendrik Schoukens, Centre for Environmental and Energy Law University of Ghent, Belgium

9:25 *SWOT analysis current species protection program for Wild hamsters in Flanders*, Veerle Versteirt, Agency for Nature and Forests Flemish region, Belgium

9:45 *Policy perspectives for hamster recovery in Flanders*, Jelle Van den Berghe, Adjunct-Kabinetschef Omgeving, Vlaamse Minister van Omgeving Zuhal Demir

10:05 *The law and the Wild hamster: doing the (im-)possible?* Prof. Dr. Hendrik Schoukens

10:25 *Introduction of captive bred *Cricetus cricetus* from 2019 to 2021 in Widooie: is there any hope for the last Belgian population?* Sarah Descamps, PXL Bio-research Hasselt University, Belgium

10:45 *Notes from the field*, Inge Nevelsteen, Area coordinator hamsterproject, Regionaal Landschap Haspengouw en Voeren, Belgium

11:05 Coffee break

### **II. Good hamster recovery practices from abroad**

11:30 *The struggle for effective Conservation of hamsters in The Netherlands*, Maurice La Haye, Dutch Mammal Society, the Netherlands

11:50 *The Wild hamster in Alsace: back from extinction?*, Marie-Cécile Virion, Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement Grand Est, France (online, tbc)

12:10 Discussion

12:30 Lunch

### **III. New Wild hamster research**

13:30 *Habitat-use of Common Buzzard in relation to Hamsterconservation-areas (preliminary results)*, Gerard Müskens, Province of Limburg, the Netherlands (online)

13:50 *Captive breeding of a circannual species – chronobiological chances and pitfalls*, Dr. Stefanie Mönecke, Institute for Chronoecology, Germany

14:10 *Wind turbines and hamsters: conservation programmes of dwarf hamsters (Nothocricetulus migratorius) in Ukraine*, Mikhail Rusin, Kyiv Zoo, Ukraine (online)

14:30 *Improving the success of restocking programs: the case of the critically endangered common hamster*, Julie Fleitz, CNRS/Université de Strasbourg, France

14:50 *Burrow-Infrastructures Improve Successful Reintroduction - A Hypothesis*, Malu Antrobus-Thorweihe, Breeding Coordinator, Institut für Faunistik, Germany

15:10 Discussion

15:15 Coffee break

15:45 *Hamster Distribution Model: a case study in Alsace, France*, Oksana Grente, Research Engineer CNRS France

16:05 *Effects of food supplementation in autumn on subsequent reproductive success*, Carina Siutz, Department of Behavioral and Cognitive Biology, University of Vienna, Austria

16:25 *PUFA changes in white adipose tissue during hibernation in common hamsters*, Matthias Nemeth, Department of Behavioral and Cognitive Biology, University of Vienna, Austria

16:45 *Wildlife detection dog and hamster protection - first results from the field*, Saskia Jerosch, Deutsche Wildtier Stiftung and Mareike Schneider (online), Signum Artenspürhunde, Germany

17:05 *Effect of various crop associations on the health and reproductive success of the European hamster*, Timothée Gérard, CNRS/Université de Strasbourg, France

17:25 Closing remarks first days, Dr. Hendrik Schoukens

#### **POSTER:**

*Project Feldhamsterland*, Simon Hein, Deutsche Wildtier Stiftung, Germany

*Development of tools for monitoring the European Hamster (Cricetus cricetus) in the wild*, Yves-Jean Handrich, CNRS/IPHC, France (online)

Optional: conference dinner in Brussels

**Thursday 13 October 2022, field trip to the land of Haspengouw, bus leaves at 9:30 from Brussels, North railway Station to Kertsbornstraat Tongeren/Widooie (back at Brussels North station around 16:00) (exact locations and time tbc)**

Field trip aimed at illustrating hamster conservation measures in Limburg, Flanders guided by:

- Inge Nevelsteen, Area coordinator hamsterproject, Regionaal Landschap Haspengouw en Voeren
- Luc Crevecoeur, Provinciaal Natuurcentrum Limburg, Meetnet Hamster
- Guido Franssens, *eco ranger dog "Kiki", an evaluation*
- Timon Smeets, *Methodology to investigate the behavior of introduced European hamsters in Widoioe (Belgium)*, research Assistant, PXL Bio-Research, Belgium

### **COVID limitations**

COVID limitations applicable in October 2022 in Belgium will be applied and must be respected by all participants.