



Centre for  
Environmental and  
Energy Law



AGENCY FOR  
NATURE & FORESTS

## XXIX International hamster workgroup meeting 2022 – Program (draft 7/10/2022)

**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

9:20 *The law and the Wild hamster: doing the (im-)possible?* Prof. Dr. Hendrik Schoukens

9:40 *SWOT analysis current species protection program for Wild hamsters in Flanders*, Veerle Versteirt, Agency for Nature and Forests Flemish region, Belgium

10:00 *Notes from the field*, Inge Nevelsteen, Area coordinator hamsterproject, Regionaal Landschap Haspengouw en Voeren, Belgium

10:20 *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

10:40 Presentations posters & 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, tbc)

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 at [Gare Maritime](#) – in case you want to join and didn't subscribe yet write to: [ch@garemaritime-foodmarket.be](mailto:ch@garemaritime-foodmarket.be) (and indicate whether you choose the normal or veggie menu).

**Thursday 13 October 2022, field trip to the land of Haspengouw, bus leaves at 9:30 from Brussels, North railway Station (flixbus stop) to Kertsbornstraat Tongeren/Widooie ([Widooie - kapel Kertsbornstraat](#)) where our excursions starts at 11AM and ends at 1PM. From there by bus to Tongeren, hotel Eburon, De Schiervelstraat 10 for lunch at 1.15PM. Bus leaves around 14.45PM back to Brussels North station – arrival around 16:00).**

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 Widoioie (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.