**Appendix (Supplementary Material to Table 1).** Description of the European legal instruments analyzed in this study to identify conservation targets.

* Bern Convention, 1979, CETS No. 104: Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 48 accessions or ratifications (European countries, among others, including all EU members and Russia, some north-African countries, European Community as international organization).
* Alpine Convention, 1991 (framework convention including protocols): Convention on the protection of the Alps. Contracting parties in order of Alpine surface: Austria, Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, Slovenia, Liechtenstein, and Monaco. Available from www.alpconv.org/theconvention/index\_en.
* Carpathian Convention, 2003: Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. Contracting parties: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine. Available from www.carpathianconvention.org/index.htm.
* European Union: Birds (79/409/EEC) and Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC). Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.
* Germany: Federal Nature Conservation Act, 29 July 2009.
* Spain: Law 42/2007 from 13 December on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.
* Poland: Nature Conservation Law from 3 October 2008 (Dz. U. 2008, nr 201, poz. 1237) and Law on Forest Protection from 28 September 1991 (Dz. U. 1991, nr 101, poz. 444).
* Sweden: Forestry Act, SFS 1979:429; Environmental Act, SFS 1998:808 and Environmental Objectives Proposition 1997/97:145; Proposition 2004/05:150.
* Hungary: Law No. LIV, 1996, on Forest Protection; Law No. LIII, 1996, on Nature Conservation; other regulations available from www.orszagoszoldhatosag.gov.hu/index.php?akt\_menu=114.
* Cyprus: Law 152(I)/ 2003 on the conservation and management of wild birds and game species; Law 153(I)/ 2003 on the conservation and management of nature and wildlife; Law 4 (III)/2006 integrating the European Convention of Landscape protection ; Laws on forest protection from 1967 to 2003 (14/1967, 49/1987, 44/1991, 27(Ι)/1999, 124(Ι)/2001,78Α(Ι)/2003); Policy declaration for the regulation and control of development and for the protection of environment in the countryside and villages, 1996.
* Greece: Law 86/1969 (Forest Code modified by Law 2637/1998); Law 998/1979 on Forest Protection; Presidential Decree 67/1981 on the protection of native flora and fauna species; Law 1335/1983 (Integration of the Bern Convention); Common Ministerial Decision 414985/1985 (Integration of the Birds Directive 79/409 EEC); Law 1650/86 on the Protection of the Environment; Law 2204/1994 (Integration of the Convention on Biological Diversity); Common Ministerial Decision 33318/3028/1998 (Integration of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC); Law 2719/1999 (Integration of the Bonn Convention); Law 3199/2003 (Integration of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EEC); Law 3208/2003 on the Protection of Forest Ecosystems; ; Law 3937/2011 on biodiversity conservation.
* United Kingdom: Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006; England & Wales Conservation Regulations 1994, SI 2716; Scotland Nature Conservation Act, 2004.