

**SYMONS PIROVOLIDOU, Despina (Greece)**

**Current employment and/or position/title:**

Director of the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)

**Experience in fields of concern to IUCN:**

The nominee has been Director of EBCD, an active Member of IUCN for 22 years.

The candidate has played a key role in several IUCN initiatives including the establishment of the IUCN Regional Office for Europe, the IUCN European Sustainable Use Specialist Group, the creation of the IUCN Global Marine Programme (GMP) and the creation of the Fisheries Expert Group of the IUCN/CEM of which the candidate is the coordinator. Regarding the IUCN SUSG, EBCD continues to provide the Secretariat and the candidate continues to be member of the Executive Committee.

Working closely with the EU Institutions for over 20 years, the candidate has gained deep knowledge of EU policies and procedures and has established an extensive network of valuable contacts in Brussels which she can bring to the IUCN family. All this combined with her deep knowledge of the IUCN and its functioning (having followed actively developments within IUCN for over 22 years) the candidate can make a considerable contribution to the Council and assist Members in furthering their objectives and working closer with the EU.

**Particular qualifications to be a Regional Councillor:**

The nominee has a deep knowledge and experience in conservation issues and knows well and believes in IUCN (representative of an active member of IUCN since 1989). She has considerable experience in fundraising given that she has been responsible for all the fundraising of EBCD since its establishment. She has an important network of contacts in the EU institutions and a deep knowledge of the EU policies and procedures. Furthermore, she has good contacts in many European countries both governments and NGOs and speaks fluently and communicates in four languages. Finally she has the institutional support of EBCD to help her carry out the tasks of a Regional Councillor.