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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

35th meeting
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015

Complaint on stand-by

**Presumed deliberate killing of birds
in Serbia**

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Serbia*

- MARCH 2015 -



**Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

No. 353-01-00374/2015-17

Date: 05 March 2015

Belgrade

Council of Europe

Biological Diversity Unit

F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Ivana d'ALESSANDRO

Secretary of the Bern Convention

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE COMPLAINT TO BERN CONVENTION SENT BY
BIRD PROTECTION AND STUDY SOCIETY OF SERBIA**

Attn – Case filed with the Council of Europe: Complaint Form sent by Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia from 9 April 2014

Dear Ms Alessandro,

The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, on behalf of the Republic of Serbia - the official Party to the Convention, received your message dated 21 January 2015 which informs the Ministry that the Council of Europe received a complaint from Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia from 9 April 2014 on reporting cases of death of White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Rough-legged Buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*), Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Short-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) and Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) by poisoning in the Republic of Serbia in years 2007-2014 at various locations.

In accordance with your request for more detailed information in terms of the above mentioned Complaint regarding the undertaken urgent steps leading to prevention of deliberate killing of bird species from the Appendix II of the Convention, locating and adequate legal prosecution of individuals or organization involved in described violations, we inform you that the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection has organized meeting on 5th February 2015 in order to review all matters specified in the Complaint, update data and prepare report in this regard for the upcoming meeting of the Bureau of the Berne Convention.

All relevant institutions and organizations have been invited including representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Department for Environmental Protection which is responsible for nature protection, and Department for Plant Protection responsible for using active substances, Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Infrastructure, and Environmental Protection of Vojvodina, Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province and NGO's.

Pursuant to your request, the competent institutions and organizations have submitted reports on the steps leading to prevention of deliberate killing of bird species from the Appendix II of the Convention especially considering the measures to ensure the **conservation of the wild birds and their habitats** and official collaboration among all relevant stakeholders which represent an essential commitment in implementing the Bern Convention, in order to investigate all cases and provide detailed information to the Council of Europe with regard to the mentioned Complaint.

With this regard, we would like to indicate following facts:

1. The provisions of the Bern Convention are fully transposed into the legislation of the Republic of Serbia.
2. According the data from Provincial Institute for Nature Protection on the territory of Vojvodina in year 2014, fourteen specimens of strictly protected birds were found dead: nine specimens of White-tailed Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), 2 specimens of Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) and three specimens of Common Crane (*Grus grus*).
3. In accordance with the Law on Nature Protection ("Official Gazette RS", Nos. 36/2009, 88/2010 and 91/2010 - amendment), with the Art. 93 of the Law on Nature Protection, Contracts on financing the costs of finding cause of killing strictly protected species of wild birds have been signed on Toxicological analyzes between the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and Scientific Institute for Veterinary of Novi Sad (Contract No. 401-00-386/14-08 form 04. 04. 2014. And Contract No 401-00-235/14-19 od 26. 06. 2014.)
4. Toxicological analyzes in laboratory have shown that protected species of birds were killed by poisoned food treated with carbofuran (feeding with treated seeds and seedlings of maize on the fields where dead birds were found) or by the corps of dead animals intentionally treated by this insecticide and posted as baits for killing rodents.
5. After getting the toxicological results the renter of the field plot, where dead birds were found, was proceeded to the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office on 17th April this year.
6. After Environmental Inspections Supervision in this field, Criminal Charge submitted According to the Article 280. – paragraph 1 of the Law on Criminal Procedure ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 72/11 and 101/11), No. 130-501-428/1/2014-06 od 17. 04. 2014. and No 130-501-696/1/12014-06 od 02. 06. 2014.

First Criminal Charge (No. 130-501-428/1/2014-06 od 17. 04. 2014.) is raised against non-identified criminal offender for the reason of killing of number of species of which some are specified as protected as per Article 269. paragraph 2 of the Criminal Code ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia",no. 85/05,88/05,107/05,72/09 and 121/12). In the period February 21th untill March 14th 2014, 2 specimens of *Buteo buteo*, 7 specimens of white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and 3 specimens of *Canis aureus* were found poisoned. Buzzard *Buteo buteo* and white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* are strictly protected species and *Canis aureus* is protected (hunting) species according to the Rulebook on proclamation and protection strictly protected and protected wild species of plants, animals and fungi ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", no.5/10 and 47/11).

Toxicological examination of the samples of killed animals has shown the presence of carbofouran-7-phenol and carbofuran (commercial name Furadan).

Proposed measure – according to the Article 282.- paragraph 4 of the Law on Criminal Procedure Public prosecutor in Sombor should gather relevant information from the police and undertake other measures for detecting the criminal offence and its offender (Art. 286-288).

Second Criminal Charge (130-501-696/1/12014-06 od 02. 06. 2014) is raised against non-identified criminal offender for the reason of killing of one specimen of strictly protected species White-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*). Toxicological examination of the sample has shown the presence of carbofouran-7-phenol. Proposed measure – according to the Article 282.- paragraph 4 of the Law on Criminal Procedure Public prosecutor in Sombor should gather relevant information from the police and undertake other measures for detecting the criminal offence and its offender (Art. 286-288).

7. Phytosanitary Inspector was taken measures as following:

According to the report sent on 24.04.2014. to the Directorate for plant protection by Jozef Gergelj, the President of the Society for protection and study of birds of Serbia, the phytosanitary inspector went to the same place on 26.04.2014. (Jozef Gergelj was present as well) and at same time took, for the concerned parcel, samples of maize seeds and parts of germinated plants of maize to establish the presence of the active substance of (karbofuran) as it was doubted that it is in maize seeds.

From the Republic geodesic institute, Department for land registry and immobility Coka it was given report no. 95-30/2014 on 30.04.2014. for the asked data said that the cadastre parcel no.2507 in cadastre commune Sanad, area 86 ha 04 a 66 m² which was enlisted in immobility no. 220 that the owner of land is Republic of Serbia, Ministry of agriculture, trade, forestry and water management.

According to the record no. 270-321-00057-6/2014-11 on 05.05.2014. it was concluded that in control in AD 'SANAD' from Sanada that they use this land, parcel no. 2507 according the agreement. In internal register parcel 2507 no.T-6 on the 70 ha it was sowed commercial maize and on the other part sowed 10 ha commercial sunflower.

According of the statement of the officer in charge of crop production the seed was sprinkled with substance for plant protection (Furadan) – manufacturer Galenika phytofarmasy, Zemun- and it was used as 1 liter for 100 kg of seeds. The substance was used for seed treatment in the concrete blender. After that the seeds was drying for 4-5 hours and after that the seeds where ready for sowing. The sowing was done on 09.04.2014.

According to the all stated the phytosanitary inspector submitted application for commercial violation against AD 'Sanad' from Sanad and for the responsible person in legal entity – director of the company, no. 270-321-00057-6/2014-11 on 06.05.2014.to the Public Prosecution in Zrenjanin, Kej 2. Oktobra broj 2.

According to no. KIII17/14 on 29.09.2014. the Public Prosecution in Zrenjanin informed the phytosanitary inspector that it was submitted accusation against the legal entity and the director as responsible person.

8. The meeting held in the Ministry of interior Affairs – police station in Apatin, on May 13th 2014.

Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection in cooperation with Ministry of Interior Affairs (MIP), Environmental Inspection, Institute for Nature Protection of Vojvodina Province and NGO's organized a meeting held in MIP-Police station in Apatin on the subject of recent cases of illegal poisoning of strictly protected nationally and internationally important bird species, namely number of specimens of *Haliaeetus albicilla* and *Buteo buteo*, which occurred in Svilojevo village, municipality of Apatin, Autonomus Province of Vojvodina.

At the meeting the following was concluded:

- It is urgent to establish the cooperation with Public prosecutor for the reason of initiating the criminal proceedings in Court
 - The competent police station in Apatin will take statements from eyewitnesses of the event
 - According to the Law on Criminal Procedure for every new emerging violation, both police and public prosecutor shell be informed for the reason of their joint investigation of the crime event
 - Proactive prevention measures should be taken in terms of inclusion of mass-media and official internet communications of all relevant institutions and organizations for the reason of informing the public on the prohibition of use and trade of carbofuran and
 - Withdrawal of the residual stocks of carbofuran from individual users and further treatment of this substance because of its negative consequences such as poisoning of strictly protected species of birds in order to preserve species and their habitats.
9. According to the Law on plant protection products ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 41/09) and the list of approved active substances products ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 72/14) Serbia accepted EU list of approved active substances on 31.12.2013.

Following that, all authorizations for plant protection products (70 products) consist of non-approved active substances (27 active substances were present), withdrawn, and period for sale and use of their stocks is also established. That period were 6 months for manufacturers, plus 6 months for distributors and additional 6 months for use - in total 18 months.

For product on the basis of carbofuran used for seed treatment (Furadan 35 ST) period for sale and use of their stock was not established. on 17th of April 2014. all stocks of that product were withdrawn from sale and returned to manufacturer. The Ministry of Agriculture has also established cooperation with Ministry of Internal Affairs, Basic Public Prosecutor's Office and Custom Service to help in preventing illegal marketing and use of Furadan 35 ST.

10. For this reason the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection collaboration with the Institute for Nature Protection of Vojvodina Province and Ministry of Internal Affairs issued the statement for public, importers and distributors to actively work on withdrawing of stocks of this chemical who's selling and use are prohibited.
11. Regarding other cases of the derogations from 2008-2013. we inform you that all relevant information were sent to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention including:
 - Biennial Reports 2009-2010, 2011-2012
 - Questionnaire for the reporting of Parties to the Bern Convention on the measures undertaken to implement the Standing Committee Recommendation No. 155 (2011), and
 - Questionnaire for the Identification by Parties of Criteria for the Establishment National Policing Investigation Priorities and Gravity Factors to be taken into account when Combating illegal killing, trapping, and trade of wild birds (T-PVS/Inf (2014) 4).

Also, we inform you that Biennial Report for 2013-2014 will be prepared and submitted to the Standing Committee in 2015.

With reference to the Complaint filed by the NGOs, the Institute for Nature Protection of Vojvodina Province particularly underlined the following facts in its report: Takeover and care for strictly protected species taken by the Institute for Nature Protection of Vojvodina Province.

During 2010. Takeover and care measures were realized for following strictly protected species: *Pandion haliaetus*, *Buteo buteo*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*. Birds were found in vicinity of Vrsac and in the area of Special Nature Reserve "Gornje Podunavlje" and cared for in the wildlife sanctuary of the ZOO Palic.

During 2011. care and placement of following species of birds was done: one specimen of *Haliaeetus albicilla* found in Susek and one specimen of *Falco vespertinus* found in Novo Milosevo.

During 2012. care and placement of following species of birds was done: three specimens of *Haliaeetus albicilla*, one specimen of *Buteo buteo*, two specimen of *Circus aeruginosus*, three specimen of *Falco tinnunculus*, one *Bubo bubo*, one *Asio otus* and one *Tyto alba*.

During 2013. in cooperation with wildlife sanctuary of the ZOO Palic care and placement of following species of birds was done: one specimen of *Pernis apivorus*, one specimen *Haliaeetus albicilla*, one specimen of *Circus aeruginosus*, three specimens of *Buteo buteo*, one specimen of *Accipiter nisus*, one *Falco tinnunculus*, four specimens of *Asio otus* and one *Athene noctua*.

There were also records and following reactions to the eight cases of suffering of the protected species, of which seven cases of poisoning. Five specimens of *Haliaeetus albicilla* were found poisoned in Backo Petrovo Village, Gardinovci, Krčedin and two specimens in Kupinovo. Also, five poisoned buzzards *Buteo buteo* were found in Silbas, three specimens of *Circus aeruginosus* in Karadjordjevo and six buzzards *Buteo buteo* and seven ravens *Corvus corax* in Dobrodol. In addition, one white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* died on the low-voltage transmission line, was found near Đurdevo.

Taking into account the concerns of the NGOs for the state of wild flora and fauna, as well as the possible illegal killing of bird species, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, in cooperation Special Focal point for illegal killing birds with the relevant institutions and

organizations, including the NGOs: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Basic Public Prosecutor's Office shall continue to improve the monitoring system and shall take all necessary measures to prevention of killing of bird species, locating and adequate legal prosecution of individuals or organization involved in possible future violations.

Hoping that we have provided you with sufficient and adequate information on undertaken urgent steps leading to prevention of deliberate killing of bird species from the Appendix II of the Convention, locating and adequate legal prosecution of individuals or organization involved in described violations. we thank you in advance for taking this matter into highest consideration at the upcoming meeting of the Bureau of the Berne Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Snezana Prokic and Marko Rakovic

MSc. Snezana Prokic, Head of Department for Ecological Network and AA, Focal point for Bern Convention

MSc. Marko Rakovic, Bird Curator and Researcher, Biological Department of Natural Natural History Museum of Belgrade, Focal point for illegal killing birds

- OCTOBER 2015 -



**Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

No. 337-00-335/15-17

Date: 28. 09. 2015.

Belgrade

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Ivana d'Alessandro

Head of the Biodiversity Unit - Bern Convention

Democratic Governance Directorate

Council of Europe

Agora Building, A4.47V

F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

**SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON THE ANNULMENT OF HUNTING BAN ON TURTLE
DOVE**

Dear Mrs D'Alessandro,

Regarding the request of the Secretariat of the Bern Convention from 8th September 2015 for detailed information on the annulment of hunting ban on turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*), the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection would like to inform you about the facts that occurred before the abovementioned decision.

The Directorate for Forestry within the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, in charge for game hunting, has been prepared the amendments to the Rulebook on proclamation of game animals protected by hunting ban (closed season), in collaboration with representatives from Sector for Environmental Protection within the same Ministry, and after four meetings with all relevant stakeholders (Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Infrastructure and Environmental Protection of Vojvodina, Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province, local bird protection NGOs and the Hunting Association of Serbia).

Having in mind that monitoring of turtle dove has not been established yet, and that its national conservation status is still unclear, respecting the principle of a precautionary approach, amendments of mentioned rulebook introduced a turtle dove hunting ban for the next two years. Comparative analysis of turtle dove hunting periods in the neighboring countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Greece) on the same migratory corridor for these birds, showed that in the Republic of Serbia hunting period is the shortest in the region.

The turtle dove hunting ban for a very short period was in place as amendment to the Rulebook on proclamation of game animals protected by hunting ban have been adopted only one month before hunting ban started (on June 19th the Ministry announced a two years hunting ban on turtle dove). Taking into account that proposed changes in hunting legislation should reflect on implementation on Periodical hunting management plans and Annual hunting operational plans and affect on general

hunting policy implementation, thus denied the opportunity to cancel the contracted hunts and tourism services, which, in addition to economic damage, jeopardizes Serbia's image in the hunting tourism market, decision has been made to postpone the period of hunting ban application to period from 1st October 2015 to 31st March 2017. In practical terms, the ban has not been lifted, but has been postponed.

In addition, we would like to inform you that AEWA Agreement has been prepared for ratification and it will be approved until the end of this year.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon and thank you in advance for your highest consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Zoran Rajić
State Secretary

Annex 1

**Based on Article 21 of the Law on Game Animals and Hunting (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 18/10),
Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection hereby passes the following**

RULEBOOK ON AMENDMENTS TO THE RULEBOOK ON THE DECLARATION OF GAME ANIMALS PROTECTED BY CLOSE SEASON

Article 1

Referring to Article 4 of the Rulebook on the Declaration of Game Animals Protected by Close Season (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 9/12 and 31/13), after paragraph 3, new par. 4 and 5 shall be added and shall read as follows:

“To protect and regulate turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) population size, close season measure shall be applied to this type of game until 31st of March 2017, except in case of prevention and control of infectious diseases, organized capture of injured turtle doves for scientific research, and when approved by the ministry in charge of hunting, in accordance with the law governing game animal and hunting.

To protect and regulate grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*) population size, close season measure shall be applied to this kind of game animal until 31st of March 2016, except in case of prevention and control of infectious diseases, organized capture of injured grey partridges for scientific research, as well as examination of inner features of hunting dogs in hunting ground during the period from 1st August of the current year to 31st March of the next year, with the approval obtained from the ministry in charge of hunting, in accordance with the law governing game animal and hunting.”

Previous paragraph 4, which becomes paragraph 6, is amended as follows:

“Hunting season dates are provided in Annex – Length of the hunting season for game animals protected by close season, which is printed with this Rulebook and forms an integral part thereof.”

Article 2

Annex – Length of the hunting season for game animals protected by close season, which is printed with the Rulebook on the Declaration of Game Animals Protected by Close Season (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No.9/12 and 31/13), shall be replaced with the new Annex – Length of the hunting season for game animals protected by close season, which is printed with this Rulebook and forms an integral part thereof.

Article 3

This Rulebook shall enter into force the day after its publication in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”.

Ref. 110-00-00117/2015-09

In Belgrade, 19th June 2015

MINISTER

Snežana Bogosavljević Bošković, PhD, sgd.

Annex - Length of the hunting season for game animals protected by close season**1. Hunting seasons table below lists game animals protected by close season as follows:**

No.	SPECIES English name	SPECIES Scientific name	GENDER	HUNTING SEASON DATES
MAMMALS (MAMMALIA) – LARGE WILD ANIMALS				
1.	Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>	chamois chamois doe and calf	7/1 – 1/31 9/1 – 1/31
2.	Mouflon	<i>Ovis musimon</i>	mouflon ewe and lamb	1/1 – 12/31 10/1 – 1/31
3.	Roe deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	buck	4/15 – 9/30
4.	Red deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	doe and fawn hart	9/1 – 1/31 8/1 – 2/15
5.	Fallow deer	<i>Cervus dama</i>	hind and fawn buck	8/1 – 2/15 9/1 – 2/15
6.	White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	doe and fawn buck	9/1 – 2/15 9/1 – 2/15
7.	Wild boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	doe and fawn hog sow young wild boar (up to 60 kg)	9/1 – 2/15 4/15 – 2/28 7/1 – 12/31 4/15 – 2/28
No.	SPECIES English name	SPECIES Scientific name	HUNTING SEASON DATES	
MAMMALS (MAMMALIA) – SMALL FURRY WILDLIFE				
1.	European hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	10/15 – 12/31	
2.	Wildcat**	<i>Felis silvestris</i>	7/1 – 2/28	
3.	Beech marten	<i>Martes foina</i>	10/1 – 2/28	
4.	European pine marten	<i>Martes martes</i>	10/1 – 2/28	
5.	European badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	7/1 – 2/28	
6.	Edible doormouse	<i>Glis glis</i>	8/1- 2/28	
7.	Ondatra zibethicus	<i>Ondatra zibethica</i>	1/1 – 12/31	
8.	Red squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	8/1 – 2/28	
9.	Raccoon dog	<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>	1/1 – 12/31	
10.	Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	1/1 – 12/31	
11.	Least weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	close season for the whole year	
12.	European polecat	<i>Mustela putorius</i>	close season for the whole year	
MAMMALS (MAMMALIA) – LARGE WILD CARNIVORES				
1.	Grey wolf *	<i>Canis lupus</i>	7/1 – 3/31	
2.	Golden jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	1/1 – 12/31	
3.	Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	1/1 – 12/31	

BIRDS (AVES) – FEATHERED WILD ANIMALS

1.	Eurasian teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	9/1 – 2/28
2.	Eurasian wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	9/1 – 2/28
3.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	9/1 – 2/28
4.	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	9/1 – 2/28
5.	Common pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	9/1- 2/28
6.	Greater white-fronted goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	10/1 – 2/28
7.	Bean goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	10/1 – 2/28
8.	Eurasian woodcock***	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	10/1 – 1/31
9.	Common wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	8/1 – 2/28
10.	Eurasian collar dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	8/1 – 2/28
11.	Coturnix	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	8/1 – 9/30
12.	Cimmon pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	10/1 – 1/31
13.	Eurasian coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	9/1 – 2/28
14.	Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	9/1 – 2/28
15.	Eurasian jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	8/1 – 2/28
16.	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	8/1 – 2/28
17.	Great cormorant****	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1/1 – 12/31
18.	Nothern goshawk ****	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1/1 – 12/31
19.	Grey heron ****	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1/1 – 12/31
20.	Hooded crow ****	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	1/1 – 12/31
21.	Pica ****	<i>Pica pica</i>	1/1 – 12/31

Note:

* Species protected as game animal protected by close season, except on parts of the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina where it is protected as strictly protected wild species;

**Species protected as game animal protected by close season, except on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina where it is protected as strictly protected wild species;

***Species protected as game animal protected by close season in areas located up to 500m above sea level;

****Species that a user of a hunting ground may hunt solely for the purpose of preventing damage to the hunting grounds on a registered pond and to the hunting grounds, in accordance with an annual hunting area management plan.

2. A user of the hunting ground may organize a group wild boar hunting in an open hunting area, where this manner of hunting is allowed by the planning document, during the period from 1st September to 31st January, except for sows which are allowed to be hunted so until 31st December.

A user of the hunting ground may organize group hunting of wild boar on a separate fenced part of the hunting ground intended for group hunting of wild boars, where this manner of hunting is allowed by the planning document, in the period from 1st September to 31st January.

Immediately after finishing group hunting of wild pigs, a user of the hunting ground shall summon a competent veterinary service to perform veterinary and sanitary inspection of slaughtered animals.

3. Group hunts of large carnivores in an open hunting area, where this manner of hunting is envisaged by the planning document, may be organized during the period from 1st September to 28th February.

Annex 2

**Based on Article 21 of the Law on Game Animals and Hunting (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 18/10),
Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection hereby passes the following**

RULEBOOK ON AMENDMENTS TO THE RULEBOOK ON THE DECLARATION OF GAME ANIMALS PROTECTED BY CLOSE SEASON

This Rulebook was published in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No.67/15 of 29th July 2015.

Article 1

Referring to Article 4, paragraph 4 of the Rulebook on the Declaration of Game Animals Protected by Close Season (Official Gazette of RS, No.9/12, 31/13 and 55/15, the phrase “game until 31st March 2017” will be replaced with “from 1st October 2015 to 31st March 2017”.

Article 2

This Rulebook shall enter into force the day after its publication in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”.

Ref. 110-00-00117/2015-09

In Belgrade, 23rd July 2015

MINISTER

Snežana Bogosavljević Bošković, PhD