

# Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats



## Standing Committee

### **Recommendation No. 28 (1991) on the use of non-toxic shot in wetlands**

*(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 6 December 1991)*

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the convention,

Having regard to the aims of the convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Having been informed of the conclusions of the workshop on lead poisoning in waterfowl, organised by the international Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB) and held in Brussels in June 1991;

Aware that lead poisoning is responsible for an increased mortality in waterbirds and birds of prey (raptors);

Conscious that most incidents of lead poisoning in waterbirds result from the ingestion of spent gunshot;

Convinced that the use of non-toxic shot in wetland habitats is an effective measure to avoid lead poisoning in birds and further pollution of wetlands;

Aware that both the hunting community and the ammunition manufacturing industry need time to adapt themselves to the use and production of non-toxic shot;

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. take steps to phase out the use of lead shot in wetlands or waterfowl hunting as soon as possible;
2. promote a general shift to the use of alternatives to lead shot;
3. establish and adhere to a schedule for the replacement of lead shot by non-toxic alternatives, so that manufacturers and dealers may plan their programmes accordingly;
4. establish effective information, awareness and education programmes prior to and during the implementation of a lead-shot replacement programme;
5. incorporate the use of non-toxic shot in existing hunter-training programmes and examinations.