

# 6th Meeting of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Wild Birds

Sliema (Malta), 21 June 2017

Report by the Chair

Rastislav Rybanič

37th Standing Committee Meeting,  
5-8 December 2017

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



# Overview

- The meeting held back to back with the meetings related to to illegal killing and trade of birds
- Full report is in document T-PVS (2017) 23
- Big thank to Malta - host country
- Agenda:
  - Introduction, recent developments and updates
  - Species action plans and their implementation
  - Follow up on Bern Convention complaints concerning the protection of Birds -2 stand by complaints discussed
  - Mandate of the Group of Experts - discussion
  - Election of Chair and Vice -Chair

# Species action plans (SAPs)

- AEWA - Preparation of 5 new/revised action and management plans(White-headed Duck, Dalmatian Pelican, Barnacle Goose, Greylag Goose and Velvet Scoter), recommended format for SAPs
- BirdLife International work on LIFE EuroSAP project:
  - 9 out of 16 Action plan currently under finalisation
  - Development of tracking tool for SAPs implementation  
[www.trackingactionplans.org](http://www.trackingactionplans.org)
- Creation of a European Species Coordination Group, to be working as a platform for coordination between the 5 legal frameworks operating on bird conservation – European Union, CMS, Raptors MoU, AEWA and Bern Convention
- Challenges in the implementation of Species Action Plans were discussed
  - link between SAPs and national and local implementation
  - Multispecies Action and Management Plans
  - International coordination

# Mandate of the Group of Experts

- Bern Convention is a frontrunner in many issues linked to birds' conservation, later taken on board by other actors
- How to best use the Group of Experts:
  - Catalyst for thinking on new emerging issues,
  - Coordination mechanism for Contracting Parties, feeding into the work of other groups under other instruments, such as Flyways Groups, Energy Working Group, Poisoning Group, Renewables Group, etc.
  - the new mandate and work programme should be more specific on the areas of future work of the Group and, where possible, specific outcomes' oriented.
- Next steps: The Secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair of the Group of Experts, should prepare a revised mandate of the group, accompanied by a draft Framework Programme of Work (FPoW)
- Election of Chair and Vice -Chair

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the 6th meeting of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Wild Birds which took place on 21 June 2017 in Sliema (Malta);
- Thank the national authorities of Malta for the excellent hosting of the meeting;
- Take note of the decision by the Group to review its mandate and develop a Framework Programme of Work (FPoW) with clear expected outcomes, to be debated at its next meeting;
- Take note of the proposals made for the future work priorities for the Group and based on the discussions on the added value of the Convention on wild birds' conservation.