

Strasbourg, 30 October 2018  
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T-PVS(2018)14

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

38<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2018

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**Expert meeting on the implementation of the  
Action Plan for the eradication of ruddy duck  
in Europe**

Paris, 25 June 2018

**- MEETING REPORT -**

*Secretariat Memorandum  
prepared by  
the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

The Standing Committee is requested to:

- Take note of the report of the Expert meeting;
- Take note of the progress in the implementation of the Action Plan for the eradication of the ruddy duck in the Western Palearctic endorsed in its Recommendation No. 149 (2010);
- Recognise the efforts by all relevant Parties.

The meeting of the Expert Group was opened by Mr Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO, Head of the Culture, Nature and Heritage Department. It took place at the Paris Office of the Council of Europe on 25 June 2018.

The Group of Experts on the Ruddy Duck meets approximately once a year to assess progress in the implementation of the Bern Convention Action Plan on the eradication of the species.

The Group was presented with the updated numbers of Ruddy Ducks still left in the wild (and estimations on number of captive birds) in the four states where it is still present) so progress in the eradication could be assessed. The situation in each of the four states is summarised below:

1. In the UK, work on the eradication of the Ruddy Duck is close to completion. Many small groups have been eliminated and now there are only 23 birds left. There are only three places holding more than 5 birds in 3 different unconnected regions. Only one region - NW England - has regular reproduction. 17 birds were removed in the area in 2017 and 2018.
2. In Belgium, there is only one pair in the Walloon Region. In Flanders, the number of birds in winter is around 8 (17 in summer 2017, probably coming from France or the Netherlands). Selective culling continues with 15 birds killed in 2017-2018.
3. In the Netherlands, the situation is stable, although very few birds have been culled. Winter counts go up to 60-75 birds and summer counts from 25 to 40 birds. The provinces have now the responsibility to control birds, but they seem to have other priorities. They are going to hire specialised teams to cull the birds.
4. In Spain, there are only sporadic sightings in the last 5 years. One or two birds are thus seen in the country and area fast controlled.
5. In France, wintering numbers are around 190, out of which 184 in Lac de Grand Lieu. It is still a mystery where the birds gather to moult, as they arrive to the wintering site all the same day. Practically all adults nesting in the lake and their chicks are culled in spring. Estimations of nesting couples in spring is 40/60 couples, in a vast area in West and North West France. A LIFE project will start in October 2018, and will last 3 years. If the project is successful as the one in the UK, in 3 years it is likely that the problem is solved in France.

A successful LIFE project in France would help reduce drastically the numbers of this alien bird and support the conservation of the white-headed duck in the long term. This would in turn mean the completion of the Bern Convention Action Plan for the eradication of the ruddy duck in the Western Palearctic [Recommendation No. 149 (2010)].

**Annex 1**



Strasbourg, 18 April 2018

T-PVS/Agenda(2018)4

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Expert meeting on the implementation of the  
Action Plan for the eradication of ruddy duck in Europe**

Paris, 25 June 2018 (9:00 am – 6:00 pm)  
Council of Europe Office, 55 avenue Kléber, Paris, France

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**AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome by French authorities (ONCFS) and opening of the meeting by Council of Europe**
- 2. Introduction by the Secretariat of the Bern Convention**

*[Recommendation No. 149 (2010) of the Standing Committee to the Convention]  
[Recommendation No. 185 (2016) of the Standing Committee to the Convention]  
[T-PVS/Inf(2017)3 – Report of the 2017 Expert meeting]*

- 3. Current situation and planned action at national level**

Updates from the different states :

- Belgium
- France
- The Netherlands
- Spain
- United Kingdom

- 4. Presentation of the LIFE project by France**
- 5. Possible next steps**
- 6. Any other issues**

**Annex 2**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**I. CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES CONTRACTANTES**

**BELGIUM/ BELGIQUE**

Mr Tim ADRIAENS, Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)

**FRANCE / FRANCE**

Mr Jean-Francois MAILLARD, Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS)

Ms Claire PERNOLLET, Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS)

**THE NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS**

Mr Johan CRONAU, Province of Gelderland

**SPAIN / ESPAGNE**

Ms Bárbara SOTO-LARGO MEROÑO, Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente

Mr Carlos GUTIÉRREZ EXPÓSITO, Estación Biológica de Doñana (CSIC)

Mr Jorge FERNÁNDEZ ORUETA, SEO/BirdLife

**UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI**

Mr Iain HENDERSON, National Wildlife Management Centre

Mr Peter CRANSWICK, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)

**II. OBSERVERS AND CONSULTANTS / OBSERVATEURS ET EXPERTS**

**Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbird (UNEP/AEWA) / Secrétariat de l'Accord sur la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie (UNEP/AEWA)**

Ms Nina MIKANDER, UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement

**III. SECRETARIAT / SECRETARIAT**

**Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation / Direction de la Citoyenneté démocratique et de la Participation F-67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX, France**

Tel: +33 388 41 20 00. Fax: +33 388 41 37 51

Mr Eladio FERNÁNDEZ-GALIANO, Head of the Culture, Nature and Heritage Department, Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation DGII / Chef du Service de la Culture, de la Nature et du Patrimoine, Direction de la citoyenneté démocratique et de la participation DGII

Ms Véronique de CUSSAC, Administrative Assistant / Assistante administrative, Biodiversity Unit / Unité de la Biodiversité