

Effective Protection of Birds

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Dublin, Ireland on 8-10 November 2012

Notes

- Directive 2009/147 of the European Parliament and of the Council as of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive);
- that the Birds Directive is the EU's longest existing piece of nature protection legislation, which has provided valuable protection for Europe's birds and their habitats for over 30 years.

Stresses

- that the Directive has contributed to the recovery of many species, such as cormorants and their habitats, as well as establishing a flyway management of a natural resource;
- that the Black-tailed Godwit has rapidly declined in Sweden with an estimated population of 75 breeding pairs but is still classified as huntable (Annex II/B) in the directive;
- that according to the EU Cormorant Platform, the population of the Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) in Europe is increasing and has never been more numerous or widespread in Europe in the last 150 years. Its conservation status is favourable as it is considered to be of ~~least concern~~ according to the IUCN Red List. Despite this favourable conservation status it is still classified as a non-huntable species in the Birds Directive;
- that the annexes of the Birds Directive must be able to be updated, to adapt them to actual changes in the conservation status of birds.

Urges

- the ALDE Party, its member parties and its MEPs, to support the possibility of making the annexes of the Birds Directive adaptable to actual changes of the conservation status of birds.

Calls on

- the ALDE Party to urge the Commission to put forward a proposal on a method to update annexes of the Birds Directive, so that they are based on the latest ecological data, both from national and international sources and to ensure effective protection of especially vulnerable species;

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- the annexes of the Birds Directive to be revised every five years through the comitology procedure.

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