

## EDITORIAL

### Launch of IBA inventories from Slovenia, Czech Republic and Hungary in Brussels

On 24<sup>th</sup> July BirdLife International launched three Important Bird Area (IBA) inventories from future member states in the European Commission in the presence of the Director General of DG Environment Ms Catherine Day. Ms Day opened the meeting and commended BirdLife for its important contribution to the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives in the accession countries.

The meeting was attended by around 25 Commission officials, from several units of DG Environment, from DG Regional Policy and DG Enlargement. After the opening by Ms Day, there followed two general talks on BirdLife's work and role in Europe by Alistair Gammell (RSPB/BirdLife UK) and Claire Papazoglou (BirdLife ECO). Then followed the presentations of

the three inventories. The results of the Czech inventory were presented by David Lacina (CSO/BirdLife Czech Republic), the results of the Hungarian inventory by Peter Lovasli (MME/BirdLife Hungary) and the Slovenian inventory by Luka Bozic (DOPPS/BirdLife Slovenia).

All three talks were of high standard and they stimulated an interesting discussion on the challenges faced by the new Member States. All future Member States are obliged by the terms of the Accession Treaty to classify all their SPAs, under the Birds Directive, by the date of accession 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004. The discussion covered progress in all ten Member States and Zoltan Waliczky (RSPB/BirdLife UK) was there to answer the relevant questions from Commission officials.

This BirdLife project, preparing IBA inventories for promotion nationally as the list of candidate SPAs, is timely and aims to assist Member States in their ob-

ligations. The project helps to identify problem areas early on so that they can be dealt with constructively. All BirdLife speakers stressed that the challenge upon the Member States is huge but BirdLife is there to aid them in achieving their targets. This project has been financed by the RSPB and the Dutch Ministry of the Environment and covers all ten new Member States. Zoltan Waliczky is the project coordinator.

The remaining inventories are expected by the end of 2003/beginning 2004.

The quality of work in our accession country Partners in identifying and promoting their IBAs is exceptional. Well done to all of them. Some of our EU Partners ought to strive to achieve similar standards.

BirdLife wishes to thank Ms Day for opening the meeting and DG Environment for hosting the meeting.

### Inside this issue:

---

<i>Editorial</i>	1
<i>Staff changes at ECO</i>	2
<i>European Constitution</i>	2
<i>One year to go for the Commission</i>	2
<i>Strategic Environmental Assessment</i>	3
<i>The Italian Presidency</i>	3
<i>Newsflashes</i>	4
<i>European Parliamentary Questions &amp; Answers</i>	5

---

### Special points of interest:

- European Constitution
- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Italian Presidency



## Staff changes at ECO

July and August has seen more staff changes at ECO. We would like to welcome Michael Blohm who has recently joined us at ECO. Michael is a geographer with experience in both the European Commission and Parliament. He will be working principally on agriculture policy with EU regional policy as his second priority.

Toni Garcia has extended his stay with us until the end of October. Toni will continue with his work on marine transport taking on more of an advocacy

role, and will also cover the information side of Eleonora's post, so that you continue to receive the information on EU matters regularly.

Eleonora Cavallera, Secretarial and Information Officer, left ECO at the end of July, which means that ECO is left without secretarial support. We hope to have a replacement for this post by end November.

Sacha Cleminson (RSPB) helped compile this issue of Brussels Briefing and ECO thanks him for that.

### ECO staff contacts:

Clairie Papazoglou, Head of EU Policy (Head of ECO):

clairie.papazoglou

@birdlifefeco.net

Edith Verhoestraete, Agriculture Campaign Coordinator:

edith.verhoestraete

@birdlifefeco.net

Michael Blohm, EU Policy and Advocacy Officer:

michael.blohm@birdlifefeco.net

Toni Garcia, Marine Transport Research Officer:

visitor@birdlifefeco.net



Commission Press Office

## The new EU Constitution: the Intergovernmental Conference

At end of August the *Green Eight* environmental NGOs launched their brochure outlining their position for the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC). The IGC will be launched under the Italian Presidency on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

The IGC is the governmental body that will take forward the work of the Convention for the Future of Europe, and will agree a new EU Constitution. The new Constitution will probably be signed in the first half of 2004 by existing

Member States and by the new ones once they join in May 2004.

The *Green Eight* brochure covers the key areas where we wish to see amendments introduced by the IGC. Of importance to BirdLife are calls to amend the text of specific policies bringing the Constitution into line with the EU principles and objectives of sustainable development, protection and improvement of the environment and policy consistency.

The brochure includes an overall introduction and text amendments for the policy chapters. There are both English and French versions.

We are concerned that the debate on the Constitution will be dominated by governments arguing over power politics, rather than issues that matter to EU citizens.

For more information contact: Claire.

Papazoglou@birdlifefeco.net

*"We are concerned that the debate on the Constitution will be dominated by governments arguing over power politics, rather than issues that matter to EU citizens."*

## Green eight NGOs: European Commission has One Year To Go

The *Green Eight* environmental NGOs launched their assessment of the European Commission in July, under the title: *One Year To Go*.

The report ranks European Commissioners according to how much they

have promoted, fought for, or undermined green policies. Unsurprisingly Commissioner Wallström was ranked as the 'greenest' Commissioner, while Commissioner Loyola de Palacio was ranked as off the scale

awful for her policies on nuclear energy versus renewables.

Commissioner Wallström received a neutral assessment for nature conservation as no spectacular steps forward were recorded since last year.



## Strategic Environmental Assessment - Brussels Seminar

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive will come into force in July 2004. Exactly one year before this deadline, ECO with the help of RSPB's Helen Byron, organised a seminar to inform BirdLife Partners about the provisions of this crucial Directive. The seminar, organised on 30-31 July 2003, covered the objectives of the Directive, the kind of projects that will be caught by the Directive and how assessments will be carried out. Participants explored the role BirdLife could play nationally and discussed opportunities for involve-

ment.

SEA is seen, as a Directive that will be able to prevent damage by plans and programmes as it will analyse the potential impacts at the planning stage. On the morning of 31<sup>st</sup> July, an official from the European Commission gave a presentation on the Commission's expectations of this Directive and answered many searching questions on the issue.

The seminar was attended by BirdLife Partners from nine EU countries and four future Member States.

ECO wishes to thank Helen Byron for organis-

ing single-handedly all the 'knowledge' part of the seminar and David Aspinwall from the European Commission for attending and giving a talk. The seminar was partly funded by the European Commission.

For more information contact: [clairie.papazoglou@birdlifeeco.net](mailto:clairie.papazoglou@birdlifeeco.net)



## Italian Presidency

The Italian Presidency of the Council started on 1<sup>st</sup> July and will last until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003. BirdLife published its document on the priorities for the Presidency in June, as was announced in the last edition of *Brussels Briefing*. One of the major demands from BirdLife to the Italian Presidency is a more environmentally friendly agriculture worldwide. BirdLife wants the Italian Presidency more specifically to ensure that product related subsidies in Europe are fully decoupled and subject to eco-conditionality and that there is an increased funding for targeted agri-environment schemes in the rural development pillar. A challenging action plan has been prepared by the BirdLife agriculture campaign team and its Italian Partner LIPU to tackle these issues. The action plan include an Italian EU presi-

dency section on the campaign and LIPU website, some pro-active press work in Italy and during the WTO negotiations, enhanced communications with (Italian) decision makers and some cyber action (letter writing) to Italy's Prime Minister Sylvio Berlusconi and his government.

Unfortunately, the present Italian Government is not renowned for its environmental credentials. Amongst other issues the Presidency announced the following as their priorities for action: boosting funding for the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), the Inter-Governmental Conference on the Constitution, enlargement, boosting the economy and improving research and technological innovation.

On the environment, a memorandum from the Italian Environment Ministry

states that the Presidency wants to move away from "environmental bureaucracies" to a more flexible approach to the management of the environment based on voluntary agreements. Amongst their priority environmental issues the Presidency identifies: climate change, integration of the environment into policy areas (including indicators) and chemicals.

There will be a meeting in Milan dealing with environmental indicators. Other than this there are few initiatives that deal with biodiversity improvements. However, the Commission's communication on financing of Natura 2000 areas will appear during the Italian Presidency and we hope to see some ambition on the part of the Italian Government on this issue.



Golden Eagle at nest - Chris Gomersall/RSPB Images



## NewsFlashes

### Agriculture & fisheries

#### AE 8516 – 1/8/03

GMOs: Group of NGOs criticises coexistence guidelines and urges MS to pass strict legislation to ensure truly organic food can survive

WTO: EU & US to develop common position on agriculture for WTO ministerial in Cancun

#### AE 8522 – 9/8/03

WTO/GMOs: US requests panel against European moratorium on GMOs

WTO/WTO/Agriculture: Discussion to find a common position

Convention: European left expectations

#### AE 8523 – 20/8/03

WTO: EC deplores request for WTO panel on GMOs made by US, Canada & Argentina

WTO: Joint EU/US document on farm trade

Agriculture: Support measures for farmers affected by drought – early payment of subsidies and sales of feed

Agriculture: First estimates of fall in output linked to continued drought in Europe

#### AE 8524 – 21/8/03

Fisheries: EC bans trawling in zone off Scotland to protect coral reefs

Agriculture: Financial compensation for precautionary measures taken in 2001 against foot & mouth disease

#### AE 8525 – 22/8/03

Fisheries: WWF approves of

ban on trawling in Darwin Mounds

WTO/Agriculture: Euro-American document on Agriculture does not receive unanimity in Geneva

Constitution: Green 8 calls for draft constitution to better cover sustainable development

#### AE 8533 – 3/9/03

GMOs: EU rejects Austria's request aiming at establishing temporary ban on the use of GMOs in upper Austria

Agriculture/WTO: EU expects 'framework' for agricultural negotiations to be laid down at Cancun ministerial

#### AE 8534 – 4/9/03

Agriculture/WTO: Lamy believes 50% of negotiations on all subjects must be concluded in Cancun – 19 other subject on table apart from agriculture

#### AE 8527 – 26/8/03

Fisheries: EC proposes aid scheme for fisheries of outlying regions should be renewed

### Hunting

#### AE 8519 – 6/8/03

Hunting Wild Birds in Greece. Action of the HOS

### Marine

#### AE 8520 – 7/8/03

Maritime Transport: EC proposes measures to further facilitate the transfer of ships between registers within the Community

#### AE 8521 – 8/8/03

Maritime Transport: EC proposes expanding competences for the EMSA

### Transport

#### AE 8521 – 8/8/03

Five environmental NGO consider development of trans-European transport network in candidate countries is a risk to Community environmental legislation

#### AE 8526 – 23/8/03

Interservice consultation is launched for proposal on trans-European transport networks

#### AE 8534 – 4/9/03

Transport/Hungary: EIB lends EUR 360 million transport project

### Environment general

#### AE 8531 – 30/8/03

Environment: MEPs Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Monica Frassoni call for 'climatic stability pact' for EU

#### AE 8529 – 28/8/03

Fires/forestry: EUR 31,665 million for Portugal – France soon to make its request prevention

#### EIS 2798 – 30/8/03

EU/WTO: Guide to the agriculture negotiations

*Newsflashes will, as previously, be listed by theme. But they will be labelled as follows: Newsflashes from Official Journals will be preceded by mention OJ + C or L nr + date + title. Newsflashes from Agence Europe will be preceded by AE + date + title. Newsflashes from other sources will mention source + date + title.*



Pine shelter belt - Andy Hay/RSPB Images



## European Parliamentary Questions & Answers

*The Questions & Answers are set out as follows:*

*Subject, Question nr., Name & Party asking, date of question, Summary of Question, Commissioner answering, date of answer, Summary of answer.*

*Please contact us for more information on any of these questions & answers.*

### SPAs

**Valloni SPA, Italy:  
E-2169/03 by Monica  
Frassoni (Greens/EFA)  
24/6/03**

In its answer to question 406/03, the Commission stated that a file had been opened on the case of the protection of the SPA 'Valloni e Steppa pedegarganiche' in Apulia (Italy). It now appears necessary to point out that, pending concrete action by the Commission, this site is still in jeopardy from circumstances which are causing severe and often irreversible damage to species and habitats protected under the Community directives, namely:

- construction work is continuing within the SPA, with no compensatory measures;

- the technical panel set up by the Ministry of the Environment has only met three times, and not at all since 10 April 2001;

- the municipality of Manfredonia has submitted additional plans which will cause further damage to the SPA, yet these plans have been funded by the Apulia Region with Community monies (PEP Apulia 2000-2006 - priority area I, 'Natural resources' - EAGGF, Measure I.4, Action B - Agricultural planning and extensive hydraulic forest projects for soil protection);

- the ANAS (the Italian national roads authority) and the mu-

nicipality of San Giovanni Rotondo have submitted a scheme for expanding the municipal highway to four lanes, which would severely damage the rocky sections of the SPA;

- on 4 February 2003 the Apulia Region issued a set of environmental guidelines (No 21 - Official Bulletin of the Republic, 11 March 2003, No 27), relating to the applicability of environmental impact and risk assessment to the projects under the 'Manfredonia Regional Pact'. This document does not properly consider the question of impact on habitats and species protected under the Community directives. Furthermore, it does not propose suitable compensation measures, and seems intended to justify the projects already carried out in breach of the directives. LIPU (the Italian League for Bird Protection) has already lodged a complaint against this measure with the Administrative Tribunal in Bari;

- the management plan for the SPA, drawn up under the LIFE project 'Urgent measures for the protection of Natura 2000 sites in the Gargano National Park - LIFE Natura No 4 3200/98/491', has not been adopted by either the Apulia Region or the municipality of Manfredonia;

- according to statements by the parties to the Regional Pact, the additional protocol to the contract does not provide for any investment in compensation measures; it refers to productive investment only.

1. Can the Commission state what measures it is taking to secure an immediate stop to the deterioration of this site?

2. Can it state what action it is taking to ensure that Community funds are not used for projects within this site that

breach the Community directives?

**Mrs Wallström –6/08/03**

The Commission is continuing its inquiry within the framework of the complaint file opened and within the limits of power conferred upon it by the EC Treaty.

The information given by the Honourable Member has been added to the complaint file mentioned above and will be taken into account in the assessment of the complaint. The Apulia Region Decision of 4 February 2003 on the application of environmental impact and risk assessment to the projects under the "Manfredonia Regional Pact" has been sent to the Commission and it is currently being assessed.

The scheme submitted by ANAS (the Italian national roads authority) and the municipality of San Giovanni Rotondo to expand the municipal highway into four lanes could be examined under: Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended by Council Directive 97/11/EC of 3 March 1997; Council Directives 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds and 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

However, considering that no specific grounds have been provided on which to base a complaint, a breach of these Directives cannot be identified at present. If the Honourable Member could provide detailed information that enables the Commission to assess the issue of the

municipal highway in relation to the Directives mentioned above, the Commission would also be able to investigate this aspect of the matter.

As regards LIFE, it is a fact that the Puglia Region and the Manfredonia municipality have not adopted the management plan drafted as part of the LIFE project. However, the beneficiary, the Gargano National Park, informed the Commission that negotiations were under way to ensure that any projects or plans within the SPA "Valloni e steppa pedegarganiche" would be submitted to the Park management for their opinion. Therefore, the influence of the Park would be extended to the whole SPA. The Commission's understanding is that, given that the management plan was adopted by the Park and, according to Park management, will form the basis for the future (mandatory) Park plan, this provides the same type of guarantees that would be in place if the plan had been adopted by the regional and local authorities. It should also be noted that the Italian Environment Ministry, under a separate LIFE-Nature project, is developing guidelines for the drafting and adoption of management plans. The resulting guidelines were only published in the Italian Official Journal in September 2002, and an accompanying technical manual is only due at the end of 2003.

With regard to the possible funding under the Community Structural Funds, Measure I.4 of the Regional Operational Programme (ROP) for Puglia 2000-2006 - European Agricultural Guarantee and Guidance Fund (EAGGF), of an additional plan proposed by Manfredonia municipality, the Commission does not have any information at this stage about individual projects



On this subject, it should be stressed that the local implementation of projects cofinanced by the Structural Funds is the responsibility of the Member States in the framework of subsidiarity.

Measure I.4 of the Puglia ROP is concerned with activities to restore the hydrological and geological functions of the natural and forestry systems and agricultural land. This measure is based on Article 33, 11th indent, of Council Regulation (EC) NO 1257/99 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) and amending and repealing certain Regulations. In the framework of this measure, the programming complement of the ROP Puglia provides for a selection criterion which gives priority to projects in protected areas (SCI, SPA and parks).

Projects cofinanced by this measure, which should, by its nature, have a positive impact on the environment, must comply, among other things, with Community and national environmental provisions, as must all projects cofinanced by the Community Structural Funds.

The Commission will not hesitate, as the Guardian of the EC Treaty, to take all necessary measures, including infringement procedures under Article 226 of the EC Treaty, in order to ensure that relevant Community law is observed.

**Eider ducks threatened by the cockle-fishing industry P-2375/03 by Alexander de Roo (Verts/ALE) 10/7/03**

According to a report published in the 5 July 2003 edition of the Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad, it has been proved that commercial industrial fishing for shellfish in the Wadden Sea has an adverse effect on shellfish-eating birds. A team of biologists noted a significant fall - of at least 50% - in the number of eider ducks (*Somateria Mollissima*).

The Wadden Sea Association has found that industrial fishing for cockles destroys the entire ecosystem because it ploughs up the seabed.

The Netherlands Wadden and Bird Protection Association is demanding an end to cockle-fishing in the Wadden Sea in order to prevent the mass destruction of eider ducks. In the winter of 1999/2000, 21 000 dead birds were recorded. Recent research has shown a direct connection between the shortage of shellfish and the deaths of eider ducks. The theory that parasites might be the cause of death has been ruled out.

Pursuant to Article 6(2) of Directive 92/43/EEC(1), Member States must take appropriate steps to avoid, in the special areas of conservation, the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of the Directive.

That provision applies to existing activities in a special area of conservation which might adversely affect the conservation of wild birds. Implementation of that provision may entail the adaptation or cessation of such activities.

Does the European Commission share my view that this new information must result in measures being taken to protect bird species covered by the Wild Birds Directive?

**Mrs Wallström – 29/8/03**

In 2001, the Commission opened two cases, one relating to a Key Planning Decision regarding i.a. the industrial fishing for shellfish and military activities in the Wadden Sea (case 2001/2164) and a second one relating directly to the adverse effects of shellfish harvesting in the Wadden Sea on the populations of wild birds (case 2001/4491). The Wadden Sea has been designated by the Netherlands as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) and has been put forward as a proposed Site of Community Importance (pSCI) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats

and of wild fauna and flora ('Habitats Directive'). The cases concern the possible infringement by the Netherlands of Article 6(2), 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, which, pursuant to its Article 7, also applies to Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the Birds Directive.

**Tagliamento River E-2145/03 by Reinhold Messner (Verts/ALE) 18/6/03**

The Tagliamento forms the last expanse of wild river landscape in the whole of the Alpine region. For this reason, Italy applied for the section of the river in question to be registered as an FFH and Special Protection Area in accordance with EU Directives 92/43/EEC.

If this flood protection project is carried out, the diverging waters (furcation), whose form changes with every flood, will be replaced with a single channel. This will obstruct the route along the river for wildlife. The large and previously shifting gravel deposits will grow in size (succession) and the bed of the Tagliamento will deepen. This will have far-reaching limnological and environmental consequences for the river meadows and the flora and fauna (e.g. more than 30 species of fish and 14 species of amphibian) that inhabit them, upstream and especially downstream from the reservoir. In addition to the permanent removal of gravel from the flood reservoir, downstream river works such as transverse structures will be necessary to counteract the deepening of the river and the consequent lowering of the ground-water level.

That flood protection is taken very seriously in Italy is to be welcomed. However, the devastating floods in Germany and large parts of Europe over the last few years have led to a change in thinking as far as flood protection is concerned. Constructions are now being avoided, with the focus on providing additional flood retention plains. On top of that, the EU's Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) commits all Member States to achieving "good status" for all bodies of water. Moreover, Italy signed



The Bittern - Stephen Message/RSPB Images



the internationally binding Alpine Convention in 1991, in which the Alpine states pledged their commitment to greater environmental and water protection. The Friuli-Venezia Giulia region is also under serious threat from earthquakes, and so a full flood reservoir of this size presents an almost incalculable risk.

Can the Commission ensure that the Tagliamento's ecosystem will be protected and that alternative flood protection measures will be considered? Can the Commission monitor whether the project is carried out in conformity with the Habitat, the Birds and the Environmental Impact Assessment Directives? Does the Commission believe that a project of this kind is compatible with the clause in the Water Framework Directive concerning the maintenance of a good water status?

#### **Mrs Wallström- 13/8/03**

The construction of an impoundment for flood prevention in the river Tagliamento will have a certain impact on the environment. Such a project may fall under several pieces of Community legislation.

Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive) as amended by Council Directive 97/11/EC of 3 March 1997 provides that Member States must ensure that, before development consent is given, projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to an assessment of the environmental effects. These projects are defined in Article 4 that refers to Annex I and II of the Directive.

Furthermore, the Habitat Directive and the Bird Directive may apply when protected areas have been designated in the area concerned.

The project in the Tagliamento river was already assessed by the Commission in the context of a complaint which was closed.

The complainant had claimed that a project for the hydraulic

safety of the Tagliamento River had been approved without EIA procedure and without assessment under Article 6 of the Habitat Directive. This project entailed the construction of three expanding basins in the framework of the reinforcing works of Tagliamento river and it was claimed to affect the proposed Nature 2000 Site of Community Importance (IT3310007: "Greto del Tagliamento"), proposed under the Habitat Directive.

The Italian authorities were requested to give information on the issue as regards the application of Council Directives 92/43/EC and 85/337/EEC.

In response, the Italian authorities informed the Commission that the work was not at the project stage but it was at the planning stage. Consequently, the EIA Directive would not apply at this stage. The plan had been approved before that Article 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 of the Directive can be considered applicable to the Member States. Therefore, it had not been made the subject of the assessment under Article 6.3 of the Directive. However, the Italian authorities had stated that the project for the three expanding basins will be made the subject of an assessment under Article 6 of the Habitat Directive. On the basis of this information, the Commission closed the complaint.

On the basis of the additional information provided by the Honourable Member, the Commission cannot identify any breach of the Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 92/43/EC. However, the Commission would be happy to re-assess the case if the Honourable Member submits any new, more detailed information which may demonstrate that the two Directives are being breached.

The Water Framework Directive, which was not assessed in the above-mentioned complaint, provides for the achievement of a number of environmental objectives embedded in a management plan to be set up for each river basin district. The Directive entered into force on 22 December 2000 and is currently being transposed

into national legislation which should be completed by the end of 2003.

Directive 2000/60/EC sets out in Article 4 (7) that Member States will not be in breach of the Directive if the objectives are not met as a result of "new modifications to the physical characteristics of surface water body". Since the Directive entered into force in December 2000, the project may be considered as a new modification once it is no longer at the planning stage. In consequence, Italy may apply for such a derogation in the river basin management plan which will be finalised in 2009.

However, the same paragraph provides for a number of conditions that need to be met when applying such a derogation. On the basis of the information provided on the project, it is not possible to assess whether the project would fulfil the criteria set out in Article 4 (7). In addition, paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article 4 also apply for the derogation of "new modifications". Paragraph 8 requires that other bodies of water in the same river basin are not affected by the new modification in such a way that they cannot achieve the objectives of the Directive. Finally, paragraph 9 ensures that at least the same level of protection as in other existing Community legislation is achieved when applying the derogations in Article 4.

In conclusion, the Commission will assess any new information on the case that is brought to its attention in relation to Council Directives 85/337/EEC, 92/43/EC and 2000/60/EC, once the project stage is reached.



Bee-eater, *Merops apiaster*  
Andy Hay/RSPB Images



European Community Office  
81 A, rue de la Loi  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium

Phone: +32 2 280 08 30  
Fax: + 32 2 230 38 02  
Email: [bleco@birdlifeeco.net](mailto:bleco@birdlifeeco.net)

[www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org)



## **The Brussels Briefing**

This Brussels Briefing is produced by the staff of ECO. It is intended to give up-to-date information on the activities of BirdLife International and the European Union.

The Newsletter is supported by RSPB, NABU, Vogelbescherming Nederland and the European Commission.

### **Further information on specific topics**

The Briefing is not large enough to contain the text of all the source materials used to compile it. If you would like further information on specific topics reported in the Brussels Briefing, please contact us - details above.