

## Avian Flu

The spread of the highly pathogenic strain of Avian Influenza H5N1, remained high on the agenda during the months of January and February, seeing the first outbreaks in wild birds across the EU. In January, there were a number of outbreaks in Turkey, followed by outbreaks in Greece, Italy, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Germany and France in February.

The near-simultaneous appearance of the incidences in those countries in February was likely to be in response to cold weather in regions further to the east, causing birds to move towards warmer climes. Most of the wild birds that tested positive for H5N1 across the EU countries were mute swans (*Cygnus olor*). This fact by itself was surprising and intriguing. Autopsies on swans from the Evros delta, Greece, showed that starvation (combined with endoparasite infection) was the likely cause of deaths. It is not known if the infected birds were carrying the virus without symptoms, or were incubating the virus and would later have become ill and died (or recovered).

There was also an intense outbreak in waterfowl in northern Germany, with more than 100 dead birds (mainly swans) testing positive for H5N1 by end of February, and some indication that the disease was spreading to adjacent areas. This outbreak appeared to be separate from those in southern Europe and to have arisen in winter-resident birds. Its origin is as yet unclear and BirdLife welcomes the German Government's determination to in-

vestigate the circumstances of the outbreak fully. Finally, there was also the first poultry outbreak in western Europe at a closed turkey farm in Ain, France—close to where an H5N1 infected Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* had been found 10 days previously.

The European incidents clearly demonstrated that wild birds can carry the virus to new sites after infection—at least during the disease's incubation period, which may be several days. Nevertheless, understanding of the epidemiology of H5N1 in wild birds, and the behaviour of the virus in the wider environment, remain very inadequate.

BirdLife throughout the outbreaks has also been very concerned about the poor ornithological information that often accompanied reports of infected birds.

Better surveillance of wild birds, and study of the way that the virus behaves in wild bird populations, became a very key issue during those months, together with the need to step up efforts on better bio-security. According to BirdLife better biosecurity measures should include also surveillance and testing of poultry, strict controls on the movements and sale of poultry, poultry products and cage birds, regulating the use of poultry manure used in aquaculture and agriculture, and stepping up national and international efforts to control the illegal trade in poultry, poultry products and captive wild birds.

Furthermore, these months we saw in Europe the first consequences of the public hysteria created by the media

around the issue of Avian Flu and the risk to human health. There were calls for culling birds in various countries, people taking the law in their hands and destroying birds nests near their houses and even calls to destroy habitats to prevent birds from approaching. All these events seriously worried BirdLife who tried to insist with Commission authorities that a clear communication campaign was necessary.

Finally, in those months there were also the first cases of Avian Flu in globally threatened species, two cases of Red Breasted Goose in Greece. This also raised the potential conservation risk to endangered species by Avian Flu.

BirdLife like everyone else seeks the complete and total removal of the virus from the ecosystem and recognises and shares the real concerns about a potential human pandemic, as well as, of course, the human death toll from the current infection. BirdLife was greatly concerned and saddened by the massive economic loss suffered by those communities affected by the virus and dependent on poultry.

For this reason, BirdLife believes that the comprehensive tackling of the issue of Avian Flu in the international community will only be achieved through a multitude of measures, which include surveillance of wild birds and research into the behaviour of the virus, but also tackles issues linked to the poultry industry (production and trade) and wild bird trade.

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### Special points of interest:

**The EU's Sustainable Development Strategy: the challenge ahead**



## Staff changes

There have been several changes in the last few months in Brussels.

**Clairie Papazoglou**, has been appointed Head of European Division of BirdLife International. Clairie was previously the Head of EU Policy.

Other staff changes include:

From 1<sup>st</sup> April, **Pamela Balin** previously Secretarial and Information Officer, becomes Administration and Information Manager, and will be responsible for co-organising Pan-European events, Partnership meetings and European Committee meetings.

**Alessia Pautasso**, joins permanently the staff of the Brussels office as Administration and Information Assistant and will be responsible for finding and distributing the EU information to Partners and taking care of the office.

The office of BirdLife International in Brussels has been moved. The **new address of the office** in Brussels is:

**Avenue de la Toison d'Or 67, B-1060, Brussels.**

The BirdLife Brussels office was previously called the European Community Office but from now on will be known

as the BirdLife International, European Division in Brussels.

This renaming is a consequence of the fact that BirdLife is in the process of strengthening its presence in Brussels and the office here will no longer be responsible only for EU policy work but the implementation of all the BirdLife International European programme.

## Agri-environment schemes

The authoritative scientific revue *Nature* (NATURE/Vol439/23 February 2006) has published an article on the effectiveness of EU Agri-environment schemes for biodiversity conservation. The paper draws mainly on the EASY Project, a recently published scientific study assessing Agri-environment schemes across Europe. The article asserts that when schemes are well designed, they deliver positive results for biodiversity. However, when they suffer from poor design, lack of clear conservation objectives, insufficient funding or undemanding prescriptions, they fail to deliver. The widespread lack

of effective monitoring also makes scheme outcomes hard to assess.

This insight into the working of the Agri-environment system should stir a debate on the quality, rather than the quantity of spending and should serve as an incentive to Member States to better design Agri-environment schemes for the 2007-2013 period. The Commission should ensure that only high quality standards submitted by Member States will be funded by Brussels. To meet the EU Sustainable Development Strategy's objective of halting biodiversity decline by 2010 and ensure value for money to EU taxpayers and in order to show that

the CAP can be an effective policy instrument in helping the recovery of biodiversity in Europe rather than the first cause of its decline, it is essential that future Agri-environment schemes are well designed, science based, targeted and adequately monitored. The next months will be crucial for Member States to decide of the future of their farmland environment. Given the much-reduced budget available, there is no room for complacency.

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## Dialogue with FACE on sustainable hunting / National agreement signed in Bulgaria

On 24 February BirdLife and FACE have held their third bilateral meeting since the signing of the 10-points "Agreement" between the two organisations in October 2004.

Issues on the agenda of this meeting were for example an exchange of views on Avian Influenza, assessment of progress regarding the phasing out of lead shot use in wetlands and the relations between BirdLife Partners and FACE Members at national level.

In this context, both organisations welcomed the first written agreement realised between BirdLife and FACE at national level: On 31 January BSPB/

BirdLife Bulgaria and the "Union of Hunters and Anglers in Bulgaria" (FACE Bulgaria) signed a text very similar to the EU Agreement, but adapted to the national situation.

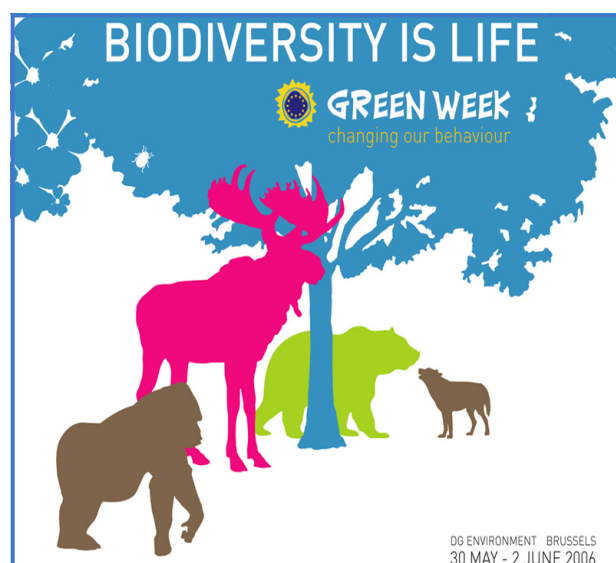
In order to promote the importance and benefits of Natura 2000 for biodiversity to key stakeholders, especially hunters, BirdLife has decided to support a project, financed by the European Commission and led by FACE in partnership with the European Landowners Organisation (ELO) on "promoting Natura 2000 to land users, in particular hunters". The project will run over the whole year of 2006.

The aim of the project is to produce targeted information material and to train a group of 25 "ambassadors" from all over the EU, in order to kick-start awareness raising activities in the national and local hunting communities of all EU Member States, which should eventually generate more acceptance and support for Natura 2000. BirdLife will assist in the production of material and contribute to several workshops.

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## Green Week 2006 on biodiversity (Brussels, 30 May – 2 June)



Green Week is the biggest public event on the environment at EU level. This year's Green Week is of particular interest to BirdLife, as it is entirely devoted to the topic of biodiversity.

A great number of workshops, plenary sessions and side-events will deal with various aspects of global and European biodiversity, e.g. on "reconciling nature and infrastructure development", "the value of ecosystem services" or the impact of global trade on biodiversity.

Experts and the interested public will be able to visit an exhibition of 80 stands by projects, NGOs, business and governments from all over Europe.

The BirdLife European Division and European Partners will be represented with stands and speakers at workshops.

Shortly before Green Week the European Commission has announced it will publish its Biodiversity Communication including a "Road Map" on what has to be done by the EU to achieve its target of halting biodiversity decline by 2010.



Green Week website: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/home.html>

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## Marine Strategy Directive: the tool to safeguard our seas?

Considering the "enthusiasm" with which the EU institutions are dealing with the proposed Marine Strategy Directive following its publication in October last year, one could believe there is not a need for urgent action to safeguard our seas. The issue is not a priority for the Austrian Presidency and the European Parliament wants to work hand-in-hand with the Council, and so is delaying its consideration of the proposal.

Moreover there are questionmarks regarding the Maritime Policy Green Paper due to be published in May, so there is not much activity on either

front.

The facts published by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) in 2005 and 2003 respectively show that the real situation is alarming: our seas are in crisis. The proposed Marine Strategy Directive seeks to establish a framework to deliver real improvement to the status of the seas. However, the proposal needs to be considerably strengthened if it is to meet its objective.

BirdLife International working in coalition with EEB, the Fisheries Secretariat,

Greenpeace, IFAW, Oceana, Seas at Risk and WWF ask for much stronger Directive, and matching commitment from the EU institutions to move the proposal swiftly through the legislative process. In particular, the coalition is calling for: a definition within the Directive for what constitutes a healthy marine environment; stronger links to policies which fall under Community competence, including the Common Fisheries Policy, so that all impacts on the marine environment can be addressed; and a clear link to existing obligations relating to the protection of the marine environment.

## Temporary ban on wild bird imports extended

At the end of January the EU decided to extend the temporary ban on the import of wild caught birds until 31 May. BirdLife welcomes this decision wholeheartedly.

This measure, adopted by the EU's Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCOFCAH), was taken by veterinary officials on health grounds following further outbreaks of

avian influenza.

It is estimated that to-date this temporary ban has saved more than one million wild birds that would otherwise now be found in cages across Europe.

This is a glaring reminder that the EU has been responsible for the taking of tens of millions of birds from the wild for the caged bird trade. The wild bird trade is to blame for the declines of

populations of several species of birds such as the African grey parrot and the Spix Macaw that is now extinct in the wild.

EU BirdLife Partners believe there is a compelling case for this temporary ban to be made permanent on conservation, animal welfare, economic and of course health grounds.



## Regional Policy

The long awaited December Council agreement on the Financial Perspectives provided an indication of the national budget allocations from the Structural Funds and provided various sweeteners for Member States, such as, the proposed use of funds for social housing projects in new Member States. This has been rejected by the European Parliament, which objects to the idea of a two-tier Europe. Once an inter-institutional agreement is reached in April the Structural Fund regulations will be finalised.

The Council's Structural Actions Working Group is meeting less frequently. With one or two exceptions, Member States agree on all the principles and are concentrating on procedural issues. The Partnership Principle of course remains contested territory between the Council, wishing to weaken the Commission's proposal to include NGOs and environmental partners, and the European Parliament, which strongly supports the civil dimension.

BirdLife, together with the Coalition for Sustainable EU funds, has also been campaigning for a new Article 14 in the General Regulation, to ensure that the funds are required to protect and improve the environment. This Article enjoys support from the European Parliament and four Member States (UK, Austria, Lithuania and Latvia), but the chances that it will be adopted remain slim. The effect will be a weakening of the current regulation 1260/1999/EC, whereby from 2007 Member States must take the initiative for integrating environmental considerations into their structural fund programmes.

As part of the 'new look' Structural Funds, the Community Strategic Guidelines will establish the investment priorities for EU Cohesion Policy. BirdLife responded to the public consultation in September 2005 and is still awaiting the outcome. The final Commission version is expected in the next few weeks. The European Parliament report on the guidelines supports the implementation

of the environmental *acquis* in new Member States e.g. for nature and species protection, and the sustainable use of natural resources. It will be up to the EP to either accept or reject the guidelines.

Finally, the National Strategic Reference Frameworks (NSRF) are at various stages of preparation, in some cases now subject to public consultation. In a disappointing move, the Commission's legal services declared that NSRF's would not have to be subject to a strategic environmental assessment (SEA), only the Operational Programmes. DG Environment recommended SEA of these national plans as matter of best practice, but (apparently) only Austria has taken up the challenge. BirdLife will of course be examining the NSRFs closely, in order to ensure that they include the best opportunities for supporting the Natura 2000 network.

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## The EU's Sustainable Development Strategy: the challenge ahead

The Commission released its disappointingly weak proposals for a revision of the EU's Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) in December 2005. While the Commission recognises the scale of the problem that needs to be addressed – e.g. two thirds of the ecosystem services on which humans depend are now in decline – it fails to outline adequately the measures needed to ensure that the EU's sustainable development objectives are achieved.

Together with the Green 10 group of NGOs, BirdLife has presented its proposals for the revision of the SDS to

make the EU "the most energy and natural resource efficient economy in the world". As our main focus for the SDS is the objective to halt biodiversity loss by 2010, we have outlined the measures needed to ensure that this is achieved, including: ensuring sufficient funding for protected species and the Natura 2000 network; ensuring sufficient funding to halt biodiversity loss internationally; full implementation of nature conservation legislation; a fundamental overhaul of the EU's budget in favour of sustainable development.

We are also championing the common

bird index as the best indicator of biodiversity currently available.

Will the EU SDS deliver an agenda for change? We certainly hope so, and so it seems does the Austrian Presidency. Austria is organising debates in each of the relevant Council formations (Agriculture, Transport, External Relations etc.) in advance of the adoption of the revised Strategy at the European Council in June.

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## IBA logo

BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are increasingly recognised worldwide. A strength of IBAs is that they are an international currency for bird conservation at site level. To promote BirdLife IBA conservation work a global IBA brand has been developed. It

shows the global acronym – IBA and includes the explanation in national language to clarify the meaning of the acronym and to support local promotion and advocacy.

The logo can be downloaded from the BirdLife web site at:

[www.birdlife.org/styleguide/iba\\_logo\\_downloads.html](http://www.birdlife.org/styleguide/iba_logo_downloads.html)

For further advice please contact:  
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## Financial Perspective: paralysis as the Parliament puts its foot down

Following the European Council's agreement on the financial perspective in December, the Austrian Presidency has been seeking to negotiate a final inter-institutional agreement with the Parliament. This is proving to be no easy task. On 6 March, the Budgets Committee adopted a Resolution saying that it would refuse to agree the financial perspective if its demands were not met.

At the top of the Parliament's priority

list for the negotiations are the "qualitative" aspects of the deal such as ensuring that it is fully involved in the review of the budget in 2008/2009, a clearer commitment from the Member States to improving financial management and a new mechanism for flexibility in the setting of annual budgets. As regards the "quantitative" aspects of the agreement (i.e. the money!), there is little room for manoeuvre. Given the severe cuts to the trans-European net-

works and education budgets, the Parliament has highlighted these programmes as priorities for extra funding. We are working to raise the political profile of the rural development and LIFE+ budgets. Thank you to all Partners who have supported this lobbying work. A final agreement is expected in April.

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## Spring is Alive in Europe!



Last month saw the launch of BirdLife International's 'Spring Alive!' initiative. This new Pan-European educational project has been designed for children, schools and families to get involved in observing and recording the arrival of migratory birds returning to Europe for the Spring. It is the first such action organised by BirdLife International and is coordinated by OTOP (BirdLife in Poland).

The project is based on a brand new, colourful interactive web-site – [www.springalive.net](http://www.springalive.net) - where youngsters interested in nature, their families and teachers are able to enter their first observations of four wild bird species migrating back to Europe from warmer climes. These four species - the White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, Common Swift *Apus apus* and Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* - are the project's "Spring Messengers". With BirdLife Partners promoting the project in most European countries, children all over the continent will be taking part.

Visitors to the website can also learn about the species and simple conservation measures which they can implement to help each species. Available in many European languages; the website

is easy to access and use for almost any child in Europe. The site also features information packs for teachers who wish to encourage groups of youngsters to get involved.

Observations entered on the easy-to-use web-site will be used to generate maps showing the progress of birds arriving across Europe as they return from their winter travels. Thanks to Spring Alive everyone will be able to literally see the progress of Spring in their country. In the longer term, the Spring Alive project will enable BirdLife International to compare the 'arrival of Spring' each year to assess how different factors influence the arrival of birds. With time, those data may reveal some annual peculiarities and may become very useful for monitoring the long term effect of other important environmental issues on these species, such as climate change or habitat loss. The data collected, are scientifically interesting. They will provide numerous anecdotal data for use on a national and international level. The project is a great opportunity to celebrate the end of winter, learn about our birds and the amazing phenomenon of migration, and to simply enjoy the exciting experience of nature observation.

The action is anticipated to close in May when migration is complete in the northernmost European countries.

Find out more at [www.springalive.net](http://www.springalive.net) and get involved!

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## 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.*

### **Electricity transmission lines - E-0297/06 - by David Hammerstein Mintz (Verts/ALE)**

A new electricity transmission line (400 kW) linking the regions of Galicia and Asturias (Spain) is now being constructed by REDESA (Red Eléctrica Española, S.A.). This will mean the disappearance of certain existing lines and substations and the creation of new ones. Following several controversial attempts to install the line in protected areas, the company and the regional and local authorities have once again chosen a hill site (in a rural area but near a number of population centres). This location borders on a protected area, the Meandros del Nora, which is classified as a site of natural beauty under Decree 16/2003 of 13 March 2003 of the Principality of Asturias, and is included in the Third Proposal drawn up by the Asturias region in 2004 with a view to its being declared a Site of Community Importance (SCI) under the habitats directive (Directive 92/43/EEC). If the project is not stopped, the new power line, which would start from the substation and extend south-east, would stretch right across the protected area.

The Meandros del Nora site of natural beauty is part of the environmental unit designated in the PORNA (Plan for the Management of the

Natural Resources of Asturias) as 'Central and eastern coastal valleys and hills', where continued traditional soil use has made it possible to preserve representative topographical elements and the local riverside flora and fauna, thus forming a particularly interesting and unusual hydrogeological area, of a type not usually represented in the regional network of protected natural areas, and classified as of special interest in the regional catalogue of endangered species. The wealth of the region's fauna confirms this: it is a refuge for numerous wintering bird species, and is home to significant numbers of species classified as vulnerable in the regional catalogue of endangered vertebrate species of Asturias.

Does the Commission believe that declaring a natural area an SCI is compatible with constructing a 400 kW electricity transmission line across it?

Should the acceptability of this power line not be conditional on an environmental impact assessment?

Does the Commission believe that the project for this power line is compatible with Article 6(3) of the habitats directive?

### **Answer by Mr Dimas - 15/3/2006**

The site ES1200040 "Meandros del Nora" has been designated by the Spanish authorities as a site of Community importance (SCI) under the Habitats Directive. This site is included in the Annex list to the Commission Decision of 7 December 2004 adopting the list of sites of Community importance for the Atlantic bio-geographical region, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, with a

surface of 62 hectares.

As regards to the first and third question, it should be highlighted that Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out a series of procedural and substantive safeguards governing plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. The provisions contained in this article constitute a form of development regime, setting out the circumstances within which plans and projects with negative effects may or may not be allowed. Article 6 (3) states that 'any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implication for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives'. Subsequent to the conclusions of such assessment, and subject to the sequential steps provided for in Article 6(4) of the Directive, the competent authorities shall agree to the project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned, and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public. In relation to the second question, electricity transmission lines are covered by Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (the "EIA Directive") as amended by Council Directive 97/11/EC of 3 March 1997 and Directive 2003/35/EC of the Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003. Under this Directive, projects likely to have significant effects on the environment

must be made subject to an assessment of their environmental effects prior to development consent.

Under this Directive, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) is mandatory for new overhead power lines with a voltage of 220 kilovolt (kV) or more, and a length of more than 15 kilometers (km). Other overhead power lines must be subject to an EIA if National Authorities determine, in a procedure called "screening", that they are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Under Article 4 of the EIA Directive, screening must be based on a case-by-case examination, and/or thresholds or criteria set by Member States, and must take account of the criteria set in Annex III of the Directive.

As the Honourable Member does not specify the length of the electricity transmission line which is being constructed by Redesa it is not possible to state whether it should have mandatorily undergone an EIA under Directive 85/337/EEC as amended. However, as a minimum, a screening determination should have been carried out prior to development consent.

In the absence of any further details regarding the project, the Commission is not in a position to assess the compatibility of this project with Community legislation.

### **Common fisheries policy by Mary McDonald (GUE/NGL) E-1499/06**

Ever since the scandalous deal that was made on accession in 1973, Irish fisheries have been subject to greater levels of restrictions. It has reached the stage where the very future of the sector is in doubt. EU fleets have taken EUR 120 billion in fish out of



Irish waters since 1973. That amounts to more than all the direct payments and structural funds to the island.

Given this, does the Commission accept that the CFP has largely failed to protect and develop the Irish fisheries industry?

What measures and programmes will be included in the new European Fisheries Fund to reverse the disastrous effect of the CFP on Ireland's fisheries industry and the commensurate effect on the coastal communities where our fishermen live and work?

13 June 2006 E-1499/06

**Answer given by Mr Borg - 13/06/2006**

As a consequence of its accession to the European Community, Ireland was, like all Member States, bound by the Community legislation governing fisheries at that time. Subsequent changes to this legislation — in particular, the evolution of the common fisheries policy (CFP) — have taken place with the full involvement of the Member States, including Ireland.

CFP provides for common objectives and principles, which apply equally to all Member States. It is based on agreed principles regarding the access of the Community fishing fleet to Community waters and the sharing of catch possibilities between these fleets. The development of the fishing industry in Member States takes place within the limits imposed by the conservation of fish stocks at sustainable levels.

The restrictions in fishing quotas mentioned by the Honourable Member are not specific to Ireland. They reflect the fact that certain fish stocks in Community waters have reached critically low

levels through over-fishing, endangering their ability to offer commercial activity to future generations of fishermen. The Commission has subsequently promoted, with the agreement of the Member States, the sustainability of the resource by matching fishing effort to available fish stocks, thus allowing them to recover.

The Commission does not therefore share the view that the CFP has been in anyway unfavourable to Ireland and its fishing industry. On the contrary, Ireland has had better allocations of catch quotas than the strict application of the relative stability principle would have entitled it to obtain.

Moreover a proper evaluation of the impact of the CFP on Ireland's fishing industry would need to be based on a broader perspective, including the quantity of fish landed and processed in Ireland and the development of the processing and aquaculture industries.

The Community Structural Funds for fisheries have provided Member States with support to restructure their fleets, and develop their processing and aquaculture industry. The proposal for the new European Fisheries Fund (EFF) will make aid available to encourage further restructuring, to improve the competitiveness of the fisheries sector and to provide socio-economic support where this is necessary to ease the transition. The current proposal for the EFF also contains the possibility to grant aid for the modernisation of fishing vessels

provided their tonnage and power are not increased. Combined with other sources of Community funding, it can also offer assistance for the sustainable development of coastal communities dependent on fishing based on a 'bottom-up' (local partnership) approach.

**Special areas of conservation by Mary McDonald (GUE/NGL) E-1498/06**

In relation to the designation of special areas of conservation under Article 3 of the EU Habitats Directive, which requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the habitat types and species identified in Annexes I and II of the directive (as amended),

can the Commission confirm that the area of Duncannon at the estuary of the River Barrow in County Wexford in Ireland is a special area of conservation?

What is the Commission's view of plans for developments in the area, which are set to include hotels?

Has the Commission received any complaints in relation to this issue? What steps does the Commission plan to

take in relation to the threat to habitat types and species that this development poses?

**Answer given by Mr Dimas - 29/05/2006**

The Commission Decision of 7 December 2004(1) adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC(2), the list of sites of Community importance for the Atlantic biogeographical region, includes a site called 'River Nore and River Barrow' (site code IE0002162), covering 19124 hectares. The foreshore around Duncannon in County Wexford forms part of this site.



*Athene noctua* by Joaquin Lopez-Rojas



by Ian McCarthy



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### The Brussels Briefing

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#### 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.