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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

37<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 5-8 December 2017

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**  
**ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCOREBOARD FOR**  
**MEASURING PROGRESS IN COMBATTING ILLEGAL**  
**KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF WILD BIRDS**

*Document*  
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Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

**Draft Recommendation No. .... (2017) of the Standing Committee, adopted on .... 2017, on the establishment of a Scoreboard for measuring progress in combatting illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds**

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild fauna and its natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species;

Recalling that Article 6 requires Parties to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the special protection of the wild fauna species specified in Appendix II, prohibiting in particular all forms of deliberate capture and keeping, and deliberate killing, as well as the possession and internal trade in these animals, alive or dead;

Recalling that Article 11, paragraph 1 of the Convention provides that, in implementing the Convention, Parties undertake to co-operate whenever appropriate and in particular where this would enhance the effectiveness of measures taken under the Convention;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 5 (1986) on the prosecution of persons illegally catching, killing or trading in protected birds, which encouraged Parties to ensure the prosecution of persons illegally catching or killing birds or establishments commercialising live and/or protected birds;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 155 (2011) on the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, identifying – among others, a series of urgent measures to enhance enforcement of existing legislation at each stage of the bird-crime chain through appropriate political, judicial, operational, scientific and technical support and cooperation;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 164 (2013) on the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan (TAP) 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, urging Parties to implement – without further delays – the measures foreseen in the TAP, including those addressing or involving the judiciary;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 171 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014, on the setting-up of national policing/investigation priorities to tackle illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, recommending Parties to improve efforts aimed at enhancing inter-sector cooperation at national level and involving all relevant Ministries, particularly the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Interior or Home Affairs, Justice and Education;

Further recalling its Recommendation No. 177 (2015) on the gravity factors and sentencing principles for the evaluation of offences against birds, and in particular the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds;

Recalling the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (COM (2011) 244) and, in particular, its target 1 “Fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives”, and the Roadmap elaborated for addressing illegal killing of birds in EU member states, in line with the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020;

Acknowledging the specific steps undertaken by the CMS for setting-up an Intergovernmental Task Force to address illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT), in compliance with its Resolution 11.16 adopted at COP11 entitled “The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds” and aimed to facilitate the implementation of the Bern Convention Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020;

Welcoming the Cairo Declaration supporting a zero-tolerance approach on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean Region adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the MIKT in July 2016;

Acknowledging the important contribution of the MIKT and its recently adopted Programme of Work for the period (2016-2020) based on the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 and the proposals of MIKT members and observers at its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting;

Fully aware of the benefits of the coordinated approach successfully followed at the international level by the Bern Convention together with other concerned and partner MEAs, organisations and stakeholders, and in particular the excellent cooperation with the CMS, the AEWAs and the EU on matters related to the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds;

Welcoming the fruitful cooperation between the Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats leading to the organisation of the Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (Bern SFPs Network) and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) in Sliema, Malta, on 22-23 June 2017 and the joint adoption of the Scoreboard which will help both Conventions assess together the national progress on the implementation of their Parties’ commitments in this area;

Noting with concern the results of the BirdLife International 2014 Review of the scale and extent of illegal killing and taking of birds in the Mediterranean and their 2017 Review of illegal killing and taking of birds in Europe, the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq and Iran;

Recognising the urgent need for bolder and concerted action at national level if the objectives of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 are to be achieved and IKB phenomena eradicated by 2020;

Convinced that the periodic measuring and benchmarking of progress in addressing the issue will constitute a major incentive for stronger action and effective response against wild bird crimes at national level and thus contribute to the implementation of the Convention,

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites observer States to:

1. Fully commit to the process of measuring and benchmarking progress on the eradication of IKB at national level in countries in the joint geographical scope of the Bern Convention and the MIKT;
2. Provide the information requested through the periodic and common reporting system included in the Joint Bern Convention/MIKT Scoreboard for measuring progress in combatting illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds, contained in Appendix I to this Recommendation.

The Secretariat is requested to:

1. Keep the Standing Committee informed of the implementation of this Recommendation and in particular the periodic Scoreboard results which benchmark the national progress in addressing illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds;
2. Largely disseminate the information on the periodic Scoreboard results through appropriate channels and with the support of all partner organisations and actors.

**Appendix I**

**Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB) – to be added**

Draft