

EUROPEAN PEREGRINE FALCON WORKING GROUP

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Warsaw, 2007-10-12

To:

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CC:

Ms Joan Ruddock MP,
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and

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Dear Sir

I would like to inform you about the outcome of the 2nd International Peregrine Falcon Conference held in September 2007 in Poland. There were Peregrine specialist from the whole Europe, America and Australia.

We had guests from many ornithological organisations and societies, as well as state representatives, conservation organisations and falconers.

We had 50 papers presented, covering work undertaken across the whole of Europe plus Australia, South Africa and USA. The list of participants and the list of papers is available if you are interested in.

The Conference attendees decided to create European Peregrine Falcon Working Group, and I was elected chairman of that new organisation. The EPFWG will work on conservation and studies of this species in Europe.

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The Conference adopted a Resolution addressed to forthcoming Inter-Governmental Meeting of Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and to Governments of the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates.

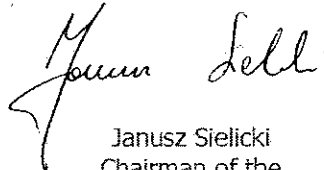
As a Chairman of the European Peregrine Falcon Working Group in the name of attendees I am pleased to submit this resolution to you.

The text of Resolution is attached to this letter.

You might also be interested in Resolution 3 about the Peregrine Falcon as an Environmental Indicator and Resolution 4 about the Restoration of the Tree-Nesting Peregrine Falcons in their Former European Range, which are also attached to this letter.

If you have any questions I will be happy to help

With Regards



Janusz Sielicki
Chairman of the
European Peregrine Falcon
Working Group
www.falcoperegrinus.net

2nd INTERNATIONAL PEREGRINE FALCON CONFERENCE

Held at Piotrowo / Poznan in Poland

19th – 22nd September 2007

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2:

CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY PEREGRINE FALCONS AND OTHER BIRDS OF PREY

RECOGNISING that the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is a truly cosmopolitan bird of prey, which acts as a flagship species for wildlife and environmental conservation globally;

NOTING that the Peregrine Falcon is migratory throughout most of its range and that the species' critical position near the top of its food chain enables it to be used as a sentinel for certain toxic contaminants within the environment;

REMEMBERING that the Peregrine Falcon suffered dramatic (but fortunately reversible) declines during the 1950s - 1970s across much of its range in Europe and North America caused by environmental pollutants;

RECALLING that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 1979 (CMS) encourages international cooperative action to conserve migratory species;

CONSIDERING that Peregrine Falcons, like other migratory raptors, constitute an important part of the global biological diversity which, in keeping with the spirit of the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 and Agenda 21, should be conserved for the benefit of present and future generations;

AWARE of the environmental, ecological, genetic, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, cultural, educational, social and economic values of Peregrine Falcons and other raptors;

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CONSCIOUS that Peregrine Falcons, like many other migratory raptors, may be particularly vulnerable due to their habit of flying over very long distances and by being reliant on networks of fragile habitats that are declining in extent and becoming degraded through unsustainable human activities;

CONVINCED that some form of multilateral agreement and its implementation through coordinated and concerted action would contribute significantly to the conservation of Peregrine Falcons and other migratory raptors, including their habitats, and would also deliver ancillary benefits for many other species of animal and plant;

CONGRATULATES the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates for sponsoring the forthcoming Inter-Governmental Meeting (I-GM) to be held in Scotland in October 2007 to consider the establishment of a CMS instrument covering migratory raptors in the African-Eurasian region;

URGES the delegates of the I-GM to work tirelessly to secure international consensus and to take urgent major steps to develop an appropriate multilateral way forward within a strict timetable.

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RESOLUTION 3:

THE PEREGRINE FALCON AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR

RECOGNISING that the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) holds a critically important position near the top of the food chain that enables it to be used as a sentinel for certain toxic contaminants within the environment;

REMEMBERING that the Peregrine Falcon suffered dramatic (but fortunately reversible) declines during the 1950s - 1970s across much of its range in Europe and North America caused by heavy metals and organochlorine residues originating from agricultural and forestry pesticides;

ACKNOWLEDGING that many Peregrine Falcon populations throughout Europe have been routinely monitored, often intensively over many decades;

RECOGNISING that contamination still exists and new pollutants continue to enter into the environment accumulating within free-living Peregrine Falcons with unknown consequences;

CONSIDERS that the Peregrine Falcon continues to be a uniquely suitable species for long-term biological and environmental monitoring for the benefit of both wildlife and human populations;

and,

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URGES the European Commission and national Governments to:

- a) promote the regular and extensive chemical analyses of biological samples obtained from free-living Peregrine Falcons;**
- b) facilitate the development of standardised collection and storage of biological samples obtained from Peregrine Falcons;**
- c) sponsor the establishment of a long-term European-wide library of these biological samples for appropriate chemical analyses now and in the future.**

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RESOLUTION 4:

RESTORATION OF TREE-NESTING PEREGRINE FALCONS IN THEIR FORMER EUROPEAN RANGE

RECOGNISING that, due to concerted and sustained multi-national conservation actions, Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) populations in many areas of Europe have now recovered from the major biocide-induced declines of the mid-twentieth Century albeit with uncertain status in some areas of its global range;

ACKNOWLEDGING that as a result of these positive changes to the overall conservation status of this species across much of its range in Europe it is no longer considered as 'threatened' under IUCN criteria;

RECALLING that the tree-nesting Peregrine Falcons formerly composed of an estimated 4,000 breeding pairs, then extirpated and is now only 20 pairs achieved through restoration;

CONCERNED that despite significant pro-active restoration efforts, particularly in Germany and Poland, the tree-nesting Peregrine Falcons remains extirpated from most of a formerly extensive area, especially parts of Germany, Poland, Russia, Belarus and the Baltic States;

ENCOURAGES continued and increasing effort to be focused on re-establishing tree-nesting Peregrine Falcons throughout the whole of its former breeding range;

REQUESTS the national Governments, non-Governmental organisations and the European Commission to support the re-establishment of tree-nesting Peregrine Falcons;

URGES BirdLife International to recognise the conservation value of European tree-nesting Peregrine Falcons with the aim of highlighting their unique and threatened status.