



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



RESOLUTION 7.5*

WIND TURBINES AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Seventh Meeting (Bonn, 18-24 September 2002)

Recalling that Article II of the Convention acknowledges the need to take action to avoid any migratory species becoming endangered;

Recalling also the need to preserve wildlife in the marine environment as stipulated in the relevant legislation of the European Community and in the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), the Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Baltic Sea Area, the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, and the Bergen Declaration of the Fifth International Conference on the Protection of the North Sea;

Acknowledging Article VII of the Convention whereby the Conference of the Parties may make recommendations to the Parties for improving the effectiveness of this Convention;

Considering that the Strategic Plan for 2000 - 2005 adopted by Resolution 6.4 requires Parties to review the special problems faced by migratory animals in relation to various obstacles to migration and to propose remedial measures that may have widespread applicability;

Recognising that Resolution 4.5 directs the Scientific Council *inter alia* to recommend solutions to the Conference of the Parties to problems relating to the scientific aspects of the implementation of the Convention in particular with regard to the habitats of migratory species;

Recognising the environmental benefits of wind energy especially for addressing climate change, and the significance of reducing climate change for the long-term survival of migratory species;

Noting that wind turbines especially in marine areas represent a new technique of large scale energy production, the actual effects of which on nature and on different components of biodiversity cannot be fully assessed or predicted at present;

Recognising the lack of sufficient and relevant research on such effects, especially on nature, and the lack of data on the distribution and migration of species concerned;

Concerned about the possible negative impacts of wind turbines on migratory species of mammals and birds, as well as on their food sources and habitats *e.g.*:

- (a) destruction or disturbance of permanent or temporary feeding, resting, and breeding habitats;
- (b) increased collision risk for birds in flight;

* The original draft of this resolution, considered by the Conference of the Parties, was numbered 7.13.

- (c) through electric and magnetic fields of connecting power cables; or
- (d) emission of noise and vibrations into the water;

Recognising the need for a thorough environmental impact assessment prior to selecting appropriate building sites and issuing construction permits, in order to avoid areas of particular ecological value and habitats with high nature conservation needs;

Aware of the need to regularly monitor and assess the actual impacts of wind turbines by exchange of international experience and site-specific effect monitoring programmes in existing wind turbine plants; and

Noting especially the potential risk that several hundred of such marine installations with heights up to 150 metres may present as obstacles in flyways, and wishing to minimise possible adverse effects on nature;

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Calls* upon the Parties:

- (a) to identify areas where migratory species are vulnerable to wind turbines and where wind turbines should be evaluated to protect migratory species;
- (b) to apply and strengthen, where major developments of wind turbines are planned, comprehensive strategic environmental impact assessment procedures to identify appropriate construction sites;
- (c) to evaluate the possible negative ecological impacts of wind turbines on nature, particularly migratory species, prior to deciding upon permission for wind turbines;
- (d) to assess the cumulative environmental impacts of installed wind turbines on migratory species;
- (e) to take full account of the precautionary principle in the development of wind turbine plants, and to develop wind energy parks taking account of environmental impact data and monitoring information as it emerges and taking account of exchange of information provided through the spatial planning processes;

2. *Instructs* the Scientific Council to assess existing and potential threats from offshore wind turbines in relation to migratory mammals and birds, including their habitats and food sources, to develop specific guidelines for the establishment of such plants and to report to the Conference of the Parties accordingly at its next meeting; and

3. *Invites* relevant intergovernmental organizations as well as the European Community and the private sector to cooperate with CMS in efforts to minimise possible negative impacts of offshore wind turbines on migratory species.

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