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#### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Outcome of the 7th meeting of the Parties of the African-Eurasian  
Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA MOP 7) (Durban, South Africa, 4-8  
December 2018)  
- Report by the Presidency and the Commission

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Delegations will find in the Annex a report by the Estonian delegation, as acting Presidency for AEWA MOP 7, and by the European Commission on the main results of the abovementioned meeting.

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**Outcome of the 7th meeting of the Parties of the  
African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA MOP 7)  
(Durban, South Africa, 4-8 December 2018)**

**- Report by the Presidency and the Commission -**

The 7th meeting of the Parties of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA MOP 7) took place between 4 and 8 December 2018, in Durban, South-Africa.

The meeting was attended by 289 participants, including delegates representing 56 of the 78 Parties, 10 non-Parties and 42 non-Governmental organisations.

25 EU Member States and the European Commission are members of AEWA. 20 EU Member States (Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom), as well as the European Commission, were present at the meeting.

The triennial Meeting of the Parties (MOP) is the Agreement's principal decision-making body and among the main decisions taken were the adoption of the Strategic Plan and the Plan of Action for Africa for the period 2019-2027.

AEWA MOP 7 was held under the theme: "Beyond 2020: shaping flyway conservation for the future". Delegates considered several reports, notably, on the conservation status of the species listed under the Agreement and on the effects of plastic on waterbirds as well as prioritizing work on seabirds, thought to be among the most threatened groups of bird species in the world.

The European Shag was added to the list of species covered by the Agreement. The listing of species covered by the Agreement in the different categories determining the level of protection that apply to them (Table 1 of Annex III) was updated according to the latest conservation status assessment. A new category of rapid short-term decline was also added, which can be a bases for the listing of species.

Parties adopted International Single Species Action Plans (ISSAPs) for the Dalmatian Pelican, the Velvet Scoter, and the White-headed Duck, while retiring those concerning the Light-bellied Brent Goose and Black-winged Pratincole and extending the duration of the plans for the Great Snipe, Ferruginous Duck, Lesser Flamingo, Eurasian Spoonbill, Black-tailed Godwit, Maccoa Duck, White-winged Flufftail, and Madagascar Pond Heron for a further ten years. The ISSAPs for the Lesser White-fronted Goose as well as Corncrake were extended for another three years until MOP8. International Single Species Management Plans for the Barnacle Goose and Greylag Goose were also adopted.

Among other Resolutions adopted, it is worth to point out the Resolutions on AEWA's contribution to the Aichi Targets and the Agreement's relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals, on strengthening the monitoring of migratory waterbirds, on guidance on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan, on climate resilient flyways, and on financial and institutional arrangements. It was also decided to ask the Standing Committee to evaluate the implications of moving from a 3-yearly to 4-yearly Meeting of the Parties.

Consensus was reached on the programme of work and budget, and the plenary adopted a 4% budget increase, taking into account inflation. It was the first time in 10 years that the budget was increased.

David Stroud, Senior Ornithologist at the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, was declared Honorary Patron of the Agreement, having been part of the bedrock of AEWA since its inception and having contributed widely to its development and implementation.

Norway and the European Union were recognized as "Champions" of waterbird conservation, respectively for their support of the European Goose Management Programme and the AEWA African Initiative.

The United Kingdom was nominated as an European and Central Asian regional representative for the Standing Committee, and Luxembourg as an alternate. In the AEWA Technical Committee, Ms Ruth Cromie (UK) was elected as a regional representative for North and Southwestern Europe, Mr Taulant Bino (Albania) was elected as a regional representative for Central Europe, and the seat for the regional representative for the Eastern Europe remained vacant.

The 8th AEWA MOP will be held in 2021, in Hungary.

The issue of direct linkage of IUCN criteria and AEWA annexes was discussed during EU coordination meetings, but because no agreement was reached, it was not raised in the plenary. Listing of species to the AEWA Annex is directly linked to the latest IUCN Red List Assessment done on species level. This does not take into account the fact that AEWA looks at the species on the population level, which can result in population in Least Concern status being automatically added to the AEWA Annex. There was interest from some parties to discuss this issue thoroughly among the EU Member States before the next MOP.