

**REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTIVE 79/409/EEC ON THE
CONSERVATION OF WILD BIRDS**

Part II. Summary of national reports by Member States

Update for 2002-2004

1. SPECIES COVERED BY THE DIRECTIVE

Austria	No details provided at the country level (partial data for some Länder).
Belgium	(No information Provided).
Cyprus	(No information Provided).
Czech Republic	- (Information provided on the bird diversity in CZ, but not specifically on species covered by the Directive). - In addition to classification as per the Bird Directive, the Czech legislation classifies bird species into 3 categories with different protection implications: "Critically endangered", "Highly endangered", and "Endangered".
Denmark	No information provided.
Estonia	An 8-page list of bird species was provided, with no indication of which Annexes of the Directive they refer to (<i>It is presumed that it actually includes all the bird species known to occur in Estonia, irrespective of their inclusion in the Annexes</i>).
Finland	Permanent breeding species in Finland: 241, plus 11 species which do not breed every year. 62 bird species under Annex 1 of the Birds Directive .
France	(No information Provided).
Germany	New general information is given about the update of the reference list of bird species of Germany (Bartel & Helbig 2005), but there is no distinction given about species specifically covered by the directive.
Greece	(No information Provided).
Hungary	384 species occurring in Hungary are covered by the Birds Directive (list provided). (<i>It is presumed that it actually includes all the bird species known to occur in Hungary – incl. some North American vagrants - irrespective of their inclusion in the Annexes</i>).
Ireland	Over 425 bird species constitute the Irish avifauna. However, more than half of these occur here as vagrants or very rare visitors, and these are of less concern from a conservation and research viewpoint.
Italy	A total of 219 ¹ species covered by the Annex I of the Directive occur in Italy, 23 in Annex II/1, 47 in Annex II/2, 13 in Annex III/1, 18 in Annex III/2. (Numbers not cumulative as many species occur in more than one Annex).
Latvia	331 species are listed on the taxonomic list of bird species for Latvia.
Lithuania	52 species "of European concern" (covered by the Directive) occur in Lithuania.
Luxembourg	(No information Provided).
Malta	(Information provided on the bird diversity in Malta, but not specifically on species covered by the Directive).
Netherlands	46 species from Annex I of the Directive played a significant part in the designation of SPAs. 14 species played no part because their presence is too unpredictable or they were reintroduced. 5 water bird species and 8 other bird species from the Red List played an important part in the designation of SPAs. 47 migratory water birds played a significant part in the designation of SPAs under article 4.2 of the Directive. (Species were mentioned in tables in the original report)
Poland	434 species of birds occur in Poland naturally (list provided).
Portugal	301 bird species naturally occur in the country (list provided) and contribute

¹ however this contains errors as the list provided includes e.g. all huntable Anatidae species as « Annex I species ».

	e.g. to the elaboration of the Red List.
Slovenia	375 bird species have so far been recorded from the country.
Slovakia	All species of wild birds naturally occurring in the European territory of member states of the European Community are considered to be protected animals according to Act. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection (§ 33 Art. 3).
Spain	The 2004 Red List for Spain updated the list of bird species breeding or regularly present in the country: it lists 127 species pertaining to Annex I of the Directive; 42 species belonging to Annex II; three belonging to both Annexes I and II; 6 belonging simultaneously to Annexes I, II, III; 17 to Annexes II and III.
Sweden	315 species covered by the Directive. 66 species in Annex I; 22 species Annex II/1; 23 species Annex II/2; 5 species Annex III/1 and 18 species Annex III/2.
UK	No change as compared to previous report.

2. PROTECTION OF HABITATS (ART. 3 & 4)

2.1 STATE OF PROGRESS FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS	
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Land Vorarlberg: 5 N2000 sites are concerned and have been designated according to either Birds Directive or Habitats Directive, conservation measures were strengthened on those sites (law enforcement). -Land Wien: 4 sites are designated as Nature reserve according to the Habitats Directive, which also takes into consideration the requirements of the birds Directive and which were designated as Nature reserves according to the BD. -Land Oberösterreich: one new SPA designated (Wiesengebiet im Freiwald), one site enlarged (Dachstein, 2002). Management plans were also initiated for 2 SPAs. -Land Niederösterreich: 16 SPA designated. SPA "Tullnerfelder Donau-Auen" was designated in 2004. -Land Salzburg: one site designated in 2002 (Bümooser Moor). -Land SteierMark: 2 sites designated.
Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In Wallonia, a preliminary list of candidate SPAs was completed on 4/02/04, including a number of new sites and extensions of former sites. A specific note on this was sent to the EC on 24/03/04. (Note: on 24/03/05 a further extension of the list was proposed, bringing the total to 203 SPAs covering 198,797 ha). -Federal Government (Marine territories) District: Designation of SPAs is in preparation but not yet established. A study was performed including the count of a significant number of sea bird species. The study did not explicitly suggest a designated protection area. -Brussels District: Limited number of species in the area, that's why no SPAs are designated. -Flanders District: Designation of SPAs is in preparation. Data on bird population is being updated for which an interactive data base is being developed. Existing SPAs have been enlarged.
Cyprus	Preliminary list of SPAs identified and submitted to Scientific Committee. Additional IBAs being examined as candidate SPAs.
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -41 SPAs have been designated following a process of local consultations, of which 38 were approved by the Government. In total they cover 8.9% of the MS area. -SPAs have been designated for 61 species by Government Order 51/2005 of 22/12/2004. -Art. 4 (para 1. 2. and 4.) of the Bird Directive were transposed into Czech legislation (Sections 45e and 45h of the Act on the Nature & Landscape Protection). Other provisions of the Bird Directive were transposed (sometimes simplified) in this same Act.
Denmark	No new SPAs have been designated between 2002 and 2004. The total number of Danish SPAs stand at 113 SPAs and this designation has been approved by EC.
Estonia	66 SPAs have been designated and submitted to the EC. They cover a total of 1,2 million ha (0.59 mainland, 0.68 marine), or 13% of Estonia. 38% of all SPAs (and 68% of terrestrial ones) consisted of land already protected by national parks or other forms of protection.
Finland	During this reporting period 3 new SPAs and 3 enlargements were designated and submitted covering 25,875 hectares. In addition 14 new

	SPAs sites were under preparation based upon the IBA inventory results. These new sites would increase the SPA network by 220,000 ha, thus the national total SPA network would stand at 453 sites, and 3,1 million ha and about 9% of Finland's surface.
France	57 new SPAs plus 8 extensions of existing ones were notified to the EC during the triennium. The total area stands out at 1,429,795 ha by the end of 2004 (+71% in 3 years)
Germany	Annex 1 provides complete tables about the designation of SPAs until 2005 (not 2004) at the regional level, for all 16 Länder. For some of the Länder, only sites designated in 2001 are presented, without details about further designations, if any. These tables provide information about the year of designation, area, other classification as protected areas (nature monument, NP, etc.) and management activities and projects conducted within/outside the SPA. However, the different periods encompassed in different Länder prevent a national synthesis on N° of SPAs designated by the beginning/ end of the triennium.
Greece	In 2002-04, 99 new SPAs were designated and the borders of a further 10 SPAs modified. At the end of 2004, 151 SPAs in total had been designated.
Hungary	A total of 55 SPAs have been designated as Hungary acceded to the EU in 2004, covering 1,351,912 ha.
Ireland	A total of 18 new sites were designated as Special Protection Areas for seabirds and Barnacle Geese under Article 4.1 and 4.2 of this directive during the reporting period 2002 - 2004. These designations increase the area of land and sea designated as Special Protection Areas by 4,732ha.
Italy	By the end of the triennium a total of 179 new SPAs have been proposed for Italy.
Latvia	312 sites have been designated as SPAs with total area of 672,308 ha that qualify also as pSCI, plus 5 sites with total area of 3,009 ha that qualify only as SPAs. The list of sites was approved by the decision of the Minister for environment n°102 issued on 13 April 2004 and submitted to the Commission. <i>(Note: the Natura 2000 barometers from 2005 to 2007 state that 97 SPAs have been proposed by Latvia).</i>
Lithuania	Before the date of accession to EU (1 May 2004), Lithuania had established 39 SPAs. Between the accession and mid-September 2005, an additional 34 SPAs were established: currently, a total of 73 SPAs cover 8% of Lithuania. (The target was to finish designation by the end of 2005, by designating a further 6 SPAs).
Luxembourg	-A total of 12 SPAs have been designated by the end of the triennium, covering 13,900 ha or 5,5% of the national territory. They range in individual size from 70 ha to 3583 ha. Out of them, 7,500 ha are covered too by SICs designated under the Habitats Directive. -The new Law of 19 January 2004 replaced the former one (of 11 August 1982) in order to better integrate the Natura 2000 network. It lists in its annexes the habitats to be protected, the 12 SPAs with their description, the maps of all Natura 2000 sites, the list of Annex I species for which SPAs have been designated (see www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/éàà/0102901/0102901.pdf?page=2)
Malta	-Six sites have been proposed as SPAs, mainly for their seabird populations (as well as <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> for 2 of these). -Furthermore, an inventory of IBAs in Malta was carried out by BirdLife Malta, and identified 11 IBAs as candidate sites for SPAs as well. The Maltese authorities are assessing the possible designation of some of these, especially marine areas, as additional SPAs.

Netherlands	No new areas were designated as SPAs in the 2002-2004 period. Some areas were enlarged resulting in nearly 10,900 ha. newly protected areas of which 6,500 ha. is covered by water. The number of SPAs is currently 79, covering over 1 million ha.
Poland	In March 2004, the initial draft list of N2000 sites was developed, and included 141 SPA (15% of country area, excluding marine sites). After consultations with local authorities and regional water management boards and State Forests, 72 SPAs were finally placed on the list, covering 3,315,631 ha, of which 2,414,205 ha are terrestrial (7,8% of the country area).
Portugal	In 2003, 2 new SPAs totalling over 113,000 ha were designated specifically for the protection of <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i> .
Slovenia	Under the Government Decree on Natura 2000 sites which entered into force on 30 April 2004, 26 SPAs have been designated, covering 22,8% of the country's territory. They have been designated for a total of 105 bird species.
Slovakia	-The national list of proposed Special Protected Areas (SPAs) was approved by the decree of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 636 of 9 July 2003. It contains 38 proposed sites. -Over 55% of the area of proposed SPAs was already covered by the existing network of protected areas (e.g. National Parks, Nature Reserves).
Spain	During the triennium, an extra 135 SPAs have been designated. The current national total stands at 480 SPAs, for 8,379,733 ha in total (16,6% of the national territory). Per Autonomous Region, this proportion ranges between 3,6% covered by SPAs in Melilla and nearly 33% in La Rioja.
Sweden	During the triennium the number of SPAs has increased to 509 covering a total area of 28,648 sq. km. 106 SPAs were designated during the reference period.
UK	-Following a detailed review of the UK SPA network in 2001, work has continued to further develop the UK SPA with particular emphasis on the marine environment. 13 additional SPAs were classified during the triennium (and 3 more were extended), covering a total of 178,195 ha. -Approaches for extending terrestrial SPAs into marine waters for breeding seabirds were developed by JNCC. Extensive surveys of waterbirds in marine waters were undertaken and the development of approaches to site identification and boundary determination initiated. -A comparative study of the UK SPA, Ramsar and IBA networks was undertaken: this study will inform a further review of the UK SPA network planned for 2008-2010.

2. PROTECTION OF HABITATS (ART. 3 & 4)

2.2 TARGETTED MEASURES DRAWN UP PER SPA	
Austria	No information provided at the national level. However, measures taken within SPAs target the following: preventing disturbance of the sites, maintaining the presence of dead wood in the forest, maintaining natural ecosystems dynamics in riverine ecosystems, extensive cultivation of ray-grass fields and maintenance of habitats for Great Bustards. In Land Oberösterreich, contracts have been signed with farmers for habitats maintenance and improvement. Management plans for SPAs were drawn up in this Land. Extensive management of grassland was developed through contracts with farmers (Oberösterreich).
Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wallonia: none yet; these will be specified in the Designation Orders to be taken after 2005 -Federal Government (Marine territories) District: No new legislation was introduced in the period 2002-2004. The federal government is preparing a North Sea Master plan for sustainable development of the area. -Brussels District: No new legislation was introduced in the period 2002-2004. -Flanders District: Amendments to legislation were introduced concerning bird protection and the protection of habitats. Legislation provided for the recognition of shelters for wild animals and birds. New areas of land were bought and designated SPAs. Measures are taken to restore habitats, educate visitors and better protect birds.
Cyprus	Not undertaken yet.
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Government orders by which the SPAs were designated (see § 2.1) set out the activities for which a permission is required from the legal management authority -The Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection has been requested to prepare guidelines for measures that can help maintain/improve the status of (some of) the species that lead to the designation of SPAs. -(SPAs designated in 2004 only, so no direct field management yet)
Denmark	<p>An order of the Ministry of the Environment (Bekendtgørelse no. 9003 of 13 January 2002) has increased to period of no entry to the Vresen island (important breeding area for birds) from 15 March – 30 June to 1 October to 30 June. Hunting is also prohibited in the same period. The no entry zone around the island has further been enlarged from 50 to 300 m. The reserve no covers 124 ha and is part of SPA No. 73.</p> <p>Another order of the Ministry of the Environment (Bekendtgørelse no. 9561 of 6 September 2004) has made the temporary hunting ban of Hejlsminde Nor Hunting Reserve (286 ha – inside SPA no. 47) permanent.</p>
Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -An Order of the Ministry of Environment (which came into force on 1 May 2004) established transitional protection measures to maintain the status of habitats and species in all other areas too until the final protection is established. -The Ministry of Environment has initiated the elaboration of these (final) Governmental Regulations for all SPAs. -Habitats Directive art. 6.3 and 6.4 (re. impact assessment) have been transposed to the national legislation, and extended so as to apply to all Natura 2000 sites (incl. SPAs)

	<p>-Five LIFE Nature projects were implemented or started on at least 5,500 ha in order to protect or restore the habitats of priority species such as Anser erythropus, Crex crex, Botaurus stellaris, Larus minutus, Ciconia nigra, Aquila clanga, A.pomarina, Philomachus pugnax. They should benefit many other species too.</p> <p>-Several other projects funded by the Environmental Investment Centre have been launched, that protect threatened bird species and their habitats on SPAs.</p>
Finland	<p>The protection of SPAs is mainly implemented by establishing nature conservation areas through the Nature Conservation Act. Most of the SPAs are in state-owned areas. In addition the state buys SPA areas from private land owners (both land and water areas) and it also establishes nature conservation areas, following a financing programme set up by the government in 1996. The programme has a target to finish all land purchase/compensation by 2007. Only work on the privately owned areas is still not finished (ca. 60,000 ha.).</p> <p>In addition, the Act on Water regulates many activities like dredging of boating routes in SPA lakes.</p> <p>Out of 162 SPAs where restoration measures are needed, restoration has taken place or is on-going in 55 SPAs, plans are ready or under preparation in 34 SPAs, whilst in 74 SPAs there are no restoration plans yet.</p> <p>A total of 15 LIFE-Nature projects were completed, under implementation or started during the reporting period. Projects target mainly habitat protection or management, especially in mires, bogs and wetland areas, but some do target species such as Dendrocopos leucotos.</p> <p>In terms of species management plans, the working group for the restoration of the population of Calidris alpina schinzii (established in 2001 Ministry of Environment) was operational, and its report will be ready for the next reporting period.</p> <p>Specifically in Åland, inventories of breeding populations in Länsmansgrund, Klåvskär, Signilskär and Lågskär SPAs were implemented; in other SPAs (Björkör, Länsmansgrund, Stora Lökskär, Fjärdskär-Harrgrund, och Gadden) the access was prohibited during the breeding season; in Långör-Sundskärs SPA hunting was prohibited except in one islet; in some SPAs (Björkör, Signilskär) hunting of American mink and raccoon dog took place in order to protect the breeding bird population; annual controls took place in SPAs where access is prohibited (especially in summer); the Långör – Sundskär nature reserve has been enlarged to cover the whole FI1400042 SPA.</p>
France	(No information Provided).
Germany	<p>Many conservation projects, research and monitoring activities have been conducted in all the SPAs (see Annex 1). Only few measures are taken outside the SPAs. The conservation activities are in some cases very much detailed (from the technical point of view). Few details are given on funding sources for these projects, which involved many partners.</p>
Greece	<p>An unspecified number of "Management bodies" of either SPAs or Protected areas were created during the triennium (The total designated was stated as being 27 by early 2007, without specifying how many relate to SPAs vs. other types of protected areas).</p> <p>Furthermore, a number of Special Environmental Studies were carried out during 2002-04 on 16 SPAs.</p>
Hungary	<p>Many actions taken to improve habitat and to conserve and protect species but these measures were not specifically and exclusively targeted at SPAs</p>
Ireland	<p>Only 2 LIFE Nature projects were mentioned: funding for a restoration management project in Co Mayo, to create ideal</p>

	<p>habitat conditions for important birds, principally Red-necked Phalarope and Corncrake, at Termoncarragh Lake SPA on the Mullet peninsula, by restoring habitats and through management agreements with local landowners.</p> <p>Restoration of Blackditch Wood, a priority woodland and wetland site on the Wicklow coast. An 89-hectare site has been purchased and is currently being restored as part of a four year restoration project, which will create a large wetland complex on the east coast of Ireland, for the protection of Annex I birds.</p> <p>(No further specific measures for SPAs provided; instead readers were invited to refer to Section 2.4 below, where measures for the whole country in general were listed).</p>
Italy	(No information Provided).
Latvia	All proposed SPAs have been designated as national protected areas.
Lithuania	<p>A EUROPEAID project started in early 2004 aims at developing management plans for 20 SPAs important for migratory species.</p> <p>A PHARE project was developed in the reporting period (but launched in 2005; see § 2.3 below), aiming at developing management plans for a further 4 SPAs.</p>
Luxembourg	<p>From 2003 onwards, management plans started to be established for SPAs in partnership with all local stakeholders, especially foresters and farmers. By the end of 2004 one was completed and about to be approved, two more were being developed, and a fourth one had just been tendered for.</p> <p>Furthermore, a number of management activities are implemented in the SPAs which are also Nature Reserves by the Water & Forest Administration: wetland restoration, introduction of extensive grazing, shrub removal in meadows, ecological monitoring, nature walks, visitor centres. For instance in 2004, 7 out of the 12 SPAs benefitted from some of these measures.</p>
Malta	<p>-Within the proposed SPAs, mapping of Annex I habitats was completed.</p> <p>-Management plans & agreements have been approved for 2 sites (wetlands of L-Ghadira and Is-Simar), which are also Ramsar sites. They are managed by BirdLife Malta (monitoring, habitat management, communication, education).</p> <p>-Management of Filfla Nature Reserve continued; mainly seabird monitoring and scientific research is undertaken.</p>
Netherlands	<p>The conservation of the SPAs is either in the hands of federal or provincial governments or in the hands of Dutch NGOs. The different bodies have their own conservation management plans. In 2002-2004 some important actions were prepared namely:</p> <p>-Which conservation methods are necessary to save each individual species in SPAs?</p> <p>-Which conservation methods are necessary to make sure that SPAs are developed sustainably?</p> <p>3 projects received European co-financing from LIFE-Nature, which contributed positively to the ultimate goals of the SPAs.</p>
Poland	<p>Under a PHARE Project, management/protection plans have been elaborated for the following SPAs: PLC200004 – Puszcza Białowieska, PLB280008 - Puszcza Piska, PLB280003 – Jezioro Łuknajno, PLB 140006 - Małopolski Przełom Wisły, PLB020001 - Dolina Baryczy, PLB080001 - Ujście Warty, PLB990003 – Zatoka Pomorska, as well as for SPA/pSCI Puszcza Białowieska. For 6 SPAs (partly covering those above), the implementation of the management/ protection plans have started.</p> <p>Two NGOs (Naturalists Club and PTOPI) cooperated in organising series of workshops with participation of local population in 3 SPAs listed above.</p> <p>For many SPAs (the number of which was unspecified), active conservation</p>

	measures such as the re-naturation of river valleys, the re-establishment of water regime etc. were undertaken.
Portugal	<p>Actions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -5 LIFE-Nature project for the protection of <i>Tetrax tetrax</i>, <i>Falco naumanni</i>, <i>Pterodroma madeira</i>, <i>Pyrrhula murina</i>, and Açores seabirds. They included various actions of habitat restoration, eradication of exotic plants, public awareness raising etc.; -various agri-environmental measures in sensitive areas for <i>Otis tarda</i>, <i>Falco naumanni</i>, <i>Tetrax tetrax</i>; -management plans for at least 6 wetlands, as part of the MedWet project, as well as other habitat restoration measures for these wetlands; -in 2003, work was initiated towards the productions of management orientations for SPAs; <p>Specifically in Madeira, a project dating from 1998 was continued for the conservation of <i>Columba trocaz</i>, and a new one started, aiming at general habitat restoration and monitoring in the islands, with <i>Anthus bertheloti bertheloti</i> as a key target species. Management plans were developed or started for 4 SPAs, one of which was also designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Ilhas Selvagens). In Açores, 13 management plans were drawn up for all coastal SPAs, as part of LIFE or INTERREG projects, and a Regional Government resolution was passed in 2003 to define a Sectoral Plan for all Natura 2000 sites in the archipelago.</p>
Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The main measures are the assessment of all plan or projects that may affect SPAs, as per art. 6(2) to 6(4) of the Habitat Directive. Designated sites must be taken into account by all authorities in charge of planning, at national or local level. In 2004 conservation guidelines addressing 20 SPAs were produced. -Agri-environmental measures are also an important tool. In 2004, ca. 41,670 ha of agricultural land within SPAs were under contracts for the conservation of grasslands, 160 ha of these for late mowing of meadows, and 90 ha for the conservation of meadow orchards. -In 2004 7 LIFE projects were under implementation in the country (at least 3 of them specifically target bird species). They include e.g. habitat restoration and agri-environmental measures.
Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -SPAs have now been incorporated into the national juridical system as a new type of protected areas, following transposition of Bird Directive. -A detailed list of measures taken in 19 SPAs was provided and included e.g. protection of nests of <i>Lanius minor</i>, <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>, <i>Aquila heliaca</i>, <i>A.pomarina</i>, <i>A.Chrysaetos</i>, <i>Falco peregrinus</i>; leasing 70 hectares of meadows as food supply for <i>Otis tarda</i> plus reintroduction of their native insect prey species, restoration and mowing of meadows for <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>, <i>Crex crex</i>, <i>Milvus milvus</i>, <i>Milvus migrans</i>, <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>; monitoring and insulation of electricity power lines to prevent bird kills, providing nesting boxes for <i>Coracias garrulus</i>, <i>Strix uralensis</i>.
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -For all the 13 National Parks (which are all also designated as SPAs), Master Plans for Use and Management (the "PRUG") were either officially approved by decree for 4 of them, or their elaboration/ revision started for the other 9. -Planning documents (PRUGs or PORNs) were approved for at least 24 SPAs and their preparation started for a further 16 (minimal number; not all Autonomous Communities provided statistics). This is to be added to those already in force before the triennium (number not specified). -At least 14 LIFE projects were under way or started during the period under consideration, for species such as <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Aegypius monachus</i>, <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>, <i>Aquila adalberti</i>, <i>Aquila fasciata</i>, <i>Falco naumanni</i>,

	<p>Chlamydotis undulata fuerteventurae, Otis tarda, Larus audouinii, Acrocephalus paludicola.</p> <p>-Other projects (funding sources unspecified) targetted other species such as Tetrao urogallus.</p> <p>-Other measures taken in some SPAs include corrections to dangerous power lines to reduce the risk of electrocution, provision of feeding places for vultures, fencing off small areas of critical importance for breeding bird species, creation of new protected areas in SPAs (e.g. the Parc Natural de l'Alt Pirineu in Cataluna in 2003; the National Park of Atlantic Islands of Galicia in 2002; 7 sites in Asturias in the triennium etc.), monitoring key species (eg. Aegypius monachus), ecological restoration of wetlands and natural forest vegetation, wardening, regulating boating in reservoirs of ecological interest.</p>
Sweden	<p>The selection of SPAs is based on maps and identified gaps in Annex I species representation. Several of the SPAs are subject to regular surveys of the bird populations. Management plans have been developed for all SPAs. In accordance with Swedish law SPAs are priority areas for conservation. Swedish EPA distributes funds annually for management of protected sites. Designated sites must be taken into account during the planning process. Seminars concerning Natura 2000 have been carried out.</p>
UK	<p>-A number of projects (eg. LIFE) assisted the good management of several SPAs and/or specific Annex I species: a LIFE project for the Salisbury Plain SPA (20% of UK's Burhinus oedicnemus); LIFE "Living with the Sea", aimed at tackling the level of sea-level rise incl. its impact on important coastal habitats/ species; LIFE Peatland project; LIFE Capercaillie; LIFE "Reedbeds for Bitterns".</p> <p>-Other positive actions included e.g. the active removal of introduced hedgehogs from Uist Islands, under the Uist Wader Project in 2003</p>

2. PROTECTION OF HABITATS (ART. 3 & 4)

2.3 ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN OUTSIDE SPAS	
Austria	Specific protection measures were taken for the protection of the habitats of some bird species (e.g. owls, grassland birds). The use of subsidies and compensation is current for the protection of important habitats, to encourage nature-friendly practices and to conserve habitats such as wetlands, forests. (e.g. in Land Salzburg).
Belgium	-Wallonia: an unspecified number of new protected areas were designated (Nature Reserves; Wetlands of Biological Interest) as well as 3 new Ramsar sites, two of which have a major interest for birds. -rest of MS: No information provided.
Cyprus	-Report prepared for the inclusion of the conclusions of the Bergen-op-Zoom meeting into the Cyprus Development Strategy: these mainly include measures outside SPAs. -Habitat improvement actions (e.g. planting specific crops, cleaning of speings) regularly undertaken.
Czech Republic	-(SPAs designated in 2004 only, so no direct field management yet).
Denmark	Nothing reported.
Estonia	-To maintain the habitats of Annex I bird species outside SPAs, nine National Action Plans were developed, then approved by the Minister of Environment. The plans cover <i>Bubo bubo</i> , <i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i> , <i>Gallinago media</i> , <i>Grus grus</i> , <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> , <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> , <i>Ciconia nigra</i> , <i>Aquila clanga</i> , <i>A.pomarina</i> . The plans allow management activities to be undertaken and coordinated throughout the species' ranges, in order to ensure their favourable conservation status. -The management plan for <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> was developed in 2003
Finland	The waterfowl protection programme (approved by the Government on 3.6.1982), which includes 287 areas covering about 83,500 ha, continued to be implemented. The majority of sites are included in the Natura 2000 network, but some nationally important areas are outside it. The aim is to complete this long-term conservation programme by 2007. In addition, other protection programmes (e.g. the mire protection programme) benefit areas important for birds. The set aside emand according to CAP benefitted farmland birds in Finland.. Specifically in Aland, 25 bird species are especially protected by the law (i.e. habitats near their breeding sites are also protected); special attention was paid to some habitats of importance for bird species in the forestry legislation.
France	(No information Provided).
Germany	See 2.1./2.2.
Greece	Eight LIFE projects have been continued/ finished/ started during the triennium, related to specific bird species covered by the Bird Directive.
Hungary	The range of activities undertaken by the national park directorates cover: 1. Habitat management: for grasslands: mowing, removal of weeds and shrub, planting crops for great bustards, grazing; for forests: planting, thinning, fencing; for wooded pastures, mountains meadows, wet meadows, floodplain meadows and grasslands: grazing, mowing, reed cutting, water regime; for wetlands: reconstruction of wetlands, wetland management by flooding, grazing, tree planting, removal of invasive alien tree species; and in

	<p>general, the reconstruction of habitats, e.g. the reconstruction of a former Soviet military training ground.</p> <p>2. Species-specific protection measures are taken for ca. 30 species (list provided) and encompass such diverse activities as: guarding and monitoring rare species nests, provision of artificial nests, habitat construction and maintenance (e.g. old reedbeds, sand quarry walls...), protection of breeding, feeding and staging sites, supplementary feeding and planting food sources (e.g. rape), rescue of injured birds, rescue of chick during mowing, predator control, artificial incubation, research, monitoring, development and/or implementation of 3 species action plans (Otis tarda, Aquila heliaca, Falco vespertinus).</p> <p>Bird protection projects with non-hungarian donors, usually not restricted to SPAs, included 11 LIFE projects, 1 GEF project, 2 ROP and 1 KIOP projects, and 2 PHARE projects.</p>
Ireland	<p>In addition to SPAs, a number of representative ecosystems are protected under the Wildlife Act, 1976 and the Wildlife (amendment) Act, 2000. These include: Nature Reserves (78); Refuges for Fauna (7); Wildfowl Sanctuaries (68) and National Parks (6).</p> <p>During 2004 drafting of a Species Action Plan for the Corncrake was well advanced, and work towards a Greenland White-fronted Goose Conservation Plan continued.</p>
Italy	<p>Action plans have been developed for <i>Larus audouinii</i>, <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>, <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>, while those for <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>, <i>Aythya nyroca</i>, <i>Falco biarmicus</i>, <i>Falco eleonora</i> are under preparation.</p>
Latvia	<p>In order to design the Natura 2000 network, a preliminary inventory of protected areas and potentially protected areas. was conducted. Over 240 already protected sites were checked: 48 of them were amended and 122 new protected sites were established. The evaluation of sites was done in accordance with criteria established by the Birds directive and the Habitats directive.</p> <p>For the protection of important habitats of certain species outside protected areas, hundreds of microreserves have been established in accordance with the regulation issued by the Cabinet of Ministers Nr.45 on 30/01/200.</p> <p>Rules for establishment, protection and management', for species such as <i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>, <i>Aegolius funereus</i>, <i>Columba oenas</i>, <i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>, <i>Dendrocopos medius</i>, <i>Dendrocopos tridactylus</i>, <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>, <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Milvus migrans</i>, <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Bubo bubo</i>, <i>Coracias garrulus</i>, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i></p> <p>Latvia signed the MoU for protection of <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>.</p> <p>Two action plans have been approved for <i>Tetrao tetrix</i> and <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i></p>
Lithuania	<p>In 2002-04 a PHARE project was developed (but launched in 2005, after the reporting period) to assist implementation of the CITES, Bern, Bonn Conventions as well as EU legislation. 16 Action Plans for rare and migratory bird species and their habitats will be developed, as well as managements plans for 4 SPAs and 2 pSICs, and detailed reports on the status of at least 38 species listed in the annexes of the 3 conventions and/or the EU Directives (no details on the n° of bird species covered).</p>
Luxembourg	<p>The Government subsidizes various NGOs (e.g. Hëllef fir d'Natur) for buying land under the condition that it is later designated as a Nature Reserve in the sense of the Bird Directive (ca. 90,000 Euro/year during the triennium); plus a similar amounts amount for the management of these nature reserves.</p>

Malta	An impact assessment is required by law for any plan/ project likely to have an impact on protected areas outside SPAs
Netherlands	The use of lead and zinc shot was prohibited thus reducing the amount of lead in the soil. Successful efforts were undertaken to preserve the habitat of the Montagu's harrier in northern parts of the country. 3 specific projects are underway outside SPAs as a part of the "Protection Plan for Marshland Birds".
Poland	Examples of the activities undertaken outside SPAs for species protection included preventing site destruction, maintenance of biodiversity, keeping breeding sites of unspecified species (Krepskie Swamp); creation of breeding sites and co-operation with local community and schools in installing breeding boxes and monitoring (Middle Sudéty); protection of gathering and stop-over sites of cranes in Warmia and Mazury regions; active protection of owl and bat species in churches of Pomorskie Voivodship; revitalisation of nature reserves.
Portugal	Most of the actions undertaken outside SPAs are carried out within the framework of broader plans already mentioned under Section 2.2, which encompass both SPA and non-SPA areas, e.g. Sectorial Plan for Natura 2000, Management Plans for protected areas, national species recovery plans, agri-environmental schemes, regional plan (Açores) for the control of exotic, invasive plant species.
Slovenia	In 2004, a further 24 conservation guidelines for sites outside SPAs were produced, in addition to those mentioned under § 2.2. They ensure that spatial planning and forest management plans take key biodiversity into account.
Slovakia	-Measures similar to those undertaken within SPAs (see § 2.2 above) were also implemented outside them, for species of high conservation value. Other actions include the protection of breeding sites/ nests of <i>Merops apiaster</i> , <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> and colonies of waterbirds, management measures for <i>Falco cherrug</i> (monitoring, nesting boxes), rescuing and recovery of wounded birds, publicity in local media, communication and negotiation with foresters and forest owners, management of meadows used by <i>Spermophilus citellus</i> colonies (as food supply for <i>Falco cherrug</i> and <i>Aquila heliaca</i>) -National Recovery Programmes were approved for 3 species: <i>Crex crex</i> , <i>Aquila pomarina</i> , <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> .
Spain	-The Wildlife Sub-Directorate of the Ministry of Environment conducts a programme for restoration of ecological systems. Under this programme, nine restoration projects of various wetlands were implemented/ launched during the triennium. -During the triennium, conservation strategies were approved for 3 taxa (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i> – 2 subspecies – and <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>), and for fighting a general issue, illegal poisoning. These add to the already existing strategies (for <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> and <i>Aquila adalberti</i>) whose implementation continued during the triennium. -A national inventory of wetlands was launched in 2004, as well as a number of other wetland-related projects on e.g. sustainable tourism, assessment of wetlands covered by the Natura 2000 network, ecological and ethnological heritage in wetlands. -Other measures taken include corrections to dangerous power lines to reduce the risk of electrocution, control of introduced predators, restoration of degraded habitats, setting devices to prevent human access to sensitive areas, improvement of forest management (eg. in Canarias), wardening and monitoring, feeding places for vultures, injured/ill bird rehabilitation centres, captive breeding bird centres (e.g. for <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> and <i>Fulica cristata</i>)

	<p>in Andalucia), reintroduction programmes (e.g. <i>Falco naumanni</i> in La Rioja, <i>Geronticus eremita</i> and <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> in Andalucia), agri-environmental measures, management plans at Provincial level level (eg. <i>Aquila fasciata</i> and <i>Riparia riparia</i> in Alava, Pais Vasco)</p> <p>-In addition to those mentioned under § 2.2, at least 2 further LIFE project were implemented (Juniper woodlands in Canarias; <i>Aquila fasciata</i> in Pais Vasco)</p> <p>-A number of Species Action Plans were developed or implemented, either at national or Autonomous Community level (e.g. 9 such plans for Andalucia; details not available for each Community).</p>
Sweden	<p>During 2002-2004 action plans have been prepared for <i>Malaria calandra</i> and <i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>. In addition, work on action plans has started for <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>, <i>Anser erythropus</i>, <i>Sterna caspia</i> and <i>Crex crex</i>.</p>
UK	<p>-Detailed Species action plans (SAP) exist for the 7 same species as listed in the triennial report for 1999-2001 (i.e. <i>Milvus milvus</i>, <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>, <i>Crex crex</i>, <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>, <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>). Reports on progress (up to 1999) were published in 2003 (http://www.ukbap.org.uk/librarysearchresults.aspx?ID=611). Further assessment of progress towards targets was initiated in 2002; a preliminary assessment of outcomes was published in 2003 (http://www.ukbap.org.uk/Library/2002ReportPamphlet.pdf). A revision of targets for SAPs was initiated in 2004 and a parallel process to review habitats and species listing under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan was also initiated.</p> <p>-A total of 6813 SSSIs/ ASSIs have been designated till 31/03/2005 in the UK, covering over 2.4 million hectares providing extensive protection for habitats and species beyond the SPA network.</p> <p>-Forty-five Priority Habitat Action Plans were completed: although they do not relate specifically to birds, their implementation may provide substantial benefits to bird populations. A preliminary assessment of outcomes was published 2003:(http://www.ukbap.org.uk/Library/2002ReportPamphlet.pdf).</p>

2. PROTECTION OF HABITATS (ART. 3 & 4)

2.4 TARGETTED MEASURES TAKEN FOR BIRD HABITATS IN WIDER COUNTRYSIDE	
Austria	Land Salzburg: specific legal measures were taken for the protection of important habitats such as wetlands, riparian habitats, etc.
Belgium	<p>Information provided for Wallonia only: The overall agri-environmental scheme was revised through an Order of 28/10/2004; it now includes provisions for a wide diversity of habitats/ landscapes such as hedges, orchards, ponds, isolated woodlands, meadows and grassy edges.</p> <p>-The specific scheme to promote fallow land set-asides for wildlife met with a limited success, due to the administrative burden of applying, to fear of hefty penalties in case of non-compliance, and insufficient awareness among hunters and farmers. From 2005 onwards it will be replaced by a simpler scheme</p> <p>-A new financial scheme was developed (soon to be applied) to assist the (re)plantation and/or maintenance of hedges, orchards.</p> <p>-A provision for an extra payment was introduced in case of measures applying to areas of special ecological interest (the SEPs in Wallonia legislation).</p>
Cyprus	(No information Provided).
Czech Republic	<p>-Six specific agri-environmental schemes exist on grasslands and farmlands, that either aim directly at the conservation of Annex I species or can potentially bring them some benefits. For 3 of these 6 schemes, a cumulative total of 6.400 ha received an overall compensation payment of nearly 35 Million CZK.</p> <p>-Additional programmes of Landscape management have been created for areas where the subsidies of the Ministry of Agriculture cannot apply</p>
Denmark	Nothing reported.
Estonia	<p>-Since 2001 the restoration and maintenance of hundreds of ha. of semi-natural habitats (essentially meadows: coastal, wooded, dry, floodplain) has been subsidized by the State Budget</p> <p>-To decrease crop damage caused by migratory birds, crop fields subsidized by the Environmental Investment Fund have been established, especially on Saaremma Island.</p>
Finland	<p>During the reporting period, agri-environment support was granted for the management of meadows, pastures, interfaces between fields and forests, overgrown forest areas (to be restored), buffer zones and small-scale wetlands.</p> <p>Out of the Finnish valuable semi-natural grasslands, 1250 ha of dry and humid meadows, 1100 ha of coastal meadows, 615 ha of meadows along lakes and rivers and 230 ha of alluvial meadows were under management (grazing or mowing) during the beginning of the reporting period. This compares with the national totals of, respectively, 2000 ha of dry and humid meadows, 1900 ha of coastal meadows, 800 ha of meadows along lakes and rivers, and 1100 ha of alluvial meadows which are considered important for bird species.</p> <p>Specifically in Aland, no fish farms are allowed to be located closer than 1000 m from bird protection areas; some wetland habitats are protected by the Nature Conservation Act; planned forestry operations were systematically controlled against a register of breeding, specially protected bird species.</p>

France	(No information Provided).
Germany	A separate table for each Land gives information about measures taken outside the SPAs, at the regional level. Those measures do generally not address issues related to specific habitats or species, but have rather a "thematic" focus (e.g. nature –friendly agriculture, regional water management plan, etc.). However, some of those projects are species/habitats-oriented.
Greece	(No information Provided).
Hungary	Agri-environment measures have been taken through a number of specific schemes targetting: Arable land for Great bustard; Arable land for bird habitat; Alfalfa for Great bustard; Grassland management for Great bustard; Grassland management for corncrakes; Grassland management for habitat reconstruction; Establishment of grasslands.
Ireland	<p>Feeding on agricultural crops by large numbers of wintering geese and swans has been a major problem in some areas. In some of these (e.g. Wexford Slobs, Inch Levels at Lough Swilly) "honey-pots" have been created by planting sacrificial crops to attract geese and swans away from sensitive commercial crops.</p> <p>The National Biodiversity Plan was prepared and adopted by Government (published in April 2002). The plan includes many measures, which will contribute to conservation of biodiversity in the countryside. The plan sets out strategies and actions under various themes and focuses on identifying specific measures. Some of these actions pertinent to the conservation of birds and their habitats are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prepare and periodically revise Irish Red Data Books (or similar assessments) for important species groups, in collaboration with Northern Ireland authorities. -Identify species of highest conservation concern in Ireland and prepare and periodically revise, Species Action Plans for them. -Prepare a prioritised and co-ordinated programme of inventories, surveys and research. -Establish an Irish Biodiversity Database and a National Biological Records Centre. -Ratification of the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (2003). <p>The measures, procedures, etc. which are in place in Ireland to prevent pollution, deterioration of habitats and disturbance to birds involve a suite of measures employing direct statutory protection through the Wildlife Acts, 1976 and 2000, through the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997, and indirectly through the planning acts and through complementary regulatory provisions such as Environmental Protection Agency powers, regulation of jet skis, aquaculture licensing and zoning, Dept of Marine and Natural Resources foreshore licensing etc.</p>
Italy	(No information Provided).
Latvia	Special schemes have been implemented, e.g. land owners and land users have right, in accordance with the law on species and habitat protection and corresponding to the Cabinet of Ministers regulation (nr.345, 31.07.2001), to ask for a compensation for damage caused by non-game species and migratory species. In 2004 24 complaints have been received, and 51,973 LVL have been paid by the Latvian Environmental fund as compensation.
Lithuania	The Rural Development Plan of Lithuania for 2004-06 instituted compensations that farmers can receive for accepting certain restrictions on important habitats for birds.
Luxembourg	-A Government Ruling instituted a system of financial compensations aimed at protecting all bird species from Annex I (published in the Memorial of 22

	<p>March 2002). All agriculture land hosting one such species is automatically eligible under this scheme. Furthermore, extensification contracts for agriculture were continued in 2002-04. In total, 1,486,000 Euro of compensations were distributed to 440 farmers in 2004 for the implementation of the "Biodiversity" Ruling. In the long term it is estimated that 3 Million Euro/ year will be routinely needed to ensure the adequate management of the SPAs and SICs alone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Public subsidies for creating or maintaining hedges, small isolated woodlands and other natural or semi-natural habitats, as instituted by Ministerial Ruling of 22 October 1990, totalled 527,759 Euro in 2004. -Green Plans were instituted in 1996 so as to promote the creation of ecological corridors via ecological management plans: implementation measures for these totalled 216,195 Euro in 2002, 293,183 Euro in 2003 and 316,000 Euro in 2004, for works such as mowing wet meadows, renaturing streams and rivers, pond maintenance and restoration. -In order to promote the long-term involvement of municipalities in the management of the wider countryside, a Law for Partnership with Municipalities was drafted. -An integrated GIS was developed in order to visualize in a common framework information on the ecosystems and on the application of legal and administrative measures (thus allowing control), and to coordinate administrative procedures.
Malta	The EC European & Regional Development Fund project "Marine scientific surveys around Filfla for its conservation" aimed at consolidating the Filfla SPA/ Nature Reserve by addressing conservation of surrounding areas, and will serve as a model for other Natura 2000 sites
Netherlands	Parts of the country are designated for agriculture and are covered by the Directive for Agricultural Nature Conservation (SAN). Agreements with farmers led to an increase for the protection of bird habitats from 41,385 ha. in 2001 to 51,660 ha. in 2004.
Poland	<p>Examples of the activities undertaken for bird habitats protection in the whole country included many diverse (unspecified) habitat restoration and improvement projects for species such as <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>, <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>, <i>Sterna albifrons</i>, <i>Sterna hirundo</i> as well as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -traditional agricultural management of meadows in Biebrza river valley; -protection and re-naturation of bog wood by Regional branch of State Forests; -renaturalisation for buffer zone in Narew National Park; -protection of wetlands in Bytow municipality; -keeping of nature values of the Bug river 'gorge'; -protection of black grouse and Capercaillie in Western Carpathians; -mowing of grasslands for protection of rare bird species; -restoration and maintenance of endangered biotopes in Gorce National Park; -development of integrated tourism system in Barycz valley Landscape Park; -protection and restoration of wetlands in Mazury Landscape Park; -protection of SPAs in Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship; -protection of Capercaillie population in Biebrza National Park; -extension of biotope suitable for eagles by mowing meadows in Gorlice forest district; -restoration of a population of <i>Falco peregrinus</i> in Poland.
Portugal	(No information provided; but see Section 2.3).
Slovenia	In 2004, ca. 18,750 ha of agricultural land outside SPAs were under contracts for the conservation of grasslands, 10 ha of these for late mowing of meadows, and 680 ha for the conservation of meadow orchards.

Slovakia	(No information Provided).
Spain	<p>-Further to Royal Decree 3482/2000 of 29 December 2000 transposing EU provisions on agri-environmental schemes into the national legislation, Royal Decree 708/2002 of 19 July 2002 introduced complementary measures, esp. regarding priority criteria for the selection of eligible applicants.</p> <p>-A national review of all existing agri-environmental schemes was done in 2003. It showed that overall, the criteria for agri-environment measures have moved one step backwards in recent years, since they now focus on areas which are at a disadvantage due to natural conditions, rather than on areas of prime natural value, as was originally the case. So overall they can no longer be regarded as supporting the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>-The legal framework for the agri-environmental schemes is highly variable since it is set at the level of each Autonomous Community. A number of Departmental² Orders were taken during the triennium, e.g. 4 in Aragon, 7 in Castilla y Leon, 1 in Extremadura and in Pais Vasco.</p> <p>-No statistics were provided at national level re. application of such schemes, whilst a few Autonomous Communities did so: in La Rioja 148-154 beneficiaries received an annual total of ca. 210,000 Euro/year; in Navarra between 981,000 – 1,267,000 Euro were distributed per year for measures concerning 39-45,000 cattle heads and 17-28,000 ha of agriculture land.</p> <p>-Specific measures were in place in Catalunya in both farmlands and woodlands, especially around breeding places of rare birds of prey such as <i>Circus pygargus</i>, <i>Falco naumanni</i>, <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>, <i>Aquila fasciata</i>, <i>A. pennata</i>, <i>Aegolius funereus</i>, and other species (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>, <i>Dendrocopos medius</i>, <i>D.minos</i>, <i>Dryocopus martius</i>)</p>
Sweden	The Swedish Parliament has adopted 16 environmental quality objectives to be achieved within a generation. Several of these objectives will also have significant, positive consequences for birds.
UK	<p>-During the triennium at least one major agri-environment Scheme was running in each country (England, Scotland, Wales & N.Ireland), all of which are of benefit to farmland birds. No statistics on surface areas or trends were provided, but e.g. the Countryside Stewardship (one main scheme for England) is set to rise from £29 million in 1999-2000 to £126 million by 2006-07.</p> <p>-In addition various specific management schemes exist, usually specific to either England, Scotland, Wales or N.Ireland (e.g. 26 for Scotland alone). They are not restricted to SPAs; some of them specifically target Annex 1 species (e.g. <i>Crex crex</i>, <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Circus cyaneus</i>) or specific habitats (eg moorlands). At least 2893 agreements are under way, covering at least 485,000 ha (no exact number or surface given for some Regions/schemes).</p>

² equivalent to Ministerial, but at Autonomous Community scale

3. PROTECTION OF SPECIES

3.1 GENERAL SYSTEM OF PROTECTION	
Austria	<p>Almost all laws on Conservation of Nature are set at the regional level (Land). Major reference texts are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Regional laws and orders about nature protection (Naturschutzgesetz u. Naturschutzverordnung). -Specific laws and orders for National parks. -Laws and orders about the protection of landscapes. -Regional laws on hunting. -Regional Order about the yearly hunting periods (opening/closing dates). <p>All those laws and orders are frequently updated, and all efforts are done for the transposition of the BD into national and regional legislation, so as to meet the requirements of the Birds Directive.</p>
Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wallonia: the Law on Conservation of Nature stipulates the full protection in Wallonia of all bird species that occur naturally in Europe (but see the amendment by Decree below). An Order was taken on 27/11/2003, stating that any derogation to the full protection can now be granted only under the reasons stated in the Birds Directive 79/409. <p>The Decree of 06/12/2001 on the conservation of Natura2000 sites, modifying the above law, entered into force on 22/01/2002. It forbids the killing, capture or trapping of any bird species that occurs naturally in Europe with the exception of poultry birds, domestic pigeon races, mutants or hybrids of <i>Serinus canarius</i> with a non-protected species, and species considered as game under the Law on Hunting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Federal Government (Marine territories) District: No specific measures were taken. -Brussels District: All wildlife is fully protected under the 29-08-1991 Edict. -Flanders District: Bird centres take care of injured birds (and wildlife) and return them to the wild. Other NGOs monitor different bird species, educate the public and help restoring habitats or provide nesting sites.
Cyprus	<p>New legislation for the protection and management of Wild Birds and Game (Law n° 152(I)/ 2003) voted on 3.10.2003 by Parliament (Gazette n° 3758). It harmonises national legislation with EU Bird Directive provisions. Full text available on www.cyprus.wildlife.gov.cy.</p>
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Art. 5. of the Birds Directive was transposed into Section 5a par. 1 of the Act on the Nature & Landscape Protection. -The lists of species that may (or may not) be hunted as per the Game Management Act were defined. -New policy for Species action plans developed in 2004; preparation of plans for species such as <i>Otis tarda</i> and <i>Tetrao tetrix</i> among others is planned. -Control of field implementation of regulations was devolved to the Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI), with the Nature Guard also able to exert such control. In 2004 519 complaints were examined by CEI, and harmful activities ordered to be stopped/reduced on 48 instances. The Central Commission for the Protection of Animals also has some control authority.
Denmark	Nothing reported.
Estonia	-The list of huntable species includes 32 species.
Finland	Species protection is covered by the Nature Conservation Act (point 6), the Hunting Act, and in Åland by the Nature Conservation Act and the Hunting

	<p>Act. No changes have been introduced to these during the reporting period. All bird species are protected in Finland, except the species listed in Annex 2. However even these species are protected during the breeding, rearing and prenuptial seasons by Hunting Decrees.</p> <p>Specifically in Aland, no change took place (all 6 major relevant acts were passed between 1985-98).</p>
France	No change was introduced during the period 2002-04.
Germany	<p>The federal legislation on the protection of species was updated in 2004. Federal legislation about nature protection was updated in 2005, as were the law on the protection of wild species and legislation about hunting.</p> <p>All new reference texts are provided in annexes.</p>
Greece	(No information Provided).
Hungary	The list of Laws, Government decrees and Ministerial decrees regulating species protection was provided in extenso (in Hungarian), as well as the list of huntable species (16 species).
Ireland	<p>The key legal instruments relevant to the Birds Directive are the Wildlife Act, 1976, the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2000. The EU Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC) is generally implemented under the Wildlife Acts.</p> <p>All wild birds are protected in Ireland and may not be hunted save under licence. Section 22 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 and Section 30 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 protect birds including their eggs & nests from disturbance or destruction save under licence by the Minister.</p>
Italy	<p>Some legal modifications were introduced through the Law n° 221/2002 of 3 October 2002, which transposed the Birds Directive into national legislation. There were no changes to the list of huntable species, which were already listed in Law n° 157/92 as modified in 1993 and 1997. The prohibitions listed in Art. 5 can now be sanctioned (on both legal & administrative grounds). Among others, the new law states that derogations can only be applied for those reasons listed in Art. 9. of Directive 79/409 CEE.</p>
Latvia	General requirements for protection of birds are secured by the law on species and habitat protection and subordinated regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers.
Lithuania	16 bird species can legally be hunted in Lithuania (12 from Annex II/1, 4 from Annex II/2).
Luxembourg	<p>As per the Government Ruling of 8 April 1986 on the integral or partial protection of wildlife species, all european bird species are protected in Luxembourg except for feral <i>Columba livia</i>, <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>) and 8 species classified as game (see § 3.2 below).</p> <p>The Law on Protection of Nature of 19 January 2004 updated the former one of 11 August 1982. The new version states, e.g. (Art. 20) that no animal benefitting from an integral protection can be harmed, killed, hunted, captured, owned or stuffed "whatever their stage of development".</p>
Malta	<p>The Protection of Birds & Wild rabbits Regulations (Legal Notice LN146/93) is the principal source of Maltese law on bird protection. With its main amendments incorporated into Legal Notice (LN) LN41/03, it stipulates that all bird species are protected in Malta except for 32 species. None of these falls under Annex I of the Birds Directive; all of them are listed either in Annex II/1 or II/2. In addition, 7 other Fringillidae species can be captured for the purpose of keeping in captivity (transitional measure as per the EU Accession Treaty, granted till 31 December 2008). Furthermore, this legislation (art. 14) protects all species during the breeding season, and prohibits (art. 12) the possession, exhibition, export/import, offer for sale of any bird, dead or alive, except for huntable species.</p>

Netherlands	<p>The Flora and Fauna Act came into force on 1 April 2002 and it includes the former Bird Act (Vogelwet) and Hunting Act (Jachtwet). The protection of species named in the Directive is covered by this Act.</p> <p>Fifteen bird species are further protected by individual species protection plans. A red list for birds was made in 2004 according to both Dutch criteria (78 species) and the criteria of IUCN (84 species)</p>
Poland	<p>Nature Protection Law of 16 April 2004 (Dz. U. z 2004 r, Nr. 92, poz. 880 z późn. Zm.) and Regulation by the Minister of Environment from 28 September 2004 on protected species of Wild animals (Dz.U. Nr. 220, poz. 2237) specify the species protection requirements.</p> <p>Nearly all species occurring in Poland are subject to strict protection, i.e. they are protected throughout their life cycle. For some species, due to their high populations and negative impact on economic activities, only partial protection is granted. This partial protection means that the Voivode is competent to derogate from the application of all bans resulting from the law. In case of strictly protected species, only the Minister is competent to derogate.</p> <p>The strict and partial protection is mainly passive, based on the list of forbidden activities in relation to birds (list of bans), which apply to every physical or legal person in the country.</p> <p>For all strictly protected species, it is forbidden to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -kill, harm, catch, transport, keep, and possess live animals; -collect, retain, and possess dead animals, including stuffed birds, as well as their parts and derivatives; -damage and collect eggs, possess and store eggs, as well as make, possess and store empty egg shells; -destroy habitats, refuges, nests, wintering sites; -prepare/conservate dead owls; -sell, buy, offer for (re-)sale, exchange both living and dead birds, processed, conserved, as well as parts and derivatives of the birds; -import and export live and dead owls, processed, conserved, as well as parts and derivatives of the birds; -deliberately threaten or disturb birds; -remove owls from the place of their regular occurrence to other places; -release into natural environment owls born and bred in captivity. <p>In addition, in relation to the specially threatened species, or those sensitive to disturbance, the ban on photographing, filming and observing them is introduced, if it causes disturbance to the birds. Some exceptions apply, mainly in order to release in the wild birds captured accidentally, or to capture and treat wounded and weakened birds for their rehabilitation. Another derogation is linked to agriculture, forestry and fisheries.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Voivode can establish stricter protection forms for the sites where wild species occur. It has authority to establish protection zones for refuges, breeding and regular occurrence sites for 22 strictly protected bird species. In National Parks and Nature Reserves the species are additionally protected by the provisions specific to those areas.</p> <p>Finally, with accession to EU, the provisions of Article 6 of Habitats Directive became applicable to all Natura 2000 sites, including the proposed sites. This includes the assessments required by Article 6(3).</p>
Portugal	<p>No change was reported during the triennium at national level. For the Açores Autonomous Region, Regional Decree no 18/2002/A of 16 May 2002 transposed at regional level the Decree-Law no140/99 of 24 April 1999.</p>
Slovenia	<p>The legal framework for the protection of all species covered by the Bird Directive is the Nature Conservation Act and, for game species, the Game & Hunting Act. This legislation has been finalized as part of the EU accession</p>

	<p>process (A detailed analysis of 18 pages in Slovenian of the transposition of the Directive into national legislation, provision by provision, was provided). The control and supervision of these regulations is carried out by the Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Environment and Nature.</p>
Slovakia	(No information Provided).
Spain	<p>-The Royal Order MAM/2231/2005 of 27 June 2005 modified the National Catalogue of Threatened Species, which now includes 18 "Endangered taxa", 8 "Vulnerable", 3 "Sensitive to habitat deterioration" and 255 "Of special interest". New criteria for the inclusion of taxa in this list were adopted. As per the decision of the Wildlife Committee of 17 March 2004, future versions of the catalogue will include only the first two categories, the last one being added as an Annex.</p> <p>-In addition to national legislation, each Autonomous Community has its own legal powers (laws, orders, decrees...). Some legal changes have been highlighted for autonomous legislation in Andalusia, Aragon, Castilla y Leon, Catalonia, Valencia, Balears, La Rioja, Pais Vasco, Asturias, Murcia, Canarias</p>
Sweden	<p>The protection of wild birds has been strengthened to cover protection of birds against other animals. Furthermore, the Swedish exception for non-game birds to be displayed in animal parks has been tightened.</p>
UK	<p>-The UK has introduced stricter domestic measures to the general system of protection implementing Article 5. The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 introduced 9 new offences in the legislation, incl. two specifically for the protection of <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>;</p> <p>-A Police officer was seconded to the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) to reinforce the fighting against wildlife crime, esp. for the protection of <i>Circus cyaneus</i></p>

3. PROTECTION OF SPECIES

3.2 HUNTING & CAPTURE OF BIRD SPECIES (ART. 7)	
Austria	In Land Wien, derogation for capture of 5 species of passerines was authorized for research purpose.
Belgium	-Wallonia: the Order of 17 May 2001 defining the hunting dates until 30 June 2006 is still in force -Federal Government (Marine territories) District: Hunting and capturing birds in marine territory is prohibited. -Brussels District: Hunting and capturing birds is prohibited. -Flanders District: No major change compared to the previous period. The hunt for some species is restricted, the hunt for widgeon and coot has not been reopened in some areas since 2003.
Cyprus	-legislation was updated in terms of hunting (e.g. provisions for hunting dates), competent authority (at administrative & ministerial level), possible measures (e.g. management plans, specific action plans), and systems of control. -Hunting dates: now between August 16th - end February, each year -Competent Authority: Min. of Interior (Game Fund Service); for the designation of SPAs the Min. of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment is involved through the Scientific Committee, and can make sound scientific suggestions to the Min. of Interior. -Control: the Game Wardens exercised numerous controls so as to enforce legislation. In 2004, 241 poaching/ wildlife crime cases were reported, incl. 93 cases of illegal trapping of wild birds.
Czech Republic	Nothing specific was added in 2004, hunting in the MS being largely regulated by the Game Management Act n° 449/2001 and Decrees 244/2002, 245/2002 Coll.
Denmark	A number of minor adjustments have been made to Danish hunting legislation. This includes the requirements for hunting permission and hunting season.
Estonia	The Hunting Act of 1 March 2003 allows hunting of Anseriformes, Fulica atra, Laridae, Gallinago gallinago from 20 August to 31 October, Scolopax rusticola 1st August- 30 November, Phasianus colchicus 1st October – 28 February, Columba palumbus 1st August – 31 October, and Corvus frugilegus and Turdus pilaris "outside the breeding season". The competent authorities are the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Environment (ministerial level) and the County Environmental Departments, at administrative level.
Finland	Limited spring hunting has taken place in Finland, as regulated by the Hunting Decree. To guide this activity, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has given annual administrative provisions on maximum amounts of waterfowl to be hunted. Two game management districts have been allowed to grant permits to hunt waterfowl in spring if there is no other alternative solution for hunting. The Ministry has taken into account the results from the research by game and Fisheries Research Institute. During the reporting time the amounts of birds hunted have decreased. In 2004 the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry started to draw up a management plan for partridge. Specifically in Aland, one minor change in the Hunting Act took place during 2002-2004.

France	<p>-Law n° 2003-698 of 30/07/2003 did not change significantly the process for fixing hunting dates; however it legalised the possibility of night hunting of small game in 6 Departements where it was already admitted as a traditional practise as per Law 2000-698 of 26/07/2000</p> <p>-In 2002-04 a number of Decrees (Prefectoral or State) were taken in order to fix the dates of the hunting season, which were variable depending on game bird groups (e.g. 6 different categories & dates for 2002). Most of these decrees were legally challenged and partly suspended (for some groups of species), and the Ministry ordered to modify the dates. However in some cases, these instructions were taken too late for effective application (e.g. months after the season had actually started). The Decrees for subsequent years did not always take into account the rulings from previous years, and legal challenges continued.</p> <p>-Decree 2004-462 of 28/05/2002 defined the falconry hunting dates as being the same, in each Departement, as those of the General hunting season; this was not legally challenged.</p> <p>-Decree 2002-113 of 25/01/2002 defined the modalities for implementing the Bag Limits who may be instituted (e.g. for a given Departement) as per the Law of 2000 on Hunting. Three ministerial orders applying this decree to 2 species were taken in 2002, but later cancelled following the legal challenge on hunting dates.</p>
Germany	<p>Germany has measures in place to ensure that the hunting of species listed in Annex II does not compromise their conservation status. The implementation and control of hunting rests with the national and Laner authorities. Hunting bag statistics are monitored in order to ensure that hunting pressure is balanced with conservation objectives under the Directive.</p>
Greece	<p>During the reporting period, only the usual "Annual Hunting Regulations" (opening and closing dates, list of huntable species etc.) have been passed. In order to solve the problem of the closing dates of hunting season, the Ministry funded (from 2004 onwards) two studies on (i) the phenology of migration of waterbirds and (ii) the impact of hunting on waterfowl, conducted by the National Institute for Agricultural Reasearch.</p>
Hungary	<p>The precise hunting dates per hunted species were provided, as well as general information (in Hungarian only) on the administrative structure of hunting management.</p>
Ireland	<p>The only change in legislation reported for the triennium (apart for annually set hunting seasons) was: The Statutory Instrument 394 of 2003 amended the open season period for the woodpigeon to cover the period 1 November - 31 January. Previously the hunting season for the woodpigeon was from 1 June to 31 January. This change was made following receipt of Reasoned Opinion No. 1999/4437 on the hunting season for the wood pigeon asserting that by allowing the hunting of Wood Pigeon during its various stages of reproduction Ireland has not complied with Articles 5 & 7 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).</p>
Italy	<p>No change was introduced to the list of huntable species. Some derogations were granted at the regional level so as to allow opening the hunting season earlier than in national provisions, as early as 1 September.</p>
Latvia	<p>(No information Provided).</p>
Lithuania	<p>-The administrative authority competent for hunting is the Ministry of Environment (MoE), which confirms hunting rules, the list of huntable species, hunting seasons, prohibited means, maximum bags etc. It also sets the programme of the hunting exam.</p>

	<p>-Two main legal acts regulate hunting: the Law on Hunting (2002) and Rules on Hunting in Lithuania (2002).</p> <p>-The hunting seasons are as follows: <i>Anser fabalis</i> and <i>A.albifrons</i> 1 September to 15 December; hutable <i>Anatidae</i> and <i>Fulica atra</i> 15 August to 15 December; <i>Columba palumbus</i>, <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> and <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> 15 August to 1 December; <i>Perdix perdix</i> 1 September to 15 November; <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> 1 September to 1 March; and <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> and <i>C.corone</i> all year round.</p> <p>-Special provisions exist (and are described in detail) for taking the eggs and juveniles and/or destroying the nests of the 2 <i>Corvidae</i> species, and for shooting other non-hunable species in special conditions (e.g. <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>).</p> <p>-Hunters are obliged by law to declare their full annual bag on special forms (places, dates, hunter's name, n° shot per species...) to the Regional nature protection departments. These departments summarize the information for the Ministry of Environment, which itself issues an annual report about the national harvest.</p>
Luxembourg	<p>Art. 2 of Government Ruling of 8 April 1986 states that bird species as game are partly protected. Furthermore, Rulings of August 2003 and 19 July 2004 state that only 8 bird species can be regarded as game (the shortest list for any EU Member State) : <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>, <i>Perdix perdix</i> (currently closed since 1983), <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>, <i>Columba palumbus</i>, <i>Corvus corone</i>, <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>, <i>Pica pica</i>. All of them pertain to Annex II of the Bird Directive</p> <p>Hunting dates are fixed annually by Ministerial Ruling for the 7 currently permitted species. The season must close on or before 28 January.</p> <p>Overall, hunting in Luxembourg is considered as being sustainable. Hunting bags are monitored for some species</p>
Malta	<p>Only species recorded under Annex II/1 or II/2 of the Birds Directive may be hunted/captured. The following limits apply: all 32 hutable species can be hunted on land between 1 September and 31 January; hunting at sea of the 12 <i>Anatidae</i> species is permitted from 1 October to last day of February; <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> and <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> can be hunted and captured between 25 March and 22 May (Malta applied Art. 9 of the BD to allow this activity: see synthesis of derogations in § 3.4 below); <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>, <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Turdus philomelos</i> may be captured between 1 September and 31 January (Malta applied Art. 9 of the BD to allow this activity: see synthesis of derogations in § 3.4 below); 7 <i>Fringillidae</i> (finches) species can be captured between 1 October and 10 April (transitional measure granted to Malta till 31 December 2008).</p>
Netherlands	<p>The Flora and Fauna Act allows the hunt for wood pigeon, pheasant and wild ducks outside the breeding season.</p> <p>Farmers are compensated for damages caused by geese and widgeons. Geese and widgeons moving outside designated areas (80,000 ha.) are chased away.</p>
Poland	<p>Hunting and capturing of birds is regulated by the Hunting Law, and two Minister's Regulations: on hunted species, and on hunting periods. Based on these, the hutable species are: <i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>, <i>Phasianus ssp.</i>, <i>Perdix perdix</i>, <i>Anser anser</i>, <i>Anser fabalis</i>, <i>Anser albifrons</i>, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>, <i>Anas crecca</i>, <i>Aythya ferina</i>, <i>Aythya fuligula</i>, <i>Columba palumbus</i>, <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>, <i>Fulica atra</i>, whilst a few others can be hunted only temporarily (No English/ Latin names provided).</p>
Portugal	<p>The only change mentioned for the triennium relates to Decree-Law no 202/2004, of 18 August 2004, which regulates the Law on General Basis for Hunting of 21 September 1999 by establishing a judicial regime for</p>

	<p>conservation, management and investigation of game resources, in view of its sustainable management, as well as the regulating principles of hunting activity.</p> <p>For the Açores Autonomous Region, Regional Decree no 18/2002/A of 16/5-2002 was passed in order to regulate capture and hunting of bird species.</p>
Slovenia	<p>The legal framework for hunting bird species included in Annexes II/1 and II/2 of the Bird Directive is the Game & Hunting Act (2004).</p> <p>Essentially, this legislation requires the preparation, for each "hunting region", of long-term hunting plans which, for the period 2001-10, were prepared by the Slovenian Forest Service. Annual plans must then be prepared for "hunting regions", for hunting grounds and "special purpose hunting grounds".</p> <p>Bag statistics are collected annually by the Hunting Association of Slovenia (all hunting societies in the country are members of it) and by "Special purpose hunting grounds".</p> <p>The control and supervision of these regulations is carried out by the Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Hunting and Fisheries.</p>
Slovakia	<p>The Regulation of the Ministry of Environment No. 24/2003 determines which bird species can be caught, injured, killed, and kept in captivity, in agreement with Act No. 23 /1962 on hunting.</p> <p>The Act No. 23/1962 Coll. on hunting and its regulations also mentions some prohibited methods.</p> <p>The bird species which can be hunted are <i>Alectoris graeca</i>, <i>Alectoris rufa</i>, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>, <i>Anser albifrons</i>, <i>Anser anser</i>, <i>Anser fabalis</i>, <i>Bonasa bonasia</i>, <i>Columba palumbus</i>, <i>Corvus corone</i>, <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>, <i>Fulica atra</i>, <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>, <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>, <i>Perdix perdix</i>, <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>, <i>Pica pica</i>, <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>, <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>. Raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>) was excluded from the game list from 1 May 2004.</p>
Spain	<p>-The hunting dates, list of game species (and sometimes the maximum bag allowed per species, the hunting means) are usually fixed annually at the level of each Autonomous Community, sometimes as part of a "General Hunting Plan". References for all the relevant annual decrees for the 3 hunting seasons under consideration were provided for most of Communities (17 pp. of details provided, variable depending on Community)</p> <p>-In Murcia a new Law 7/2003 of 12 November 2003 on "Hunting and River Fishing/ Angling" was passed.</p> <p>-In Tenerife (Canarias) a summary of one decade of hunting (1994-2004) was published.</p>
Sweden	<p>A number of minor changes have been made to the hunting regulations in Sweden: The hunting season of <i>Anser anser</i> has been limited in three counties (Blekinge, Skåne & Halland), while hunting can be permitted on <i>Larus ridibundus</i> under certain circumstances. In addition the text in the Swedish hunting legislation has been made more specific and precise regarding the exceptions possible under article 9 and in a few cases it has been specified more clearly which authority is responsible for giving permission for exceptions.</p>
UK	<p>There have been no further changes during the reporting period to the measures introduced in the UK to implement Article 7.</p>

3. PROTECTION OF SPECIES

3.3 MEANS, ARRANGEMENTS OR METHODS USED FOR THE LARGE-SCALE OR NON-SELECTIVE CAPTURE OR KILLING OF BIRDS (ART. 8)	
Austria	Regional laws on hunting were updated in the years 2000-2004, but no information was provided about the authorised methods used for killing/capturing birds.
Belgium	-Wallonia: the Natura 2000 Decree forbids the killing, capture or trapping of any bird species that occurs naturally in Europe, whatever the means used, with some exceptions (see § 3.1). The Executive Order of 4 June 1987 remains in force; it regulates the use of firearms for hunting. Additional possibilities of destruction of some game species were introduced by the Government Order of 18 October 2002, with a new section authorizing the destruction for aerial safety on 2 civilian and 4 military airports. Special permission is required from the Minister who has hunting within his scope. -Federal Government (Marine territories) District: Unchanged from the 1999-2001 report. -Brussels District: No information provided. -Flanders District: No major changes compared to the previous period. Concerning lead poisoning in water birds: Since 2003 the use of lead and zinc shot is prohibited.
Cyprus	The new legislation for the protection and management of Wild Birds and Game (Law n° 152(I)/ 2003) voted on 3.10.2003 by Parliament (Gazette n° 3758) harmonises national legislation with EU Bird Directive provisions. -The Game Fund Service conducted regular controls in areas where trapping of wild birds takes place, in collaboration with the Cyprus Police.
Czech Republic	Nothing specific was added in 2004, these points in the MS being largely regulated by the Game Management Act n° 449/2001 Coll., completed by Act n° 246 Coll. on the prevention of cruelty to animals.
Denmark	(No information Provided).
Estonia	According to the Hunting Act of 1 March 2003, the permitted hunting equipment includes firearms with a smoothbore barrel or rifled barrel or combination rifle-shotguns, except fully automatic firearms; semi-automatic firearms with a magazine capable of holding upto 2 cartridges; traps except leghold traps; decoys; and hunting dogs.
Finland	Finnish legislation on hunting prohibits use of this kind of methods. Specifically in Aland, special nets can be used for capturing birds for ringing.
France	No change was introduced during 2002-04.
Germany	Changes have been addressed in the law on the protection of wild species (§4 Abs 1 Nr 1-10) and in the hunting legislation (§ 19)
Greece	(No information Provided).
Hungary	Large scale capture or killing of birds is permitted for the species below between 1 July and 28 February if not in conflict with conservation objectives: <i>Cygnus olor</i> , <i>Passer domesticus</i> , <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> , <i>Larus cachinnans</i> , <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> .
Ireland	All means, arrangements and methods of hunting listed in Annex IV (a) and (b) are prohibited in the ordinary course of hunting. Only traps, snares and nets approved under Section 34 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 as amended by Section 42 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 may be used. While

	<p>certain poisoned or anaesthetic bait may be allowed to control certain species by derogation under Article 9, the use of Chlordane, Resperine and Strychnine and all their compounds are banned. Special permits are required for the control of pigeons where they can cause contamination of food in storage. This is mainly to ensure that the most discriminate methods are used and that non-target species are unaffected.</p> <p>These provisions were strengthened in 2003 with new regulations (S.I. No. 620 of 2003) which rendered it an offence to possess, sell or offer for sale of such traps listed in the regulations unless the person has a licence from the Minister to do so. No such licences have been granted.</p>
Italy	<p>-Capturing or killing birds in a non-selective way and on a large scale remains prohibited. But in case that bird species do harm agriculture fisheries, historical or artistic heritage, the regional authorities can allow taking wild birds regarded as harmful, in conformity with Law n° 157/92.</p> <p>-Capturing birds with the aim of attracting (baiting) other species is permitted under Law n° 157/92.</p>
Latvia	(No information Provided).
Lithuania	<p>-All methods for large-scale or non-selective killing of birds, or capable of causing the local disappearance of a species (in particular those means listed in Annex IV § a) of the BD) are prohibited by the Law on Hunting.</p> <p>-Hunting from a vehicle and under the conditions mentioned in Annex IV § b) is also forbidden.</p>
Luxembourg	No change in legislation was apparently introduced, the new Law of 19 January 2004 simply incorporating the provisions of its older version of 11 August 1982.
Malta	<p>-National legislation permits the hunting/ capturing of birds only with the use of a firearm or traditional hand-operated nets known as "clap-nets". All other means (e.g. mist-nets) are forbidden.</p> <p>-No firearm able to shoot more than 2 shots at any time is allowed.</p> <p>-Hunting at sea is only possible when owning a special licence from the Commissioner of Police, using a fully registered seacraft, which maybe launched only from places specified on the licence, running at no more than 18 km/h, and at least 3 km away from the coastline.</p> <p>-Mist-nets are allowed only to 15 licenced bird-ringers.</p>
Netherlands	The use of traps to catch and kill birds is prohibited. Exempted is the trapping of black crows, jackdaws and magpies.
Poland	All capturing and keeping wild birds is forbidden, regardless of the means: the Hunting law allows only for hunting but forbids capturing, wounding, keeping or disturbing animals. Furthermore, the regulation on conditions for hunting specifies all allowed methods.
Portugal	The provisions of Art. 8 of the Directive are included in the national legislation on hunting and on transposing the Directive. No change was reported for the triennium.
Slovenia	<p>The legal frameworks are the Nature Conservation Act and the Game & Hunting Act. (A detailed analysis of 18 pages in Slovenian of the transposition of the Directive into national legislation, provision by provision, was provided).</p> <p>The control and supervision of these regulations is carried out by both the Inspectorates of the Republic of Slovenia for Environment and Nature, and for Hunting and Fisheries.</p>
Slovakia	-By the Act. No 543/2002, all bird species, occurring in Slovakia are protected and also some methods of hunting of all protected species (including birds) are prohibited: snares, limes, hooks, catching on glue, blind or mutilated live birds using as decoys, tape recorders or other sound

	<p>makers, electric or electronic devices able to kill or stun, artificial light sources, mirrors and devices for illuminating targets, sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter and other similar devices allowing night shooting, explosives or chemicals, crossbow, air or gas guns and weapons solo-shooting, catching birds to nests or to other devices with objective to kill them, catching to traps except live-traps, where animals are catch live and un-injured, poisons and baits with poison or anesthetic or killing substance, using gas, semi-automatic or automatic weapons shooting singly or with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition, catching and killing of protected animals from airplanes, moving vehicles or boats making more than 5 km per hour.</p> <p>-During the Reporting period (1 May – 31 Dec.2004) no changes in relevant legislation were adopted.</p>
Spain	<p>-Changes of legislation re. permitted hunting means were reported for Aragon (Law 5/2002 of 4 April 2002), Canarias (Decree 42/2003 of 7 April 2003), La Rioja (Decree 17/2004 of 27 February 2004). In Ceuta and the Balears it was reported that only the basic, national legislation applies to the prescriptions of the Birds Directive.</p> <p>-Prohibition of lead shots is mentioned for the Balears (in wetlands).</p>
Sweden	No change in the legislation has taken place during the reference period.
UK	<p>-The UK has introduced stricter domestic measures concerning methods of killing and taking wild birds, specifically in respect of use of lead shot in wetlands in England, Scotland and Wales. Following similar Statutory Instruments for England in 1999 and Wales in 2001, the Scottish Statutory Instrument 2004 n° 289 came into force on 01/09/2004. It prohibits the use of lead shots on or over wetlands, with some exceptions. Only Northern Ireland remains without a similar Statutory instrument.</p>

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3.4 SYNTHESIS OF DEROGATIONS FROM PROVISIONS OF ARTICLES 5, 6, 7 AND 8 (ART. 9)	
<p><i>Important note: This section contains information submitted both as part of the Art. 12 report, and as part of the Art. 9 reports for 2002-2003 and 2004), since in many cases MS did not provide information for this section in the Art. 12 report but instead referred the reader to the separate Art. 9 report. In some instances they submitted both, but the quantitative information provided differed sometimes widely.</i></p>	
Austria	<p>254 derogation licences were submitted in 2002, 166 in 2003 and 749 in 2004. The majority of the licences were granted for c-iv, deliberate capture and keeping with the purpose of research and education etc. The species concerned are generally different Passerine species and the purpose is ringing.</p> <p>In 2002 and 2003 many licences were submitted for killing birds to prevent serious damage to crops etc. and for the protection of flora and fauna. The killing of quite many Buteo buteo and Accipiter gentilis were licenced for the protection of other bird species (among others Tetrao urogallus and Tetrao tetrix) and mammals. In 2002 a high number of Tetrao urogallus and Tetrao tetrix were killed without specification of reason. The derogations were issued for spring hunting of these two species - one of them for killing 11,2% of the Tetrao tetrix population in Tirol.</p>
Belgium	<p>In Belgium 1,406 derogations were submitted in 2002, 985 in 2003 and 127 in 2004. In the first 2 years, the majority concerned killing of Corvus corone, Pica pica, Sturnus vulgaris, Falco tinnunculus, Columba palumbus and Larus spp. for protection of flora and fauna, to prevent serious damage to crops etc. and in the interest of public health and safety. Also a high number of licences were given for the purpose of research.</p> <p>In 2004 the majority of derogations concerned transportation and keeping birds in zoo, but derogations were also granted for killing birds to prevent serious damage to crops etc.</p>
Cyprus	<p>One derogation giving licences to 1,200-1,500 persons, was issued to hunt Magpie Pica pica, Crow Corvus corone and Jackdaw Corvus monedula to prevent serious damage to crops, livestock and wild fauna.</p>
Czech Republic	<p>143 derogations and exemptions to the Bird Directive concerning birds were granted in 2004 (or 247, according to Art. 9 Report): 54 according to Art. 9a, 29 to Art. 9b. and 60 to Art. 9c. The decisions on exemptions are supervised by the Czech Environmental Inspectorate and nature protection authorities.</p>
Denmark	<p>About 60 derogation licences were issued in both 2002 and 2003, and 51 in 2004.</p> <p>The majority concerned killing by firearms of mainly gulls, crows and doves in the interest of public health and safety, including air safety (a-iii). The remaining part was given in order to prevent serious damage to crops, livestock or fisheries (a-ii) and, for a few of them, for the capture of birds of prey with traps, for the protection of wild fauna.</p>
Estonia	<p>In the period covered, 8 authorizations were delivered for shooting Ardea cinerea and 5 for Falco tinnunculus; 6 permissions to shoot Branta leucopsis and 5 for Corvus corax, to prevent serious damage to crops etc. and in the interest of public health.</p>
Finland	<p>The Ministry of Environment, Finnish Environment Institute and regional environment centres are responsible for granting permits for species which are protected under the Nature Conservation Act, and for supervising their implementation. Delivery of permits for species protected under the Hunting Act fall under the responsibility of both the Ministry of Agriculture and the game management districts. The person who gets a permit must report</p>

	<p>annually or at latest when the permit expires to the relevant authority.</p> <p>In Finland 1586 derogation licences were issued in 2002, 177 in 2003 and 112 in 2004. A high number of derogations were granted for killing of Geese, Gulls, Cranes, Herons, Crows and Doves to prevent serious damage to crops, fishfarms etc., and in the interest of public health and safety etc. 2 permits were given in order to protect fauna: to capture and release goshawk in order to study success of reintroduction of partridges.</p> <p>Many permits were granted for research purposes (e.g. feather and blood samples to study heavy metal levels, genetic or physiological conditions of birds) and to capture birds for ringing / marking. 2 permits relate to capturing osprey chicks, to reinforce the Spanish breeding population.</p> <p>During the reference period a special system of derogations was applied in the Aland Islands. However, this situation has subsequently been addressed.</p>
France	<p>Respectively 31, 195 and 92 derogations were submitted in 2002, 2003 and 2004. The major reasons were "In the interest of public health and safety" and "For the purpose of research and education". In 2004, seven derogations were submitted for catching birds mainly passerines (nearly 600,000) on lime (sticks). The French authorities have also submitted one derogation report for the killing of 10,600 <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> « to protect the wild fauna ».</p> <p>-Following a Ruling by the European Court of Justice of 16/10/2003 on the specific conditions to be met for allowing a derogation re. hunting dates, the Conseil d'Etat has cancelled a Ministerial Order of 04/02/2003, which extended the hunting season of Thrushes (<i>Turdus</i> spp.) and <i>Anser anser</i> beyond 31 January 2003.</p>
Germany	<p>In Germany 1,496 derogations were submitted in 2002, 940 in 2003 and 1,493 in 2004. The majority of the derogations are given in the interest of public health, to prevent serious damage to the fishery and for the purpose of research. Many derogations concern destruction of nests of many sparrows, swifts and swallows, which is not common in any other Member State.</p>
Greece	<p>8 derogations were submitted in 2002, one in 2003 and 11 in 2004. Data on numbers, methods and even species are often lacking. All the derogations are granted for scientific work and most of them for ringing probably by catching in nets.</p>
Hungary	<p>In Hungary 72 derogation licences were submitted in 2004 for 31 species, most of them to allow killing or scaring away <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>, <i>Ardea cinera</i>, <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> and <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> to prevent serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fishery and water.</p>
Ireland	<p>As per 2002 and 2003, no derogations were submitted by Ireland for the Art. 9 reporting; but 5 in 2004. They all related to scientific study and monitoring activities where capture of birds has been allowed. Information is in all instances missing on the number of birds captured. As per the Art. 12 report, in 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively 14, 17 and 13 licences were granted to kill <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> so in order to protect fisheries.</p>
Italy	<p>-1141 licences were submitted in 2002 and 527 in 2003. The main category for hunting with nets. Other main reasons were to prevent damage to crops etc., and collection of eggs for research and education.</p> <p>-Derogations were granted for 8 game species in 2002-04 (e.g. <i>Alauda arvensis</i>, <i>Turdus merula</i> etc.). Quotas are set annually at the level of each Province, and numbers actually taken are monitored accordingly. The total numbers taken reached 51,700 birds in 2002 (out of 75,800 allowed by quotas), 54,800 out of 75,600 in 2003, and 53,200 out of 69,500 in 2004.</p> <p>-As far as capturing birds with the aim of controlling them, data is often partial and in many cases, the official body in charge (INFS) does not know the</p>

	numbers taken, the dates or the controlling means applied at local level.
Latvia	Articles 13 – 15 of the law above (§ 3.1) establish the procedure for derogations. Two derogation licences were submitted for the protection of wild fauna (keeping and caring for two wounded storks <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>) and 75 licences were granted for hunting individual Capercaillies <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> with the reason "to permit, under strictly supervised conditions and on a selective basis, other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers".
Lithuania	The Ministry of Environment is empowered to take decisions on derogations to Art. 5-8 of the Birds Directive. For 2004, 9 derogations were granted for taking 7 <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> , 5 <i>A.querquedula</i> , 2 <i>A.penelope</i> , 4 <i>Aythya fuligula</i> , 5 <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> , 2 <i>Anser fabalis</i> , 5 <i>A.albifrons</i> , 7 <i>Limicola</i> sp. in the interest of public health and safety, as well as 1,500 <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> to prevent serious damage to fisheries. All of these permissions were granted for shooting with firearms.
Luxembourg	A total of 12 derogations were granted in 2002-04, for: -scientific ringing by the Ringing Group of LNVL (26 persons); -scaring <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> or destroying their breeding areas (6 permissions); -a number of permissions for killing <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> so as to prevent serious damage to orchards, vineyards and fields. No statistics exist on the numbers killed.
Malta	Between 1 May – 31 December 2004, 15 permissions for derogation were granted under Reason 9.1(b), with 9,168 birds being captured for ringing; 11,759 permissions were delivered to hunters and 4,699 to trappers under Reason 9.1(c) for the period 1-22 May 2004, leading to the capture/ killing of 2,544 <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> and 10,910 <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> (part of these may have been actually hunted during the legal season – hunters' statistics do not always distinguish both cases); and 4,691 permissions for trappers under Reason 9.1(c) for the period 1 September – 31 December 2004, leading to the capture/ killing of 15 <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> , 7 <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> , 38 <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and 214 <i>Turdus philomelos</i> .
Netherlands	In general derogations are granted on a limited scale and primarily for scientific research. In 2002, 19 derogations were granted; in 2003 the number was 14. No information for 2004 was included. (All derogations are listed in the Annex II of the original report in Dutch) (Info submitted for the Art. 12 report). This contrasts with the information submitted in the two separate Art. 9 reports, which state in substance that 9,160 derogation licences were issued in 2002, 11,294 in 2003, and 9,914 in 2004. Many of the licences issued constitute yearly renewals of permissions e.g. for ringing or stuffing birds for research or educational purposes (a/c-iii), for killing birds in the interest of public health and safety or to prevent serious damage to crops etc. (a-ii-i), or for the collection of eggs from gulls, e.g. <i>Larus ridibundus</i> , for the protection of flora and fauna. However, the great majority of all licences were issued for the collection of eggs of the Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> in Friesland – 8,000 licences each year for up to 15 eggs per licence, totalling a potential of 120,000 eggs per year (e-v). Most of the derogation reports did not inform about the number of individuals effectively affected.
Poland	In 2004 a total number of 93 derogation licences were issued. These included 27 licences to kill a total of 1,930 Cormorants to prevent serious damage to the fisheries and 31 licences for ringing birds. Ten licences were given to "scaring away" for the purpose of research and teaching – in this case photographing the birds.
Portugal	In Portugal 431 derogation licences were submitted in 2002, 150 in 2003 and

	469 in 2004. The main reasons were to prevent serious damage to crops etc. Only in a few cases is the actual number of birds taken specified.
Slovenia	<p>Only information on the numbers of permissions given/ bags allowed for 1 May – 31 December 2004 is available, not on the numbers actually taken.</p> <p>210 authorizations were given: (i) one to managers of 89 hunting areas and 31 fishing areas for the control of <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (Reason for derogation = protection of endangered fish species), (ii) one to the Veterinary faculty for capturing and taking samples in wild birds (all species), and (iii) one to the Ljubljana zoo and 7 to private persons for keeping in captivity birds of prey, storks and swans (25 individuals in total).</p> <p>Reporting to the bodies which issue the permits (usually the Environment Agency) is a legal requirement attached to the authorizations.</p> <p>The control and supervision of these regulations is carried out by the Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Environment and Nature, the Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Hunting and Fisheries, and by Nature conservation wardens.</p>
Slovakia	10 derogations were granted during the reporting period (1 May – 31 Dec. 2004) - the majority (8) were granted for research and teaching purposes (mostly ringing), 1 was based on in the interests of air safety and 1 in the interests of public health.
Spain	<p>-During the triennium, 43,554 derogation licences were submitted in 2002, 20,946 in 2003, and 67,357 in 2004.</p> <p>Derogations were granted mainly to permit, under strictly supervised conditions and on a selective basis, the capture, keeping or other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers either for bird song training (over 278,000 birds concerned, mainly <i>Fringillidae</i>) or falconry (18). Other reasons (their n° within brackets) included human health (407 derogations); to prevent serious damage to crops, livestock, fisheries or for the protection of flora and fauna (128); to assist the recovery of injured birds (30); for the purposes of research (507), of reintroduction (18).</p> <p>-The detailed number per species or species groups and per Autonomous Community are monitored annually (detailed tables provided).</p>
Sweden	In Sweden 194 licences were issued in 2002 and in 2003, and 218 in 2004. The main reasons are to prevent serious damage to crops and in the interest of public health and safety etc. A few derogations have been granted for quite a high number of individuals of Woodpigeon and Geese all year round to prevent serious damage to crops. These species are usually only problematic in specific periods of time – e.g. sowing in autumn or spring.
UK	<p>In the United Kingdom 1,826 licences were issued in 2002, 2,521 in 2003, and 1,314 in 2004. The main reason for derogations is to prevent serious damages to crops, fishery or to livestock. The species mentioned is Geese and Cormorants. A high number of derogations are given in the interest of public health and air safety.</p> <p>There is no simple explanation of the higher number of derogations in 2003, but more derogations were issued for breeding for the protection of the wild fauna in 2003.</p>

3. PROTECTION OF SPECIES

3.5 AUTHORIZATION OF SALE OF BIRD SPECIES REFERRED TO IN ANNEX III/2 (ART. 6)	
Austria	In Land Salzburg, regional law enforcement prohibited the possession and sale of certain bird species.
Belgium	Information provided only for Wallonia: the Government Order of 17 May 2001 which determines the hunting dates until 30 June 2006 also prohibits throughout the year the selling, transport for selling, and keeping in view of selling of all game resulting from (falconry??) hunting, as well as of dead <i>Anas penelope</i> , <i>A.crecca</i> , <i>Fulica atra</i> and <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> or any part or product made from an "easily identifiable bird".
Cyprus	The sale of birds must now be in line with the provisions of EU Birds Directive, according to the new legislation (Law n° 152(I)/ 2003) voted on 3.10.2003 by Parliament; Gazette n° 3758) which harmonizes the national legislation with the Birds Directive.
Czech Republic	-Art. 6 of the Directive was transposed into national law by Section 5a (para 2. and 3.) of the Act on the Nature & Landscape Protection -The list of the 3 species for which the sale/ transport/ keeping etc. shall not apply was prepared, but the Decree adopted only in 2005 (n° 166/2005) -Statistics on species contained in Annex III/2 were produced
Denmark	
Estonia	(No information Provided).
Finland	No change took place during the triennium. In Aland, nature legislation prohibits keeping or selling specimens from protected species. Aland has acceded to the CITES convention.
France	-No change of legislation was reported for the triennium. -No authorization was delivered for any game species whose trade is subject to authorization; however for the following species no authorization is required: <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> , <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> , <i>Syrnaticus reevesi</i> , <i>Alectoris rufa</i> , <i>Perdix perdix</i> , <i>Columba palumbus</i> , <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> (for the latter, derogation to the BD taken as per art. 9 para 1.c. of the BD).
Germany	No new relevant information.
Greece	(No information Provided).
Hungary	Hungary did not request commercialisation and no permit was issued.
Ireland	(No change in legislation was reported)
Italy	Selling and owning captive birds is prohibited, with the exception of <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> , <i>Alectoris rufa</i> , <i>Alectoris barbara</i> , <i>Perdix perdix</i> , <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> , <i>Columba palumbus</i> , which can be freely traded. In addition, owning bird individuals can be permitted at the regional level. Trade in birds born in captivity is permitted only for those individuals which are ringed and which have a Certificate of origin.
Latvia	No derogation was issued for Annex III/2 species in the reporting period.
Lithuania	There is no trade in wild birds in Lithuania, and there was no application for permits to sell birds.
Luxembourg	Selling species strictly protected remains totally forbidden as per the new Law of 19 January 2004 (Art. 29). As for game species, the sale of <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> , <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> , <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> , and <i>Columba palumbus</i> is permitted throughout their hunting season and upto 10 days afterwards.

Malta	Maltese legislation (see § 3.1 above; Art. 12 of LN146/93 as amended by LN41/03) currently states that all bird species which are protected cannot be sold, offered for sale, exchanged or dealt with in any manner. The Police and Environment Inspectors (MEPA) exert regular control in pet shops and markets.
Netherlands	The sale of birds from article 6 of the Directive is only allowed when birds were killed for prevention or damage control. This applies to 4 species only.
Poland	These autorizations are regulated by the Regulation on protection of wild animal species.
Portugal	These aspects are regulated by § 7 of Art. 11 of Decree-Law no 140/99 of 24 April 1999. No change during the triennium was reported.
Slovenia	The legal framework for sale of bird species mentioned in Annex III/2 is the Nature Conservation Act and the Game & Hunting Act. Authorization for sale of species in Annex II/2 cannot be issued. (A detailed analysis in Slovenian of the transposition of Art. 6 of the Directive into national legislation was provided).
Slovakia	During the Reporting period (1 May – 31 December 2004) no changes in relevant legislation were adopted.
Spain	Minor changes or precisions in legislation were reported for the following Autonomous Communities: Andalucia, Cataluna (the new Law 22/2003 of 4 July 2003 prohibits the sale of all protected species; only game species killed by legal means can be sold), Extremadura (as part of the annual Decrees that regulate the hunting dates), Baleares (as per Decree 71/2004 only <i>Alectoris rufa</i> , <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> , <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> and <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> can be sold), La Rioja (Decree 17/2004 of 27 February 2004).
Sweden	No change in legislation has taken place during the reference period.
UK	-The definition of "wild bird" was amended in 2004 in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in England, Scotland and Wales and in the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

3. PROTECTION OF SPECIES

3.6 INTRODUCTION OF SPECIES OF BIRDS WHICH DO NOT OCCUR NATURALLY IN THE WILD STATE IN THE EU (ART. 11)	
Austria	(No information Provided).
Belgium	-Wallonia: The Natura 2000 Decree (see § 3.1) prohibits the introduction in the wild of non-indigenous plant or animal species, and of non-indigenous varieties of native species, except for those that are used in agriculture or forestry. Nevertheless as can be seen from the Atlas of Breeding Birds, colonization by exotic species (especially Anatidae) is continuing. Their sources are very difficult to identify. -Brussels District: Research / monitoring is underway on <i>Psittacula krameri</i> and <i>Myiopsitta monachus</i> , the most invasive exotic species.
Cyprus	No introduction took place.
Czech Republic	-Releases of 4 non-native game bird species that have not established sustainable populations are taking place and depend on repeated releases: <i>Alectoris graeca</i> , <i>Syrnaticus reevesi</i> , <i>Numida meleagris</i> and <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> ; the Ministry of Agriculture keeps annual statistics. -In addition a small number of non-native falcons (or hybrids) presumably escape each year. Cases are registered by regional authorities but not at central level.
Denmark	(No information Provided).
Estonia	The Nature Conservation Act prohibits the release of live specimens of non-native species.
Finland	Release of invasive alien species is prohibited without a permit from the Min of Agriculture and Forestry. No such permit was given in 2002-2004. In Åland no change in legislation took place: two legislative acts (1985 and 1998) already prohibit importing bird species which do not occur naturally in the region.
France	-ONCFS continued its involvement in the eradication plan for <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> in France (90 birds eliminated in 2002-04).
Germany	No introduction is known to have taken place during the reporting period.
Greece	No introduction is known to have taken place during the reporting period.
Hungary	No introduction is known to have taken place during the reporting period..
Ireland	The NPWS of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Heritage Service of the Northern Ireland Department of Environment commissioned an all-Ireland review of invasive species with the objective of presenting recommendations to both Governments in March 2004. Specifically, Statutory Instrument 428 of 2001 Wildlife (Wild Birds) (Open Seasons) (Amendment) Order, 2001 included the Ruddy Duck on the list of huntable species. It can now be hunted from 1 September to 31 January. In addition, introduced/ feral species are recorded as part of various bird monitoring schemes in the country, e.g. The Irish Rare Breeding Birds Panel (IRBBP) or the Irish Wetland Bird Survey; various surveys (e.g. on feral geese species) were undertaken so as to establish their national status.
Italy	Law n° 157/92 prohibits the introduction of non-native species. So far, a total of 110 non-native bird species have been recorded in the Italian territory, the vast majority of them have been seen only once or a few times. Only 13 species have become established: <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> ,

	Cygnus olor, C. atratus, Alectoris chukar, Francolinus francolinus, F. erckelli, Coturnix japonica, Phasianus colchicus, Psittacula krameri, Myopsitta monachus, Leiothrix lutea, Paradoxornis alphonsianus, Amandava amandava, whilst a few more may breed occasionally in the wild but without having developed a population.
Latvia	Introduction is prohibited in accordance with the law on species and habitat protection. It might be authorized only after the EIA is applied and the authorization is issued by the Nature Conservation board. No application has been received.
Lithuania	The Law on Wild Fauna and the Rules on Introduction of Wild Animals require a permit from the Ministry of Environment before any deliberate introduction. There was no introduction of non-native species to Lithuania in 2004.
Luxembourg	(No information Provided).
Malta	No introduction of non-native species for Europe took place in Malta since accession. The Flora and Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (LN257/03) which transposes the Habitats Directive, addresses the introduction/ reintroduction of species of flora and fauna that do not occur in the wild in Malta. The Malta Environment and Planning Agency (MEPA) which is the competent authority may prohibit the importation of any species of wild fauna/flora which may harm biodiversity. The above provision should be read in conjunction with Art. 5 of LN236/04 entitled "Trade in species of Fauna and Flora Regulations, 2004" that imposes a strict application to the MEPA prior to importing/ exporting/ re-exporting any specimen of wild fauna or flora.
Netherlands	The introduction of birds into the wild is prohibited. In the case of escaped exotic species provincial governments can impose a reduction of numbers.
Poland	It is forbidden by the Nature Protection Law to introduce alien species and their developmental forms. It is also forbidden to import species which could endanger local species: a special permit is required.
Portugal	Introductions are prohibited by national Decree-Laws no 140/99 of 24 April 1999 and no 565/99, of 21 December 1999. In the Açores Autonomous Region, it is also regulated by Resolution no 148/98 of 25 June 1998 of the Regional Government, where furthermore Regional Legislative Decree no 18/2002/A of 16 May 2002 was passed during the triennium.
Slovenia	The introduction, reinforcement and captive breeding of non-native species are regulated by the Nature Conservation Act. They are usually prohibited but the Ministry (MoESP) may allow their introduction in the wild, after careful assessment of the risks involved for biodiversity. The permits to introduce species that are either hunted or are used in forestry/ agriculture, are delivered by the Ministry in charge of Agriculture, after prior consent by the Ministry of Environment.
Slovakia	-Prior approval by the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) is required for dissemination of non-native species of plants or animals outside urban areas, with the exception of (i) some species specified by the MoE upon agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture under a generally binding regulation, (ii) species specified in an approved forest management plan or (iii) species grown in agricultural plantations (§ 12 b). -During the reporting period (1 May – 31 December 2004) no introduction of a bird species non-native to the EU was approved. However in October 2004, the release of 200 specimens of Alectoris graeca bred in captivity (a species which does not occur naturally in the Slovak republic) was approved for hunting reasons.

Spain	<p>-The control programme of <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>, which threatens the native <i>O.leucocephala</i>, was continued thanks to a good collaboration between the Ministry of Environment and the Autonomous Communities.</p> <p>New, exotic species recorded were the starling <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> in Canarias and Baleares, and the parakeet <i>Myopsitta monachus</i> in Baleares. In La Rioja releases of non-native <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> and <i>Coturnix japonica</i> took place, with a few breeding instances by the former usually not persisting. Releases of the latter species have also been allowed in Pais Vasco.</p> <p>-In Catalunya, the Atlas of breeding birds and the Monitoring Programme for Common Birds (SOCC) have helped define better the true status of introduced species.</p> <p>-In Extremadura, the annual orders on the hunting dates also recall that introductions are forbidden.</p>
Sweden	<p>Hunting is allowed throughout the year for the Ruddy duck due to the threat it poses to the European White-headed duck.</p>
UK	<p>-Non-breeding, non-native waterfowl and hybrids are routinely monitored by both the Wetland Bird Survey and the Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme (see § 4.1 below).</p> <p>-Ruddy ducks <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> introduced into the UK are spreading towards continental Europe, where they pose a severe threat to the Annex I white-headed duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> (globally threatened). To address this threat, a limited control trial of ruddy ducks was conducted from 1999 to 2002. Further trials were conducted through to the reporting period, the aims being to establish whether it is feasible to eradicate ruddy ducks in Britain within ten years and to estimate the cost of such a control strategy. Following conclusion of the trials in June 2002, the Government agreed in March 2003 that eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the UK is the preferred outcome, but also recommended further trials of control techniques. These trials will continue beyond the reporting period. In addition, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) issued a general licence to allow the shooting or taking of ruddy ducks by landowners (a similar licence has been issued in Wales by the Welsh Assembly Government).</p> <p>-A review of non-native species policy was published in 2003 (DEFRA 2003): www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/resprog/findings/non-native/index.htm.</p>

4. ENCOURAGEMENT OF RESEARCH AND ANY WORK REQUIRED AS A BASIS FOR THE PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF THE POPULATION OF ALL BIRD SPECIES REFERRED TO IN ART. 1 (ART. 10)

4.1 RESEARCH EFFORTS COMPLETED OR ONGOING	
Austria	<p>Many research projects implemented, targeting protection/conservation of bird species and/or their habitats (e.g. moors in Rheine inner Delta). Species targeted include <i>Otis tarda</i> (Burgenland) and raptors. Many of these projects directly involve National Parks.</p> <p>Inventories and monitoring of bird populations are also frequently carried out.</p>
Belgium	<p>-Wallonia: Methodological guidelines for collecting data on the avifauna prior to the designation of Natura 2000 sites were produced. At least 3 monitoring schemes are under way, and were continued during 2002-04: the wintering waterbird surveys; the Common Bird Monitoring (Aves); the Atlas of breeding birds in Wallonia (data collection 2001-05, publication planned 2007). Results from these schemes feed into international protocols (e.g. Wetlands International's Waterbird census; Euro-Monitoring) or national Observatories (e.g. the State of the Environment in Wallonia). A number of research / monitoring programmes are under way on <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>, <i>Aegolius funereus</i>, <i>Athene noctua</i>, <i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>, or a wider array of species on sample sites. The Francophone Ornithological Congress was organized in 2003 in Namur</p> <p>-Federal Government (Marine territories) District: The research of oil pollution affecting sea birds after the accident with the Tricolor (14 December 2002) was published. Symposia were attended on the subject and intervention plans in case of oil spills are being prepared. The long-term effect of offshore wind parks on the bird population has been researched.</p> <p>-Brussels District: In general the bird populations are monitored; especially in winter the water birds are counted.</p> <p>-Flanders District: 250 volunteers ring about 500,000 migratory birds annually. Annual counts of migratory birds and the monitoring of habitats are ongoing. 10 projects regarding bird population and bird habitats were finished in the 2002-2004 period.</p>
Cyprus	<p>-Regular monitoring is organised for Waterfowl, important Birds of Prey (e.g. Bonelli's Eagle, Goshawk, Long-legged Buzzard) and main game bird species</p> <p>-Additional, specific studies are conducted on some of these Birds of Prey.</p> <p>-Bag surveys & statistics are carried out for all game species.</p> <p>-Monitoring of important Annex I species has just started (Cyprus Warbler, Cyprus Wheatear).</p> <p>-Key publications include annual bag statistic surveys; report on the conservation of Long-legged Buzzard in Cyprus; report on the adoptions of the conclusions of the Bergen-op-Zoom meeting into the Cyprus Development Strategy.</p>
Czech Republic	<p>-In 2004 four long-standing plurispecific monitoring programmes were continued (Breeding Bird Census, International Waterbird Census, Breeding waterbirds, Breeding bird distribution mapping) while 2 new ones were</p>

	<p>added: a Constant Effort Site ringing scheme and a programme to Monitor SPAs. In addition a number of ringing and species-specific monitoring programmes are carried out (e.g. Common crane, White Stork, Birds of prey).</p> <p>-Three faculties are conducting 11 research programmes devolved to species mentioned in Art. 4 of the BD, while the Czech Society for Ornithology animated 4 working groups (Birds of prey & owls, Common crane, Grouse, Corncrake)</p> <p>-ca. 75 relevant articles were published, and 5 seminars/ workshops/ training courses organized</p>
Denmark	(No information Provided)
Estonia	<p>-The annual State Monitoring Programme for threatened species was continued; it covers among others all 9 priority species covered by an Action Plan as mentioned above (§ 2.3)</p> <p>-Regular bird ringing activities also continued, esp. in Matsalu National Park and Nigula Nature Reserve, as well as a number of other studies</p> <p>-7 relevant key publications were listed for 2002-04, including a review of national IBAs and 3 specific ones on <i>Gallinago media</i>, <i>Grus grus</i>, <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>.</p>
Finland	<p>Several long-term and extensive monitoring programs for practically all terrestrial bird species as well as for waterfowl were carried out by the Finnish Museum of Natural History, the Finnish Game and Fisheries Institute and other relevant institutes. Special attention has been given to the research of raptors and other threatened species, game species and to the changes in the breeding populations in agricultural environments.</p> <p>In addition, another 30 different research/monitoring programmes with reports produced during 2002-04 were listed (in Finnish only).</p>
France	<p>-In order to provide uncontested, scientific information to help fix the hunting dates, the Government created in 2002 the "Observatory of wildlife and its habitats", composed of 11 experts from renowned scientific, conservation and hunting institutions. The Office national de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS) provides its Secretariat. Nine meetings were organised in 2003-04 and 2 scientific reports established in order to assist the Government with fixing the hunting dates; these reports were forwarded to the EC.</p> <p>-ONCFS initiated in 2004 a nation-wide survey on the Public Coastal Land (DPM) on over 1,700 sample points, in order to help establish hunting dates for this specific area in 2005</p> <p>-ONCFS has contributed to various actions within the framework of the national Action Plan for <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>: monitoring, experimental scaring and shooting.</p> <p>-ONCFS continued its ongoing monitoring/ research programmes, or developed new ones, on: Monitoring wintering Anatidae, <i>Grus grus</i>, waders; Monitoring breeding <i>Tetrao tetrix</i> (national Action Plan prepared); Population dynamics of <i>Anas crecca</i>, <i>Aythya ferina</i> and <i>A.fuligula</i>; ecology/ population dynamics and/or genetics of <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>, <i>Bonasa bonasia</i>, <i>Tetrao tetrix</i> and <i>Lagopus mutus</i>, <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>, <i>Alectoris rufa</i>, <i>A.graeca</i>, <i>Perdix perdix</i>, <i>P.perdix hispaniensis</i>, <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>, all Columbidae species, <i>Alauda arvensis</i>, all hunted thrush species (<i>Turdus</i> spp.)</p>
Germany	<p>Major research and monitoring activities were conducted about the following issues:</p> <p>-impact of offshore wind farms on birds;</p> <p>-feasibility studies for the mapping of marine biotopes;</p> <p>-management of marine SPAs;</p>

	<p>-National monitoring of wild birds; -national strategy on invasive species; -Nord and Ost-See: various monographic studies. An additional bibliography is given, including various thematic studies targeted at general public or at the scientific community or decision-makers.</p>
Greece	<p>A total of 12 research projects on birds and/or their habitats are known to have taken place between 2002 and 2004, including long-term ones (e.g. mid-winter waterfowl counts; long-term bird ringing) and species-specific projects (e.g. on <i>Vanellus spinosus</i>, <i>Falco eleonora</i>, <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>).</p>
Hungary	<p>The key research activities undertaken cover: monitoring raptor populations, monitoring wildfowl species, the Common Bird Census, monitoring strictly protected and colonially nesting species, bird ringing (over 105,000 individuals ringed in 2004). Dozens of scientific publications were produced (full list given).</p>
Ireland	<p>The following projects, covering research, survey and monitoring of single species or groups of species, are some of the more important programmes undertaken during the 2002 -2004 period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS). -Countryside Bird Survey. -Seabird 2000 (census 1998-2002). -Upland Bird Survey. -Specific surveys for Ring Ouzel, Golden Plover and Dunlin (presumed <i>schinzi</i> subspecies). -Tern Conservation and Research Programme. -Seabird Colony Register and Seabird Monitoring Programmes. -Surveys of Lowland breeding waders, migratory swans, Corncrake, Chough, Hen Harrier, Barnacle Goose, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Red-throated Diver, Red Grouse, Grey Partridge, Golden Eagle, Peregrine, Common Scoter, Little Egret. <p>In many cases the National Parks and Wildlife Service carried out these schemes in partnership with other organisations, such as Birdwatch Ireland, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the British Trust for Ornithology etc. Furthermore, the British Trust for Ornithology's Ringing Scheme extends to Ireland, and is supported by the National Parks & Wildlife Service, which also licences ringers here. The National Parks & Wildlife Service maintains a data bank of recoveries (over 20,000 to date). This work resulted in dozens of published scientific reports articles (List provided).</p>
Italy	<p>As per Law no 157/92, the responsibility for studying and monitoring wild fauna, as well as scientific ringing, largely lies with the Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica (INFS). Various studies, monitoring programmes and publications are under way, among them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -monitoring Italian bird populations; -genetic studies in order to discriminate imported species, either as game (e.g. <i>Alectoris</i> spp.) or under the Washington Convention; -characterizing wetlands based on the presence of waterbirds.
Latvia	<p>In May 2002 the national environmental monitoring programme was approved, including several sub-programmes devoted to birds: monitoring programme for marine species, Programme for Ramsar sites, Programme for forest birds, Programme for endangered species, Programme for migratory species. The Ornithological station in Pape (established in 1967 for bird ringing) and the Latvian Ringing centre of the University of Latvia, Institute of Biology are in charge of this work. Besides this, the Latvian Ornithological Society contributed to the establishment of SPA network, prepared the Atlas of Nesting birds of Latvia,</p>

	and executes the Monitoring of nesting birds, among others.
Lithuania	Various research / monitoring programmes are under way, or were carried out in the reporting period: Monitoring of wintering waterbirds (since 2003), Important trans-border wetlands in Lithuania, Belarus and Kaliningrad area(Russia) (2001-02); Reduction of the impact of gillnets on waterfowl and seabirds (2001-02); Protection of IBAs included in the Natura 2000 network on inshore waters of the Baltic Sea (2003-04). Additional programmes are also taking place but information on them is not centralized (e.g. see www.birdlife.lt ; www.am.lt/natura2000).
Luxembourg	The Centrale Ornithologique du Luxembourg (COL) and LNVL (BirdLife Luxembourg) implement a number of research/ monitoring programmes, eg. on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -national bird databanks: LUXOR (all birds) and ORNIS (data related to species relevant to the Bird Directive); -updating the national Red List (7th version under preparation in 2004); -wintering Cormorants (since 1996-97); -ringing operations; -working groups on <i>Bonasia bonasia</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, Laniidae species; -specific inventories, mapping programmes or updates funded e.g. by the National Museum of Natural History; -etc.
Malta	Authorizations are required from the Maltese Government for any study involving ringing birds of any species mentioned in Art. 4 of the Birds Directive. There are currently 15 licenced bird ringers in Malta which conduct a number of studies: bird migration studies, breeding biology of local breeding species, etc.
Netherlands	Monitoring of species is performed by the Network of Ecological Monitoring (NEM) that besides monitoring birds also collect data on plants, bats, reptiles and amphibians, various insects and fungi. All data collected by NEM is handed over to Statistics Netherlands (CBS) and annually incorporated by CBS in a quality report. A new programme to provide accurate information on nature for legislators is being developed. SOVON annually draws up and publishes reports on trends in summer bird and water bird populations. CBS and SOVON will finish a study on trends in numbers of birds in SPAs under the Directive in 2005. 7 important research programs were started, 1 was finished in 2004, and the rest is still ongoing. In the 2002-2004 period SOVON produced or participated in 32 publications, various organisations and individuals produced or participated in 155 publications and Alterra added 41 reports (listed in Annex IV of the original report). On 8-9 November 2004 the conference honouring the 25th anniversary of the Birds- and Habitats Directives was hosted by the Netherlands in cooperation with the European Commission. New workshops and conferences are continuously announced on www.natura-2000.nl
Poland	The NGOs OTOP and 'Pro Natura' run a number of schemes such as the Common Breeding Birds Monitoring Programme, inventories of rare and endangered wetland birds in river valleys, participation in the international <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> census (2004) etc. (Further information was provided beyond the reporting period: for 2005, plus intended changes for beyond 2005).
Portugal	Many relevant activities are mentioned (2+page-long list of projects provided, both on the continent and in Islands), out of which stand out: the revision of the Atlas of Breeding Birds and of the Red Data Book of Portugal; national monitoring schemes for breeding herons, wintering waterfowl, wintering <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> ; continuation of the national wetland inventory;

	<p>Constant-Effort Sites monitoring scheme; specific studies of the ecology, biology or conservation issues of many species, whether game or protected. For key species for which Portugal has a particular responsibility, detailed study & monitoring programmes were initiated or launched, especially for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -on the continent: <i>Otis tarda</i>, <i>Tetrax tetrax</i>, <i>Falco naumanni</i>, <i>Aegypius monachus</i>, <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>, <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>; -in Madeira: <i>Anthus bertheloti bertheloti</i>, <i>Tyto alba schmitzi</i>, <i>Pterodroma feae</i>, <i>Pterodroma madeira</i>, <i>Columba trocaz</i>; -in the Açores: <i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>, <i>Calonectris diomedea</i>, <i>Puffinus assimilis</i>, <i>Oceanodroma castro</i>, <i>Sterna hirundo</i>, <i>Sterna dougallii</i>, <i>Columba palumbus azorica</i>, <i>Pyrrhula murina</i>.
Slovenia	<p>Two main bird monitoring schemes were in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -wintering waterbirds (as part of the International Waterfowl Census); -breeding birds in Natura 2000 sites (SPAs and IBAs), focussing on those species that lead to their designation as SPAs. Protocoles were developed in 2004, when monitoring started. Results have been partly published in the ornithological litterature, and should be available on Internet in the future. In addition, ringing activities were under way, coordinated by the Natural History Museum of Slovenia, with data submitted to EURING.
Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monitoring of breeding populations, either in key SPAs or at the national level, were in place for at least <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Egretta garzetta</i>, <i>Egretta alba</i>, <i>Ardea purpurea</i>, <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>, <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, <i>Anser spp.</i>, <i>Netta rufina</i>, <i>Anas strepera</i>, <i>Anas querquedula</i>, <i>Milvus milvus</i>, <i>Milvus migrans</i>, <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>, <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>, <i>Aquila heliaca</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Falco vespertinus</i>, <i>Falco cherrug</i>, <i>Falco peregrinus</i>, <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>, <i>Tetrao tetrix</i>, <i>Bonasa bonasia</i>, <i>Otis tarda</i>, <i>Crex crex</i>, <i>Porzana porzana</i>, <i>Porzana parva</i>, <i>Merops apiaster</i>, <i>Coracias garrulus</i>, <i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>, <i>Lanius minor</i>, <i>Anthus campestris</i>. -Monitoring waterbird species during the autumn migration, winter waterbird census. -Additional research included e.g. a diploma thesis aimed on biology of <i>Otis tarda</i>, and a research project aimed on density and nesting productivity of <i>Falco vespertinus</i>.
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -During 2002-04 hundreds of monitoring or research programmes have been launched or pursued at national or Autonomous Community level (a 30pp. list is provided), e.g. the "Wildlife Monitoring Programme" in Andalucia which covers among others wintering waterbirds, threatened breeding birds of prey and waterbirds, small game bird species, migratory birds crossing the Gibraltar Straights. Many regional programmes feed into national schemes e.g. the Wintering Waterbird Census, monitoring programmes for threatened raptors as <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> or <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>, or rare waterbirds such as <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>, <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>. Ecotoxicological, genetic, migration, ecological, applied management studies, regional atlases as well as ringing, was done on dozens of species/habitats/ conservation issues (e.g. lead poisoning, electrocution). -An "Office of Migratory Species" was created by the Ministry of Environment in order to provide technical support to ringing programmes (birds and bats) through the maintainance of a ringing database, providing ringers with basic equipment, and liaising with EURING. This office is run by sub-contracting for 2-year periods (1st one covers end 2004 – end 2006). -Many Workshops/ Conferences were held and their Proceedings published, e.g. on <i>Falco naumanni</i> (Aragon, February 2004). In Canarias, two INTERREG projects aimed at developing biodiversity databases and catalogues.

	<p>-An experimental programme to reduce predation on Salmonid fish by <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> was implemented in 2004-05, including monitoring of its impact.</p> <p>-During 2002-04, key new publications included the new Red Data Book for birds in Spain and the new Atlas of Breeding Birds.</p>
Sweden	<p>The Swedish bird survey has been in existence since the 1970s. It includes bird ringing, study areas for breeding birds and counts of migrating birds. Many previously "common" birds have declined due to changes in habitat related to agriculture/forestry. The foundation "Alvin's fund" provides economic support to research related to birds with 40-50+ projects financed each year.</p>
UK	<p>-The national schemes for bird population monitoring described in detail in the triennial report for 1999-2001 were continued; e.g. Wild Bird Indicators for Farmland/ woodland/ coastal breeding species; Wintering wetland birds indexes; Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme (new website: http://www.wwt.org.uk/research/monitoring/goose_and_swan.asp); Waterbird Review Series (A series of individual species or population reviews based on 40 years of monitoring, see http://www.wwt.org.uk/research/waterbirdreviews); Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme (http://pbms.ceh.ac.uk/default.htm); National surveys of rarer species (in 2002-04 surveys of peregrine (2002; with BTO), chough (2002), bearded tit (2002), golden eagle (2003), curlew (2003), corncrake (2003), hen harrier (2004) and nightjar (2004; with BTO and Forestry Commission) were undertaken); Breeding waders of wet meadows in England and Wales 2002 (by comparison with the previous national survey in 1982; see (http://www.bto.org/survey/complete/bwwm.htm)).</p> <p>-A new scheme was launched, the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme.</p> <p>-Population estimates for all regular bird species occurring in the UK were produced, based upon 2004 data, also see: (http://www.bto.org/birdtrends2005/index.htm) (http://www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm)</p> <p>-Following a major review in 2002 of the status of all birds in the UK, a Red List of 40 species of High Conservation Concern was developed, as well as an amber list of 121 species of Medium Conservation Concern and a green list of 86 species of Least Concern. Though unrelated to the IUCN Red Listing processes (it relies on a broader set of criteria) it is influential on conservation action in the UK.</p> <p>-The Raptor Working Group had produced in 2000 a report aimed at providing an integrated solution to the problems presented by birds of prey to game bird managers and pigeon fanciers: a review of progress against the 25 recommendations from the 2000 report was published in 2003 (http://www.jncc.gov.uk/PDF/comm03N06.pdf).</p> <p>-The results of a major conference on birds of prey (held in 2000) were published in 2003 (Thompson et al. <i>Birds of Prey in a Changing Environment</i>. TSO, Edinburgh). Besides status and population change in UK birds of prey, it identifies the impacts of land-use change on species, and describes conservation actions and conflict management.</p> <p>-The results of the Seabird 2000 survey were published in 2004: numbers of seabirds breeding in Britain and Ireland have risen steadily over the last 30 years from around 5 million in 1969-70, to over 6 million in 1985-88, to almost 8 Million in 1998-2002.</p> <p>-A number of research projects have been undertaken, focused on finding management solutions for reversing the declines of farmland specialist species. Two major farmland bird conferences were held and their Proceedings published by the Association of Applied Biologists and the</p>

	British Ornithologists' Union. The farmland bird research has been influential in the continued development of agri-environment provisions in the UK.
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4. ENCOURAGEMENT OF RESEARCH AND ANY WORK REQUIRED AS A BASIS FOR THE PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF THE POPULATION OF ALL BIRD SPECIES REFERRED TO IN ART. 1 (ART. 10)

4.2 EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION IN RELATION TO BIRD PROTECTION	
Austria	(Nationally: no information provided) Land Burgenland: a book about birds of Burgenland was published in 2004, for the general public
Belgium	-Wallonia: A brochure for river/ quarry managers on the ways to protect Riparia riparia was produced, as well as a DVD-Rom on swallows and martins. The international meeting on the 25th anniversary of the Birds Directive was organized in 2004. Training courses on the identification of key species/ habitats for Natura 2000 were organized for Natura 2000 staff of the Nature & Forests Division of Wallonia. Federal Government (Marine territories) District: 22 important documents on sea birds, marine life, offshore wind parks and biodiversity were published (their list was provided). Brussels District: 7 important documents on bio-indicators, habitats and bird populations were published (their list was provided). Flanders District: 28 important documents, mainly on biodiversity, bird monitoring, bird directives, habitats and the possible consequences of wind turbines were published (their list was provided).
Cyprus	-Regular education & information seminars are given by staff & officers of the Game funds in schools, hunting clubs. -The new legislation (see § 3.1 above) now provides for compulsory hunting education seminars before they can pass the hunting examination; the same goes for hunters who lost their licence after being convicted and want to regain it. These courses cover species identification, wildlife management, safety, legislation. -A brochure was produced in 2004 in cooperation with Cyprus Police & Cyprus ornithological society re. bird trapping. It is distributed to schools, hunting clubs.
Czech Republic	The Czech Ornithological Society and its regional branches organized a total of 24 events (Festivals, excursions, lectures...), in addition to publishing dozens of articles aimed at the general public.
Denmark	(No information Provided).
Estonia	A number of seminars were organized on bird protection, targeting land-owners, foresters, staff of County Environmental Departments.
Finland	A workshop was organised as part of a LIFE Co-op project.
France	(No information Provided).
Germany	See point 4.1.: no more information provided.
Greece	(No information Provided).
Hungary	The list of activities undertaken cover the development of a website (www.birding.hu), 6 major conferences/ meetings, various campaigns of public awareness raising.
Ireland	(No information Provided).

Italy	<p>-The 3rd volume in the "Iconography of Italian Birds" collection has been published.</p> <p>-A CD rom containing a description of all IBAs (Important Bird Areas) has been developed together with LIPU – BirdLife in Italy.</p>
Latvia	(No information Provided).
Lithuania	Many seminars and workshops have been organized by the Government and various NGOs as part of various projects. The MoE organized a Training course on bird monitoring for staff from Protected Areas administrations.
Luxembourg	<p>-BirdLife Luxembourg (LNPO/LNVL) published an annual scientific bulletin, a 3-monthly magazine "Regulus" (aimed at a broader public) and elaborated the project for an update of the Atlas of Breeding Birds (former edition 1987).</p> <p>-The COL also maintains a permanent link with the public, answering its specific queries on birds and wildlife in general within the framework of "Haus vun der Natur", or assisting the Government in its communication towards municipalities, administrations etc. on the need for specific measures for threatened species, for the Natura 2000 network, etc.</p> <p>-A project was developed to help the AEWA Secretariat fund new promotional material on the Agreement.</p>
Malta	<p>A seminar on the 25th anniversary of the Bird Directive was organized in December 2004, and attracted a good audience of both bird conservationists and hunters, thus promoting a common dialogue.</p> <p>Bird protection booklets and posters were widely distributed to new applicants for hunting licences, registered hunters and the wider public, thus disseminating in the layman's language key elements of legislation.</p> <p>BirdLife (BLI) Malta established the "Dinja Wahda" (One World) environmental educational programme for primary schools, with a special emphasis on birds. BLI Malta also opened the 2 nature reserves it manages to school visits and the general public. Other initiatives include regular press releases, dissemination of information via www.birdlifemalta.org, publication of books for the national market.</p>
Netherlands	<p>Meetings to relate information about the Directive are held regularly. Citizens can contact the Ministry of Agriculture online or in person with their questions.</p> <p>Separate information is available on endangered species.</p> <p>NGOs and ministries can access all legal documents in a special information bulletin.</p> <p>Both SOVON and Bird Life Netherlands (Vogelbescherming) publish numerous information on the internet, including FAQs.</p> <p>A number of Natura2000 areas have visitors' centres. Other nature conservation organisations offer guided tours by experts.</p>
Poland	Over 38 education centres (full list provided by Voivodship) operated in Poland, nearly all related to existing Landscape Parks which have also been established as N2000 sites.
Portugal	<p>Various environmental education and awareness programmes have been carried out by both government agencies and NGOs, targetting very wide publics such as school children, farmers, tourists and police staff. In some SPAs, nature education centres exist and have run a wide range of activities to divulgate knowledge and respect of nature, including birds and their habitats. Various national training courses (eg. on ringing) are held annually.</p> <p>In the LIFE-Tetrax project, a removable exhibition was designed. In Madeira, as part of the conservation project for <i>Pterodroma madeira</i>, a lot of specific awareness-raising material was produced. The same occurred in Açores for <i>Calonectris diomedea</i> and <i>Pyrrhula murina</i> (as part of the LIFE Priolo project in that latter case). More generally, a lot of pedagogical material was</p>

	produced and distributed as part of the various LIFE-Nature projects held in Portugal, and as part of regional campaigns to raise awareness on the Natura 2000 network (e.g. in Açores).
Slovenia	<p>Training has been provided in 2004 to professional staff of nature protection (administrations, national parks, farmer advisory service, NGOs...), both in communication skills (as part of the Natura2000 initiative) and in interpretation skills. The targetted staff later conducted a large number of communication/ education activities at local level (towards mayors, landowners, schools).</p> <p>Brochures and website pages to raise the profile of Natura 2000 were also produced, as well as other activities run by NGO under Ministry funding.</p>
Slovakia	-Site-based actions (at the level of specific SPAs) included e.g. permanent publicity on conservation actions towards the local public and farmers, workshops for local farmers focussing on the need for actions to protect bird species (reasons for SPA designation, information about the criteria for bird species, possible restrictions and financial compensations), workshops for local teachers about the aims of SPAs, PowerPoint presentations to local schools.
Spain	<p>-The Ministry of Environment has established through its collaboration with the University of Valencia (SEHUMED initiative) a programme for Communication, Training and Raising Awareness (CECOP) aimed at wetland managers.</p> <p>-The Aula Abierta ("Open wing") programme of the National Parks was launched, aimed at the general public incl. schoolchildren (e.g. 27 courses in 2003, attended by 616 persons). National Parks also developed further their programme for eco-volunteers.</p> <p>-Various Autonomous Communities developed awareness material on Natura2000, threatened species, regional checklists, as well as awareness campaigns targetting regionally important species/ issues.</p> <p>-Various events were organized such as an Environment Fair in La Palma (Canarias), World Bird Day in Cataluna, Asturias and Ceuta.</p> <p>-Dozens of centres of interpretation nation-wide divulgated information on birds, among others (e.g. 6 centres listed for Pais Vasco alone).</p> <p>-In Canarias, training courses on monitoring threatened species were organized as part of an INTERREG project.</p>
Sweden	The results of the Bird survey are presented on the Internet and in publications. Results from ringing programs are published by the Swedish ornithological society and the same body organizes meetings and lectures at regional and local level.
UK	(No information Provided).

5. TEXTS OF THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF NATIONAL LAW ADOPTED IN THE FIELD GOVERNED BY THE DIRECTIVE (ART. 18)

Austria	(No information Provided).
Belgium	(No information Provided).
Cyprus	Full text of new legislation (Law n° 152(I)/ 2003) voted on 3.10.2003; Gazette n° 3758) available on www.cyprus.wildlife.gov.cy
Czech Republic	The English translation (28 pages) of all legislation relevant to fields covered by the Bird Directive was provided, especially extracts from the Act on the Nature & Landscape Protection, the Game Management Act n° 449/2001 Coll. and Decrees n° 395/1992, 244/2002 Coll., 245/2002 Coll. and 166/2005 Coll. (all as result from later amendments)
Denmark	The requirements of the Birds Directive are already fully adopted by Danish legislation and no changes have been made in 2002-2004.
Estonia	The requirements of the Birds Directive have been transposed into the Nature Conservation Act, the Hunting Act, the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act, and the Planning Act (A detailed, 9-pages analysis of each relevant article in the above Acts in their relation with the Directive was provided).
Finland	No change: transposed texts of the Bird Directive already adopted before this reporting period.
France	(No information Provided).
Germany	Full text of updated legislation (federal level) are provided in German (4 annexes): law on the protection of nature, protection of species, hunting and order about the protection of wild species.
Greece	A 10-page copy of the Annual Hunting Regulations taken in 2002 and 2003 was provided (in Greek).
Hungary	A 17-pages compilation of the transposition of the Birds Directive into national law was provided (in Hungarian).
Ireland	(No information Provided).
Italy	(No information Provided).
Latvia	The Law on species and habitat protection is the key reference (Full text of ca. 20 pages in Latvian, including species lists, was provided).
Lithuania	The strongest legal act is the Law on Protected Areas (1993 as amended in 2001). Other provisions for bird protection are included in other legal acts: Law on Wild Fauna (1997, amended in December 2001); Law on Protected Animal, Plant and Fungi Species and Communities (1997, amended in December 2001); Government Resolution n° 130 of 7 February 2005 on the approval of the National Biodiversity Monitoring Programme for 2005-2010; Government Resolution n° 276 of 15 March 2004 on approval of the General Statutes for SICs and SPAs; Law on Hunting (2002); Rules on Hunting in Lithuania (2002); Rules on Trade in Wild Animals (2004).
Luxembourg	The Law of 19 January 2004 on the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources was the major legal change introduced during the triennium to legislation relevant to the Birds Directive: see http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2004/0102901/2004A01481.html
Malta	The following regulations, that have all been duly notified to the Commission, include the main provisions in the field of the Directive: -Notice of coming into force of the Protection of Birds and Wild rabbits (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 (LN56/03). -Protection of Birds and Wild rabbits (Amendment) Regulations (LN41/03) -The Protection of Birds and Wild rabbits (Amendment) Regulations

	<p>(LN107/00).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Protection of Birds and Wild rabbits (Amendment) Regulations (LN23/97). -The Protection of Birds and Wild rabbits (Amendment) Regulations (LN45/96). -The Protection of Birds and Wild rabbits Regulations (LN146/93).
Netherlands	Important was the introduction of the Flora and Fauna Act in 2002. 12 other Decrees relevant to the Directive were in place during the 2002-2004 period.
Poland	<p>The main national law that implements Birds Directive are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Nature protection law (Dz. U. z 2004 r, Nr. 92, poz. 880 z późn. zm.). -Regulation on protected wild animal species (Dz.U. Nr. 220, poz. 2237). -SPA Regulation 2004 (Dz.U. Nr 229, poz. 2313). -Hunting Law of 13 October 1995 (Dz.U. z 2005 r. Nr 127, poz. 1066 z późn. zm.). -Regualtion by Minster of Environment on the list of huntable species (Dz.U. Nr 45, poz. 433). -Regualtion by Minster of Environment on the hunting periods (Dz.U. Nr 48, poz. 459). <p>(The relevant parts of the above mentioned texts were provided as Annex 3).</p>
Portugal	Further to specific legislative changes already reported in the relevant sections above (e.g. see § 3.2), major changes during the triennium occurred in the Açores Autonomous Region. They included new dispositions for transposing at regional level the national dispositions resulting from the transposition of the Bird Directive (Regional Legislative Decree no 18/2002/A of 16 May), for officially recognizing SPAs in internal, regional law (Regulatory Decree 14/2004/A, of 20 May), for defining the elaboration of the Sectorial Plan for the Natura 2000 network (Regional Government Resolution no 9/2003, of 3 April, modified by Regional Government Resolution no 16/2004, of 26 February); for the establishment of partial or integral hunting reserves (Regional Regulatory Decrees 4/2003/A, of 8 February – integral hunting reserve in Ilha Terceira nos Açores; and no 5/2004/A, of 3 March – partial hunting reserve for Cortunix coturnix in Ilha Terceira nos Açores)
Slovenia	(A detailed, 18 page-long analysis in Slovenian of the transposition of the Directive into national legislation was provided).
Slovakia	During the Reporting period (1 May – 31 December 2004) no changes in relevant legislation were adopted. (A detailed table (10 pp.) providing an analysis, article by article, of the transposition of Birds Directive into national legislation was provided)
Spain	Most legal changes took place at the level of Autonomous communities, and key new Laws, Orders, Decrees are listed above in the relevant sections (e.g. Hunting, Sales, habitat conservation) (A few hundred pages of annexes, containing the full texts for some Autonomous Communities, were provided).
Sweden	No changes of any significance have been made during the reference period.
UK	Any changes to legislation have been indicated in previous sections.

6 OTHER COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE CONSERVATION OF WILD BIRDS

Austria	(No information Provided)..
Belgium	(No information Provided).
Cyprus	(No information Provided).
Czech Republic	(No information Provided).
Denmark	(No information Provided).
Estonia	(No information Provided).
Finland	There are 49 Ramsar sites in Finland (785,780 ha in total).
France	(No information Provided).
Germany	(No information Provided).
Greece	(No information Provided).
Hungary	(No information Provided).
Ireland	The National Parks and Wildlife Service participated in the ORNIS Committee and its Scientific Working Group.
Italy	(No information Provided).
Latvia	(No information Provided).
Lithuania	(No information Provided).
Luxembourg	-The AEWA was ratified in 2003 by Luxembourg, through a specific Law of 18 July 2003 -The Hunting & Fishing Service of the Forest & Waters Administration regularly participates in the "Birds & Hunting" working group established by the BeNeLux Economic Union. It aims at harmonizing in all 3 countries the dispositions ruling hunting and bird preservation.
Malta	Nothing to be mentioned.
Netherlands	(No information Provided).
Poland	(No information Provided).
Portugal	(No information Provided).
Slovenia	(No information Provided).
Slovakia	(No information Provided).
Spain	(No information Provided).
Sweden	(No information Provided).
UK	(No information Provided).