

# Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats



## Standing Committee

### **Recommendation No. 90 (2001) on the catching, killing or trading of protected birds in Cyprus**

*(adopted by the Standing Committee on 30 November 2001)*

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

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

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

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

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

Noting with satisfaction that since that recommendation was adopted by the Committee, many Parties took decisive measures to eradicate the illegal killing and trading of birds, resulting in a much more effective enforcement of the provisions of the Convention;

Noting with regret that, although Cyprus and the United Kingdom Sovereign Base Areas took some initiatives in that respect, enforcement of the legislation on killing and trading of protected birds is still poor, and sale and offering for sale of protected birds is still common,

Recommends Cyprus and the United Kingdom to:

1. fully implement without delay the obligations of Article 6 concerning protected birds;
2. put into practice, as a matter of urgency, the actions suggested in Recommendation No. 5 (1986) of the Standing Committee, paying particular attention to the following items:
  - increase of the penalties for these offences, so that they may become dissuasive;
  - increase of wardening in areas where birds are illegally caught;
  - regular and frequent control of restaurants selling protected birds, ensuring prosecution of owners;
  - prevention of importation of mistnets and prohibition of their possession without license, imposing heavy fines for their illegal possession and use;
  - strict control of illegal capture, killing, possession, trade, sale and offering for sale of protected birds;
3. launch a wide information campaign to the general public on the illegal catching, killing and trade of protected birds, as well as on the need to conserve birds and their habitats.