

## Fruška Gora Declaration

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The following declaration, to be referred to as "Fruška Gora Declaration", was adopted by the participants of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Adriatic Flyway Conference, which took place in Fruška Gora National Park, Serbia, on 19-23 March 2018.

The EuroNatur Foundation, the Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia and the participants of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Adriatic Flyway Conference are

CONCERNED by the large number of mostly migratory species of wild birds in Europe, which are significantly declining in number, some of them very rapidly;

ALERTED by the extent of illegal killing and taking of wild birds along the Adriatic Flyway<sup>1</sup> and therein particularly in Serbia, which contributes to the decline of populations of wild birds in Europe;

ALERTED by the illegal trade of wild birds from the Adriatic Flyway countries<sup>1</sup> into (other) member states of the European Union;

SUPPORTIVE to the ongoing initiatives to tackle illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region, including the *Roadmap towards eliminating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds*<sup>2</sup> of the European Commission and the *Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of Wild Birds*<sup>3</sup> of the *Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats* (Bern Convention);

AWARE that the Republic of Serbia, together with Bosnia and Herzegovina, are the only two states along the Adriatic Flyway<sup>1</sup>, which are not yet parties to the *Agreement on the Conservation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds* (AEWA);

AWARE that the Republic of Serbia, together with Montenegro, could be set to join the European Union as early as 2025, according to the European Commission's enlargement plan for the Western Balkans.

The EuroNatur Foundation, the Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia and the participants of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Adriatic Flyway Conference therefore

REQUEST the Governments of the countries along the Adriatic Flyway<sup>1</sup>, and in particular the Government of the Republic of Serbia, to stop the illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds in their respective countries, and to ensure the legal protection of wild birds and their habitats, as well as the proper enforcement of the law, in order to maintain wild bird species and their habitats in a good conservation status, in line with the Bird and Habitat Directives of the European Union<sup>4,5</sup>;

SUPPORT the ongoing process of accession of the Republic of Serbia, as well as of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the *Agreement on the Conservation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds* (AEWA), together with an improved implementation of AEWA in all Adriatic

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<sup>1</sup> The Adriatic Flyway covers the countries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia

<sup>2</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/docs/Roadmap%20illegal%20killing.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/1680746782>

<sup>4</sup> Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds

<sup>5</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

Flyway<sup>1</sup> countries, in order to strengthen the protection of migratory waterbirds in both countries and along the Adriatic Flyway<sup>1</sup>;

URGE the Governments of the countries along the Adriatic Flyway<sup>1</sup> to strengthen and extend the coverage of their monitoring schemes for waterbirds and other bird taxa, as well as to comprehensively collect hunting bag data and report them, in compliance with their obligations under AEWA and other international treaties;

REQUEST the Secretariat of the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (UNEP/CMS), together with the treaty's *Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean* (MIKT), as well as the Secretariat of *Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats* (Bern Convention) to assist the governments of their parties in the process of eliminating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds along the Adriatic Flyway<sup>1</sup> and particularly in Serbia;

REQUEST the European Commission to address the illegal killing and taking of wild birds in its member states and accession candidates along the Adriatic Flyway<sup>1</sup>, and particularly in Serbia, as well as the illegal trade of wild birds from the Adriatic Flyway countries<sup>1</sup> into (other) member states of the European Union, and to increase its efforts to eliminate the illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds along the Adriatic Flyway<sup>1</sup>, together with the governments of the respective countries.

Fruška gora, Serbia, on 22 March 2018