



# **European Storks Need Friends**

## **Petition of the Members of the European Stork Villages Network**

On the occasion of the International Conference of the European Stork Villages

26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 in Rühstädt, Germany

### **Petition Electrocutation**

The European Stork Village Network represents the most important stork breeding sites and attractive regions for nature tourism.

During the third European Stork Village Meeting 2006 the participants recognized that collisions with power lines and electrocution on pylons are the most important causes of mortality for the White Stork in Europe and during migration.

In order to minimize losses, we ask for technical measures and changes in the legal framework as proposed by the Bonn Convention and the Council of Europe.

A positive example is the new nature protection law of Germany, which implies that all dangerous pylons have to be replaced by bird friendly technology until 2012.

Within Stork Villages, as for example already put into action in the European Stork Village of Rühstädt, earth cables are urgently necessary to prevent the collision of storks with power lines.

As accidents cause shortcuts and damages not only to the birds but also to the electrical system, environmentally friendly power lines are more economically viable.

Taken into account that the White Stork is not only a symbol for intact cultural landscapes but also an important value for socio-economical rural development, we offer the energy distribution companies and responsible authorities our full cooperation to solve the problems.