

28th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
12 March 2026, Virtual Meeting Format

REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY

February 2026

This report provides the latest depositary news following the Session of the 9th Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP 9) held in Bonn from 11 to 14 November 2025.

RATIFICATIONS AND ACCESSIONS OF RANGE STATES

There have been no ratifications or accessions since [Saudi Arabia](#) acceded to the Agreement in 2023.

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED DURING THE 9TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO AEWA (MOP 9)

On 15 January 2026 the depositary issued Depositary Notification [Migratory Waterbirds No. 01/2026](#), transmitting the amendments to the Annexes 2 and 3 and to Table 1 to the Agreement which were adopted during MOP 9 (in English and French).

The following **reservations** were received by the depositary regarding the amendments adopted during MOP 9, in chronological order. The date of receipt of each reservation is printed behind the name of the state or organization.

Switzerland, 02-12-2025

(Translation)

*“Switzerland hereby wishes to enter a reservation concerning the amendments to Annex 3 and Table 1 of the Agreement as adopted at the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties, held from 11 to 14 November 2025 in Bonn, Germany. Switzerland's reservation concerns the classification of the populations of goosander (*Mergus merganser merganser*) in north-western and central Europe in Annex 3, Table 1, Column B, Category 2(e) of the Agreement. Consequently, Switzerland will continue to consider this species as listed in column C of Table 1.”*

European Union, 09-12-2025

*“Following the amendments to the Agreement adopted at the last Meeting of the Parties (MOP9, 11-14 November 2025) the Western Europe & Western Africa population of the Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) has been moved from Column B2(e) to Column A1(b) of Table 1 in Annex 3. This means that with regard to this Grey Plover population no more hunting would be allowed under the Agreement. However, the species is listed in Annex II, Part B of the Birds Directive and thus huntable in some Member States.*

In that regard the European Union cannot accept the above-mentioned amendment without a prior change in EU law. The European Union would therefore like to hereby enter a reservation with respect to the above-mentioned amendment.

This reservation by the European Union is also valid for those Member States of the European Union which are Parties to AEWA as, when a regional economic integration organization, such as the European Union, and its Member States are both parties to a treaty, they are not entitled to exercise rights under the treaty concurrently. This principle is reflected, with regard to voting in the Meeting of the Parties, in Article VI(5) of AEWA and also applies to the notification of reservations under Article X(6) of AEWA. With regard to the reservation in question, it is for the European Union to act since the protection of the bird species in question is covered by existing Union legislation.

Despite the reservation, the European Commission has and will continue to encourage EU Member States to ensure the sustainability of hunting and has developed an approach for bird species listed in Annex 2 of the Birds Directive which are not in a secure status which aims at supporting their recovery.”

Czechia, 10-02-2026

“ [...] the Czech Republic, in accordance with Article X, Paragraph 6 of the Agreement, hereby makes a reservation to the Amendments to Annexes 2 and 3 of the Agreement, adopted at the Ninth Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement held in Bonn on 11 through 14 November 2025, due to the impossibility to accomplish the procedure of internal approval of the Amendments within the ninety days period provided for in Article X, Paragraph 5 of the Agreement. ”

On 20 February 2026 the depositary issued Depositary Notification [Migratory Waterbirds No. 02/2026](#), which specified that in accordance with article X, paragraphs 5 and 6, the amendments to the Annexes entered into force on the ninetieth day after the date of its adoption, that is on 12 February 2026, except for the abovementioned Parties which entered a reservation within the period of ninety days.

The depositary expects to publish the consolidated Arabic and Russian versions of the Agreement, including Annexes and Table as in force since 12 February 2026, in March or April of 2026.

TREATY DATABASE

The depositary kindly refers the Parties to the Treaty Database of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, where all the relevant information of the Agreement, including all the depositary notifications, certified true copies and an up to date list of Parties, can be found:

<https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/007342.html>