

23rd MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
26-27 June 2023, Virtual meeting format

REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY

May 2023

This report provides the latest information on the accession of Range States to the Agreement and on reservations made by Parties following the Session of the 8th Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP 8) in Budapest, 26-30 September 2022, as well as other depositary news.

ACCESSIONS OF RANGE STATES

Since MOP8 was held in September 2022, [Greece](#) has ratified the Agreement and [Saudi Arabia](#) has acceded to the Agreement (see below, listed in chronological order). Neither of the states made any reservations at the moment of deposit of their instruments of ratification/accession.

Parties

Party	Ratification/Accession	Entry into force
Greece	03-03-2023 (R)	01-06-2023
Saudi Arabia	14-04-2023 (A)	01-07-2023

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED DURING THE 8TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO AEWA (MOP8)

On 8 November 2022 the depositary issued Depositary Notification [Migratory Waterbirds No. 02/2022](#), transmitting the amendments to the Annexes 2 and 3 and to Table 1 to the Agreement which were adopted during MOP8.

The following **reservations** were subsequently received by the depositary regarding the amendments adopted during MOP8, in chronological order. The date of receipt of each reservation is printed behind the name of the state or organization.

European Union, 10-11-2022

“Following the amendments to the Agreement adopted at the last Meeting of the Parties (MOP8, 26-30 September 2022):

- the Iceland/UK & Ireland population of Greylag Goose *Anser anser anser* is now listed in Category 3e* of Column A of Table 1,
- the North-east Europe/North-west Europe population of Taïga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis fabalis* is now split into three populations:

-Scandinavia/Denmark and UK population listed in Category 1c of Column A of Table 1,
-Finland and NW Russia/Sweden, Denmark and Germany population listed in Category 3c* of Column A of Table 1,

- West Siberia/Poland and Germany population listed in Category 2 of Column A of Table 1,
- the Black Sea & East Mediterranean population of Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* is now listed in Category 3e of Column A of Table 1,
- the C & E Siberia/SW Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa population of Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* is now listed in Category 3c of Column A of Table 1 and,
- the SE Eur & W Asia/SW & S Asia & NE Africa population of Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus longipes* is now listed in Category 3c of Column A of Table 1.

These populations of species now form part of the Action Plan contained in Annex 3 to the Agreement. The European Union cannot accept the above-mentioned amendments without a prior change in EU law. The European Union would therefore like to hereby enter a reservation with respect to the five above mentioned amendments.

This reservation by the European Union is also valid for those Member States of the European Union which are Parties to AEWAs 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 AEWAs and also applies to the notification of reservations under Article X(6) of AEWAs. 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.

The Iceland/UK & Ireland population of Greylag Goose and the Finland and NW Russia/Sweden, Denmark and Germany population of the Taïga Bean Goose are now respectively listed in Categories 3e and 3c of Column A of Table 1 of Annex 3 of the Agreement with an asterisk (*). According to Annex 3, the species listed in Category 3 with an asterisk may only be hunted within the framework of an international species action plan, through which Parties will endeavour to implement the principles of adaptive harvest management. Therefore, the European Union could consider lifting the reservation regarding these populations once an adaptive harvest management mechanism under an international body, consistent with the requirements of Article 7 of the Birds Directive, is in place.

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.”

Iceland, 15-12-2022

“Iceland hereby wishes to enter a reservation with respect to the inclusion of the population of *Anser anser anser*, Greylag goose, as listed for Iceland/UK and Ireland in Annex 3, table 1 and Column A to the Agreement. We therefore still consider this species to be placed in Column B of Table 1. The reservation can be considered as a temporary reservation while an international single species action plan and harvest management plan for the population is developed by the Range States.”

United Kingdom, 15-12-2022

“[...], in accordance with Article X, paragraph 6 of the Agreement, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (“the United Kingdom”) hereby enters a reservation against the amendment to the listing in relation to the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) (Iceland/United Kingdom and Ireland) in Resolution 8.2 Adoption of the Amendments to the AEWAs Annexes, adopted at the 8th Meeting of Parties.

The amendment lists the Iceland/United Kingdom and Ireland population of the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) in Table 1 of Annex 3 to the Agreement as Column A Category 3(e)*. According to Annex 3, the species listed in this Category may only be hunted under the auspices of an International Species Action Plan (Action Plan). The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is working with the Government of Iceland and the Agreement Secretariat to endeavour to agree an Action Plan for the Greylag Goose, and until it is finalised the United Kingdom requires a reservation

to continue to control the Greylag Goose population where it causes serious agricultural damage. It is the intention of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to consider withdrawing the reservation once an Action Plan is in place for the Greylag Goose. This reservation applies to the United Kingdom.”

Czechia, 16-12-2022

“The Government of the Czech Republic makes a reservation in accordance with Article X para 6 of the above-mentioned Agreement due to impossibility to accomplish the procedure of internal approval concerning the Amendments to the Annexes 2 and 3 and to Table 1 to the Agreement, as accepted at the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement (26 - 30 September 2022, Budapest, Hungary), in the mentioned ninety days period.”

On 10 January 2023 the depositary issued Depositary Notification [Migratory Waterbirds No. 01/2023](#), 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 29 December 2022, except for the abovementioned Parties which entered a reservation within the period of ninety days.

CORRECTIONS

On 21 February 2023 the depositary issued Depositary Notification [Migratory Waterbirds No. 02/2023](#), publishing corrections in the French text of Table 1 of Annex 3 to the Agreement, bringing the French text of Table 1 of Annex 3 in line with the English text of Table 1 of Annex 3 as adopted during MOP8. Additional corrections in Table 1, regarding the listing of the *Aythya marila marila* and the *Ardea alba alba*, were proposed by the depositary on request of the AEWa Secretariat and with the approval of the AEWa Standing Committee on 12 May 2023 ([Migratory Waterbirds No. 07/2023](#)). As mentioned in that notification, the proposed corrections will be considered as accepted unless the depositary receives an objection from a Party no later than 10 August 2023.

OTHER NEWS

- By means of Depositary Notification [Migratory Waterbirds No. 04/2023](#) of 13 April 2023, the depositary published the consolidated Arabic version of the Agreement, including Annexes and Table, as in force since 29 December 2022.
- By means of Depositary Notification [Migratory Waterbirds No. 05/2023](#) of 14 April 2023, the depositary published the consolidated Russian version of the Agreement, including Annexes and Table, as in force since 29 December 2022.

TREATY DATABASE

The depositary kindly refers the Parties to the Treaty Database (*Verdragenbank*) of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, where all the relevant depositary information regarding 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>