



AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS



5th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
14 – 18 May 2012, La Rochelle, France

“Migratory waterbirds and people - sharing wetlands”

RESOLUTION 5.25¹

**SUPPORT FOR REINFORCING CAPACITIES WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING LAWS
AND POLICIES IN FAVOUR OF WATERBIRDS**

Submitted by the European Union and its Member States

Recalling the main goal of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, adopted at MOP4, to "maintain or to restore migratory waterbird species and their populations at a favourable conservation status throughout their flyways" through better collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders, as referred to in Objectives 1, 2 and 5 of the Plan,

Recalling Resolution 4.4 adopted by Parties at MOP4 on "Developing international best practice for the conservation of threatened waterbirds through action planning and re-establishment" and Resolution 4.9 on the "African Initiative for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and Their Habitats in Africa",

Recalling the Ramsar Convention and its importance for conservation and wise use of wetlands, including the protection of wetlands of international importance, and *further recalling* the Convention on Biological Diversity and its efforts in the development, revision and/or update of national biodiversity strategies and action plans,

Recalling also the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, adopted in 2007 within the framework of the Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979), highlighting the critical importance of monitoring and hunter involvement in the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in Europe and beyond,

Concerned about the impact of certain methods as well as the extent of taking on populations of migratory waterbirds used in areas under the Agreement, in particular during the nesting period (taking of eggs or chicks) and on migration to and from their breeding areas (including *inter alia* hunting all year round, unselective capture with nets and traps, and killing by the use of explosives, etc.),

Recalling document Doc AEWA/MOP 4.9 and StC 5.16 on "Hunting and trade legislation in countries relating to the species listed in Annex 2 to AEWA", presented at MOP4 and at the fifth Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee respectively and *noting* that guidelines concerning hunting and trade legislation are currently being prepared by the Technical Committee,

Further recalling that only 27 of the 63 Contracting Parties to the Agreement have so far banned the use of lead shot in wetlands on their territory,

Noting also the great disparities in measures concerning the conservation of waterbirds in different Contracting Parties, and in some Contracting Parties, the lack of technical expertise and/or adequate capacity to establish appropriate frameworks for the sustainable management and use of these birds and of their habitats,

¹ Please note that the number of this resolution has changed; it was previously AEWA/MOP5 DR 26

Reaffirming that all Contracting States have sovereign powers over their territory, including those related to the establishment of laws and policies regarding species conservation; notwithstanding their legal obligations under AEWA.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Requests* the Standing Committee to finalise the guidelines prepared by the Technical Committee on *Hunting and trade legislation*, including a synthesis of existing migratory waterbird conservation legislation and measures currently in place within Contracting Parties: to present the guidelines to MOP6 for consideration and to propose procedures through which they may be kept up-to-date and thus continue to reflect best and current practice after MOP6;
2. *Recalls* the obligation of Parties and invites other Range States within the Agreement area to conserve and sustainably manage migratory waterbirds *inter alia* by acceding to the Agreement and fully implementing its Action Plan;
3. *Invites* Contracting Parties to contribute to the development of bilateral and/or multilateral cooperation programmes that reinforce capacities and facilitate legal and technical support to those Parties wishing to improve their regulatory frameworks;
4. *Invites* Contracting Parties to assist those Parties in need of support to incorporate AEWA principles and requirements into their national legislation;
5. *Further encourages* Contracting Parties to consider using National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as a tool for cooperation with other Parties;
6. *Invites* the Secretariat and Contracting Parties to develop regional synergies, including, for example, regional consultative systems to consolidate their preparation of, and participation in decision-making sessions of the Agreement.