



# EC perspective regarding conservation of migratory seabirds

EU Biogeographical Process  
Networking Event: Migratory seabirds-  
friendly management of marine and/or  
coastal protected areas in the Baltic  
Sea Region

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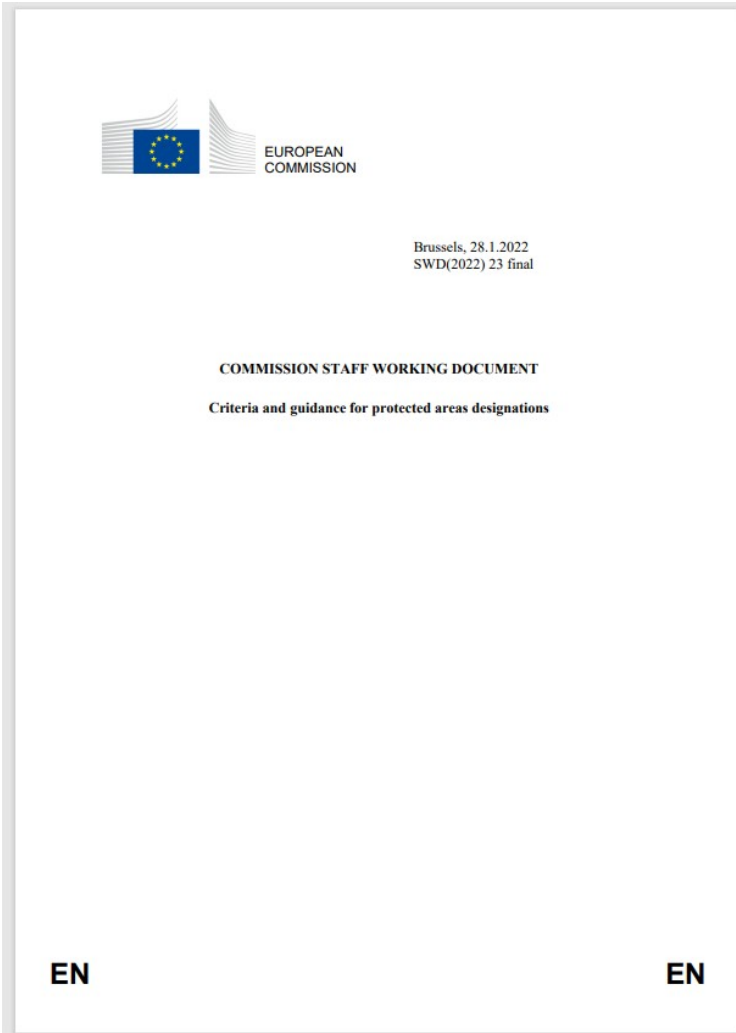
Elisabete Silva - SEPA

# *The Birds Directive*



- **Protects also all wild EU Seabirds**
- **Article 3 : obligation to maintain and re-establish seabirds habitats**
- **Article 4 : establish conservation measures in Special Protection area (SPAs) and for other seabirds which are regularly occurring migratory**
- **Article 5 : System of strict protection which prohibits intentional killing and disturbance (Guidance foreseen end 2023)**

# Biodiversity strategy :Protecting nature



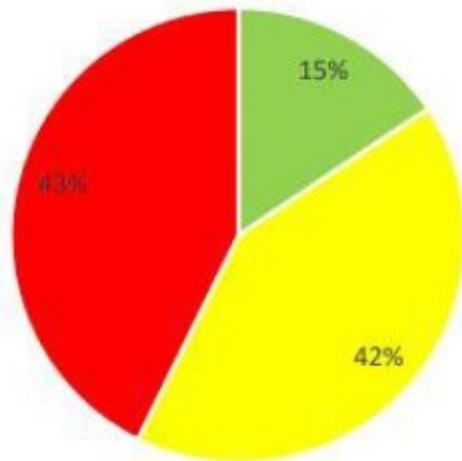
- **Protecting 30 % of EU seas**
- **Strictly protect one third of these areas**
- **Marine Natura 2000 network uncomplete and SPA still needed for Seabirds**
- **Staff Working Document guidance**
- **Assessment of pledges for the baltic sea in seminar in november**



# *Biodiversity strategy :* *Effectively manage all protected areas*



Monitoring the efficacy of conservation measures by a responsible entity (according to site managers)



■ Yes ■ Partly ■ No

- defining clear conservation objectives and measures
- monitoring them appropriately.
- Standard = site specific conservation objectives with quantified targets
- Commission study : Assessment of measures established in SPAs and their effectiveness in FI, LV, PL
- LIFE funding supporting (SNaPs)





# Nature Restoration Law

## General objective

- By 2030, restoration measures will cover **20 %** of EU land and seas.
- By 2050, measures for **ALL ecosystems requiring** restoration

## Restoration objectives

Protected  
habitat types  
(Annex I HD)



Habitats of  
protected  
species (BHD)



Marine  
habitats  
(beyond HD)



Urban  
Ecosystems



River  
connectivity



Pollinators






Agroecosystems



Ecosystems  
foresters



# *EU action plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries*

- Improve **gear selectivity** & address **bycatch** of **sensitive species** 
- Protect the **seabed** 
- **Transition & knowledge** 
- **Governance** 



# *Infringements*

- **Horizontal infringements on Natura 2000 designation**
- **Horizontal infringements on absence of site specific conservation measures, also for SPA**
- **Infringement against Sweden on bycatch in relation to non implementation of 6(2) non deterioration in marine sites**



# Repower EU



- Permitting procedures for renewable energy projects has implications for the Birds and Habitats Directives
- Rebuttable presumption that RE projects are of **Overriding Public Interest**
- Doesn't change the provisions/ interpretations of Art 6(3) and 6(4)
- **Species protection Article 5 Birds Directive** : for occasional killing or disturbance not deliberate, no derogations would be required if:
  - Appropriate mitigation measures are adopted during construction and operation of RE projects
  - Proper **monitoring** to assess effectiveness is carried out and **further measures** are taken as required





# Thank you!



Commissioner Sinkevičius and Luna Milatović presenting the Marine conservation award 2022



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