

INFORMATION EVENT ON THE NEW NATURA 2000 EC GUIDANCES AND THE OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT ON POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS ON NATURA 2000¹

This event aims to present the outputs of the EC project on the possible impacts of renewable energy on Natura 2000 (see Box 1) and the updated methodological guidance document on Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (see Box 2).

Box 1: EC Project on possible impacts of renewable energy on Natura 2000

This project aims to review and analyse the potential direct and indirect impacts of renewable energy developments (wind, solar, geothermal, ocean and bio-energy) on habitats and species protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives, as well as to present the available mitigation measures in order to avoid, prevent or reduce those impacts. The outputs of the contract are expected to help overcome obstacles during the permitting procedures of renewable energy developments in Member States that arise from insufficient scientific knowledge of the impacts on the protected species and habitats and of the available mitigation measures. The outputs of the contract include:

- the update of the existing “EU guidance on wind energy developments and Natura 2000”
- A report on the impacts of solar energy, ocean energy (tidal and wave) and geothermal energy on protected habitats and species and the available mitigation measures
- A wildlife sensitivity mapping manual – a practical guidance on developing sensitivity mapping for renewable energy planning in the EU
- A report on the impacts of bioenergy developments on protected habitats and species and the available mitigation measures.

Box 2: Review of the EC guidance on implementation of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive

A specific action of the EU Action plan for nature, people and the economy is dedicated to “update the methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (by 2018) on the permitting requirements for plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites”.

Previous assessments of the implementation of Article 6(3) and 6(4) procedures in the Member States allowed identification of main difficulties and problems with the implementation of those procedures as well as relevant efforts underway. Those assessments also provided recommendations to improve and streamline the methods of implementation. In addition, replies to the Fitness Check consultation, European Court of Auditors report, available Country Profiles as well as relevant Rulings of the European Court of Justice provided information on key issues to consider.

The process toward the review of the guidance document thus included a review and analysis of such relevant literature available and a consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders through a questionnaire and discussions at the meetings of the Nature Directive Expert Group (NADEG).

¹ Full title: “Reviewing and mitigating the impacts of renewable energy developments on species and habitats protected under the Birds and the Habitats Directives”

PROPOSED AGENDA

9.00 – 9:30	Registration and coffee
9:30 – 9:40	Introduction / welcoming (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning)
9:40 – 9:50	Introduction on the aims of the event (European Commission)
9:50 – 11.00	Guidance documents -Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive -Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and 6(4) -Hydropower and Natura 2000
11:00 – 11:20	Coffee break
11:20 – 13:00	Guidance documents (continued) Country specific presentations ²
13:00-14:00	Lunch
Renewables Project (Arcadis) <i>The different outputs of the project will be presented. There is room for Q&A after each part</i>	
14:00 – 15:10 (Part A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the project as a whole, including objectives, different tasks 5' • Main findings of stakeholder consultation 10' • EC Guidance on Wind and N2000 20' • Manual on Wildlife Sensitivity Mapping 15'
15:10 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 16:10 (Part B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on impacts of other renewable energy sources 10' • Report on impacts of bio energy 15'
16:10 – 16:30	Discussion & Wrap up

² The Member State is free to organize this part of the agenda. Options could be:

- presentations on relevant case studies or specific research by different stakeholders
- presentations by the NGO sector, the project developers sector, the government (e.g. planning and permitting authorities) and the research sector with their particular views/opinions in relation to the topic, followed by a panel debate