



Dear Madam/Sir,

The European Commission (EC) and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency invite you to the information and discussion event that will take place on November 6, 2019 in Stockholm, Sweden. The aim of the event is to present the outcomes of the project implemented by the European Commission on the possible impacts of renewable energy developments on Natura 2000 as well as the revised EC guidance on implementation of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive as well as discussing the Swedish implementation on the nature directives in relation to wind power projects.

More information on the EC project as well as the guidance on Article 6(3) and 6(4) can be found below:

1. EC Project on possible impacts of renewable energy on Natura 2000¹

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 Birds² and Habitats³ 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.**

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

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

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147&from=EN>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:01992L0043-20130701&from=EN>



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 towards 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).

The agenda of the event is attached.

Date: November 6, 2019

Time: 9:30-16:30

Venue: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Virkesvägen 2, Stockholm

Please register on the registration platform <http://renewables-nature.eu/> by October 31, 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Gabriella Modin from the Swedish EPA, email: gabriella.modin@naturvardsverket.se

We look forward to your participation to this event.

Best regards on behalf of the project team,

Marinela Tilly,

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