

Meeting of the Malta Ornis Committee

**Wednesday, 16th March 2022
1600 – 1900**

Minutes

Participants:

Dr Joseph Grech – Chairman
Mr Richard Lia – Secretary
Mr Nicholas Barbara – BirdLife Malta
Mr Victor Dimech – Member nominated by Government
Mr Lino Farrugia – FKKNK
Mr Mark Gauci – Avifauna expert
Mr Horace Micallef – Member nominated by Government
Mr Lucas Micallef – Hunting and live-capturing expert
Mr Joe Perici Calascione – FKKNK
Dr Gaynor Saliba – Member nominated by Government
Mr Darrin Stevens – Representative of the Environment and Resources Authority
Mr Mark Sultana – BirdLife Malta

1. Approval of the agenda.

1.1 Mark Sultana requested three clarifications:

- a. Whether the update on the conservation status should be placed first, to which the Secretary replied that during the previous meeting, the Committee had agreed that KSU's satellite-tagging project would be placed as a first item on this agenda.
- b. Whether the item related to the lifting of the moratorium on spring hunting of Turtle-dove will be tabled jointly by FKKNK and Chairman, to which the Chairman replied that the proposal on the moratorium pertains to FKKNK.
- c. Considering that FKKNK objected to the wording of the draft legal amendment on EURING (Item 10.3), whether such draft was prepared by FKKNK or by WBRU, to which the Secretary replied that following submission of FKKNK's proposal, he had drafted and circulated the draft legal amendment to the Committee as a basis for discussion.

1.2 The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings held on 26/01/2022.

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January were approved, as amended by FKKNK and the Secretary.

3. Matters arising and matters to report.

3.1 None.

4. Article 9(1)(b) research derogation: satellite-tagging of European Turtle-doves (proposed renewal). Project co-financed by WBRU through the Conservation of Wild Birds Fund (2019).

Proposed derogation period: 1 April 2022 – 30 May 2022. Proposed renewal follows same methodology submitted by KSU on 02 May 2021, as approved by the Committee on 12 May 2021. Proposal circulated in advance of the meeting (Doc Items 4A-4C). Item subject to a vote.

Related documents:

- *Item 10 of Ornis Committee minutes of meeting held on [17 March 2021](#).*
- *Item 5 of Ornis Committee minutes of meeting held on [12 May 2021](#).*
- *Doc Item 4A: Outcome of the 2021 tagging project.*
- *Doc Item 4B: Proposed renewal.*
- *Doc Item 4C (for comparison with Doc 4B): Proposal dated 2 May 2021 as approved by the Committee on 12 May 2021.*

Item brought forward from previous meeting.

- 4.1 Mark Sultana declared that he is against the opening of a season for Turtle-dove in spring and asked whether the licensees forming part of this satellite-tagging project would also be participating in the spring hunting/trapping derogations. The Secretary replied that he does not have the requested information, but the Committee can nonetheless impose conditions in the satellite-tagging project, if and as necessary.
- 4.2 Before commencing with FKNK's comments with regards this project, Lino Farrugia requested that these comments are properly minuted *in toto*, since the Committee has been subjected to incorrect, at times outright lies when KSU (Kacçaturi San Ubertu) chose to publicly refer to the Committee minutes, and the Committee in turn was 'directed' not to reply to KSU's public statements, notwithstanding FKNK's request to the contrary. Lino Farrugia then proceeded to explain why the FKNK could not vote for this project, however remarked that FKNK is of the opinion that, undoubtedly, tagging and monitoring birds with GPS / satellite-tags is the way forward, adding that contrary to what some have written, FKNK is not saying that ringing is worthless. Lino Farrugia further pointed out that they had voted for this project last spring, even though KSU were incorrectly paid respective funds prior to the Committee's approval of the project, because the period for trapping that was permitted consisted in around ten days, whereas now the period requested is for two whole months and again with total discrimination towards licensed trappers.
- 4.3 Lino Farrugia further explained that last year FKNK tagged ten captive-bred Turtle-doves and obtained positive results, pointing out that FKNK intends to continue their project this year. Lino Farrugia also remarked that the only Turtle-dove that was satellite-tagged by KSU stopped transmitting data after a short period from release and the tag was not even found. Lino Farrugia remarked that whilst everyone is stating that this is KSU's project, FKNK knows, and an open secret, that it is in fact Dr Natalino Fenech's who had, in his last paper, wrote that half a million Turtle-doves are killed in Malta every spring! FKNK are thus baffled as to how KSU entrusted Dr Fenech for this project, knowing that he is vehemently against hunting and trapping, especially against spring hunting of the Turtle-dove. Lino Farrugia thus also pointed out that with Dr Fenech's involvement in this project, KSU cannot state that it is of any benefit to spring hunting derogations. Also, because Dr Fenech had 'used' KSU's President Mark Mifsud Bonnici against Turtle-dove spring hunting in a PBS TVM feature at the time when Dr Fenech was Head of News.
- 4.4 Lino Farrugia also stated that FKNK were informed that Dr Fenech (also author of the infamous book 'Fatal Flight' which was vehemently used not just to 'influence' Malta's EU Membership,

but to damage Malta's main industry of tourism), had also contacted the company who supplied the tags to FKNK, since they were subsequently contacted by the company, and Dr Fenech had proceeded to supply the Times of Malta with a story which contained gross inaccuracies about FKNK's tagging project. The FKNK is in the process of legal action about this unprofessional affair against both the Company and Dr Fenech. Lino Farrugia added that this is the same Dr Fenech who has constantly criticised this Committee's work through the Ombudsman. Lino Farrugia also stated that, at the same time, Mark Mifsud Bonnici is doing a lot of damage when he publicly criticized and had stated, and wrote, that FKNK agreed with the Minister for the Environment regarding the land management agreement of Mizieb and l-Ahrax tal-Mellieħa by FKNK, in exchange for the management of il-Ponta tal-Qawra by BirdLife Malta. Lino Farrugia thus said that this lie did not just put the FKNK in a bad light but also the Minister for the Environment and that this Committee was well aware of FKNK's feelings regarding il-Ponta tal-Qawra as demonstrated in a previous Committee meeting discussion which regarded the exact same area in question. In fact, the FKNK have already commenced Libel Court proceedings against Mark Mifsud Bonnici.

- 4.5 Lino Farrugia further stated that the flamingos incident at il-Ponta tal-Qawra was carried out by a KSU member and although KSU claimed that they had revoked his membership, he is still, in all probability, a member of KSU. Regarding the KSU project in question, Lino Farrugia finally reiterated that FKNK can never agree that trapping is limited to a handful of individuals, adding that either everyone is allowed, or no one is. Lino Farrugia concluded that for FKNK, this discrimination against trappers constitutes the main reason why the FKNK cannot vote in favour. At this stage some members of the Committee expressed some reservations about all the above. However, Lino Farrugia insisted that the FKNK, but also himself in his personal capacity, were happy to carry full responsibility for what Lino Farrugia has stated and therefore all that has been said should form part of this Meeting's minutes.
- 4.6 Chairman stated that the item is subject to a vote and that the Committee should proceed accordingly. Mark Gauci pointed out that the Committee cannot accept proposals without any confirmation that the individuals taking part in the research are knowledgeable and suggested that the Committee should ask for a *curriculum vitae*. Joe Perici Calascione agreed. The Secretary remarked that the procedure for tagging and harnessing (*imbrigar*) follows the same principles on the proper and safe handling of birds. Lino Farrugia remarked that tagging and harnessing (*imbrigar*) are totally different, as demonstrated to the FKNK officials by the Italian expert that the FKNK had commissioned to train the same officials the adequate and proper tagging system that should be used. Mr. Lucas Micallef also confirmed this fact.
- 4.7 Chairman requested members to proceed with a vote. Before the vote, Lino Farrugia remarked that in all probability members who will vote for this project at this stage will vote completely opposite with regards FKNK's proposal at a later stage at this same meeting for a similar situation with regards the trapping of the Turtle-dove (FKNK's), except that FKNK's proposal is open to the option of all licenced trappers.
- 4.8 Three members voted in favour (Gaynor Saliba, Horace Micallef and ERA), BirdLife Malta voted against, and three members abstained (FKNK, Victor Dimech and Chairman).

5. **Update on the conservation status of the European Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) and Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*).** Document circulated in advance of the meeting (*Doc Item 5*).

5.1 The Secretary provided the following summary of the current update on the conservation status of the European Turtle-dove and Common Quail:

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*)

The EU population status for Common Quail is Unknown, as the data reported were not sufficient to assess the population status of the species (EEA, 2020). The Common Quail has an IUCN Least Concern classification at global level but at European Level it was placed in a higher risk Red List category from Least Concern (2015) to **Near Threatened** (2021) (BirdLife International, 2021: 19). At EU level, the breeding population status is **Unknown** (EEA, 2020). This species is not included in the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme.

During the current (2013–2018) Article 12 reporting period, the Italian population (95% of Malta’s reference population) registered an increase in the long-term trend from the previous (2008–2012) status of unknown. However, the Hungarian population now stands at 5,000–10,000 fewer calling males than previously reported. **Malta’s reference population retained a stable short-term trend status in the maximum number of calling males and improved the short-term trend status in the minimum number of calling males, from declining to stable. The long-term trend of the reference population remains unknown.**

European Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)

This species is listed as **Vulnerable** at the European and global levels and **Near Threatened** within the territory of the European Union (BirdLife International, 2015a: 41). A ten-year (2018–2028) international single species action plan is in place *to restore the European Turtle-dove to a favourable population status so that it can be safely removed from the Globally Threatened categories of the IUCN Red List* (Fisher *et al.* 2018).

The European Bird Census Council (2021 update; 2019 base year) has shown that at Pan-European level, the Turtle-dove **declined by 82%** when compared with the 1980 baseline data and by 12% during the 10-year trend (2010–2019). Compared with the previous EBCC update, the Turtle-dove declined by an additional 2% in the long-term trend [from -80% to -82%] and increased by 5% in the short-term (10-year) trend [from -17% to -12%].

Based on the latest Article 12 reporting cycle (2013–2018), **the Turtle-dove reference population improved its short-term trend status from Decreasing to Stable** (Min. Pairs: -0.30%; Max. Pairs: -0.29%) and remained **Stable in the long-term trend** (Min. Pairs: -0.32%; Max. Pairs: -0.36%). During the previous reporting cycle (2008–2013), the decrease in the short-term trend of Malta’s reference population was as follows: Min. Pairs: -13.02%; Max. Pairs: -10.61%. Thus, **in the short-term, the reference population increased by 12.7% (Min. Pairs) and 10.25% (Max. Pairs)**. However, it should be noted that **more than half the reference population (55%) is decreasing in the short-term trend**. In the long-term, the majority of the reference population (81%) is either decreasing (36%) or has an unknown trend (45%) but the overall trend remained stable at -0.32% in the minimum number of breeding pairs and -0.36% in the maximum number of breeding pairs. When compared with the previous trends (for Article 12 reporting period 2008–2012), this equates to an increase of 11.73% [(-0.32%) – (-12.05%)] in the minimum number of breeding pairs and an increase of 15.31% [(-0.36%) – (-15.67%)] in the maximum number of breeding pairs.

5.2 Mark Sultana questioned whether the reference population has changed. The Secretary replied that Bulgaria was added to Malta’s reference population based on GPS data submitted by FKNK, following the release of captive-bred specimens. Mark Sultana stated that Bulgaria cannot be included given that the released specimen was captive-bred. Mark Sultana remarked

that the specimen was released in July and hence it is impossible that it managed to breed following its release. The Secretary explained that the GPS data was checked by the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, confirming that one of the specimens spent the trailing part of the breeding season in Bulgaria. Lino Farrugia added that the specimen remained in Bulgaria until September.

- 5.3 Joe Perici Calascione pointed out that since the specimen spent a few months in Bulgaria, it is a clear indication of its migratory flyway. Lino Farrugia remarked that the reference population comprises of the breeding population of a country that migrates over Malta.
 - 5.4 Mark Gauci stated that the Turtle-dove International Species Action Plan does not make any distinction between one country and another, given that the conservation objectives apply across the board throughout the species' range. Lino Farrugia replied that hunting along the western flyway was suspended whereas hunting has been permitted across its central-eastern flyway. The Secretary remarked that Malta's reference population of Turtle-dove would remain stable even if Bulgaria had to be omitted¹.
 - 5.5 Mark Gauci pointed out that Turtle-dove hunting in spring is not permitted anywhere else across its flyway. Referring to paragraph 2.8 of the conservation status report, Mark Gauci reminded the Committee that one of the main threats for Turtle-dove is *illegal killing and trapping, particularly during spring migration and in the breeding season*.
 - 5.6 The Secretary referred to the judgment delivered by the Court of Justice of the European Union on 10 September 2009, in case C76/08, which explicitly noted that as regards the "no other satisfactory solution" criterion, "*hunting for Quail and Turtle Doves during the autumn hunting season cannot be regarded as constituting, in Malta, another satisfactory solution, so that the condition that there be no other satisfactory solution, laid down in Article 9(1) of the Directive, should, in principle, be considered met*".
 - 5.7 The Secretary further pointed out that whilst conservation status reports are stand-alone documents, they are nonetheless prepared as part of a Member State's obligation when considering Article 9(1)(c) derogations to determine the conservation status of the species concerned and to fulfil the 'small numbers' criterion.
- 6. Lifting of moratorium on hunting of Turtle-dove in spring** ([G.N. No. 538/2016](#), dated 27 May 2016). *Proposal submitted by FKNK (Doc Item 6). Item subject to a vote.*
- 6.1 The Secretary invited FKNK to present the proposal.
 - 6.2 Lino Farrugia provided a summary of FKNK's *Memorandum on spring hunting and trapping in 2022* (Annex A) and the respective *Supplementary Document* (Annex B) which had been lately circulated to the Committee members in addition to the previously circulated Memorandum. Lino Farrugia remarked that hunting of Turtle-dove during the first eleven days in September 2021 is a model in which the adaptive harvest management should be grounded. Lino Farrugia's detailed presentation, in Maltese, is attached as Annex B to these minutes.
 - 6.3 BirdLife Malta requested confirmation whether there are any pending infringements related to spring hunting. The Secretary confirmed, stating that Infringement 2020/2345 is currently at Letter of Formal Notice stage.

¹ Compare Table 13 in the [2022 conservation status report](#) with the same table in the [2021 report](#).

- 6.4 Mark Sultana pointed out that 64%² of the autumn Turtle-dove bag were juveniles, adding that juvenile Turtle-doves have a higher natural mortality than adults. Lino Farrugia remarked that in autumn there are 28% more juveniles than adults and referred to the study conducted in Greece over a period of 16 years, which confirms that hunting is sustainable.
- 6.5 Mark Sultana explained that during pre-nuptial migration, only the healthiest specimens make it over Malta on their way to their breeding grounds and that in autumn, the population is at its highest population count compared to spring.
- 6.6 The Secretary stated that the European Commission requested a reduction of not less than 50% of the autumn bag. Mark Sultana further added that whilst spring hunting is unsustainable, there is also an urgent need to instil a heightened sense of conservation at both the European and national levels, particularly more so for the Turtle-dove.
- 6.7 Chairman remarked that the discussion is oftentimes mixing scientific arguments with legal issues and that these two are not always aligned, adding that a debate grounded in science is crucial when discussing legal issues to ensure that an informed decision can be made.
- 6.8 Joe Perici Calascione pointed out that an adaptive harvest management mechanism, as the name implies, revolves around the establishment of a harvest, adding that Malta does not have resident game and that the proposed bag limit of 1,500 Turtle-doves is statistically insignificant. Joe Perici Calascione also stated that BirdLife Malta's concerns are more related to issues of principle rather than science, adding that a limited open season to hunt a small amount of Turtle-doves will serve to collate valuable data.
- 6.9 Mark Gauci stated that taking wild Turtle-doves for captive-breeding whilst on the doorstep to their breeding grounds to subsequently release their offspring into the wild is illogical from a scientific point of view. Lino Farrugia referred to a Nature Directives Expert Group Meeting during which the European Commission had proclaimed that the release of captive-bred birds to supplement the population is the easiest way out for governments.
- 6.10 Chairman pointed out that to reverse the decline of a species, the root cause of the decline must be addressed. Mark Sultana replied that the root cause of the decline of the European Turtle-dove is habitat loss and illegal killing. Mark Gauci stated that the threats are listed in the conservation status report as discussed during the previous item (item 5). Nicholas Barbara remarked that the conservation status of this species has not changed at EU level.
- 6.11 Item was put to the vote. Five members voted in favour (FKNK, Victor Dimech, Gaynor Saliba, Horace Micallef and Chairman), BirdLife Malta voted against, and ERA abstained. The proposal was approved.

² Vide second paragraph (p.8) of WBRU's report "[Assessment of the latest enforcement-related measures and outcome of the 2021–2022 autumn hunting season](#)".

7. **Consideration of the potential application of a derogation for spring hunting of Turtle-dove and Quail and trapping of Turtle-dove for genetic diversity in FKNK’s captive-breeding and release project (consanguinity derogation), including dates of the seasons, bag limits, permitted hunting and trapping hours and any other relevant criteria.** *Proposal submitted by FKNK (Doc Item 6). Item subject to a vote/sub-votes.*

Proposed derogation periods:

Quail hunting: 10 to 30 April

Turtle-dove hunting: 17 to 30 April

Turtle-dove trapping: 17 to 30 April.

- 7.1 Chairman suggested sub-dividing this item into three sub-votes: quail hunting under the same parameters of last year, turtle-dove hunting, and turtle-dove trapping.
- 7.2 Mark Sultana suggested to take a vote on whether a spring hunting season should be considered before proceeding to the sub-votes. The Committee agreed to proceed with sub-votes.
- 7.3 Chairman pointed out that after taking into consideration the conservation status report, the Committee should recommend to the Minister and to take legal advice before deciding whether to open a spring hunting season. Joe Perici Calascione requested the Committee’s recommendation to include the necessary parameters such as bag limits and duration of the season.

Sub-vote 1: Hunting of Turtle-dove in spring

- 7.4 The Committee agreed that the wording of this sub-vote should be as follows: *Should a spring hunting period for Turtle-dove between 17th and 30th April, inclusive of both dates, with a national bag limit of 1,500 Turtle-doves be recommended to the Minister?*
- 7.5 Five members voted in favour (FKNK, Victor Dimech, Gaynor Saliba, Horace Micallef and Chairman), BirdLife Malta voted against, and ERA abstained. The proposal was approved.

Sub-vote 2: Hunting of Quail in spring

- 7.6 The Committee agreed that the wording of this sub-vote should be as follows: *Should a spring hunting period for Quail between 10th and 30th April, inclusive of both dates, with a national bag limit of 2,400 Quail be recommended to the Minister?*
- 7.7 Six members voted in favour (FKNK, Victor Dimech, Gaynor Saliba, Horace Micallef, ERA and Chairman). BirdLife Malta voted against. The proposal was approved.

Sub-vote 3: Trapping of Turtle-dove in spring

- 7.8 Chairman pointed out that this derogation is subject to enactment of Framework Regulations. Lino Farrugia remarked that the Committee has just voted in favour of KSU’s proposal to capture, satellite-tag and release Turtle-doves (see Lino Farrugia’s respective comment in relative subject matter above). The Secretary pointed out that FKNK’s proposal is an Article 9(1)(c) derogation not a 9(1)(b) derogation given that the specimens caught are proposed to be kept for the purpose of captive-breeding.
- 7.9 FKNK representatives quoted Article 9(1)(b) of the Birds Directive, which states “*for the purposes of research and teaching, of re-population, of re-introduction and for the breeding necessary for these purposes*”. The Secretary explained that the capturing of specimens from the wild for the purpose of augmenting a captive-bred stock is a consanguinity derogation, that

invariably includes a keeping element and thus governed by the provisions of Article 9(1)(c) of the Birds Directive, “to permit, under strictly supervised conditions and on a selective basis, the capture, keeping or other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers”. Lino Farrugia remarked that 'breeding necessary for these purposes', of 9(1)(b) automatically includes 'keeping' in 9(1)(c), but that nevertheless the Committee may proceed with considering FKNK's proposal since in his honest opinion the decision not to accept this FKNK proposal had already been taken.

7.10 The Committee agreed that the wording of this sub-vote should be as follows: *Should a live-capturing period for Turtle-dove for captive-breeding and research purposes between 17th and 30th April, inclusive of both dates, be recommended to the Minister?*

7.11 Two members voted in favour (FKNK and Victor Dimech), three members voted against (BirdLife Malta, Horace Micallef and Chairman) and two members abstained (Gaynor Saliba and ERA). The proposal was refused.

8. Tagging of Red-breasted Mergansers and seven finch species. Proposed tagging period: June–August 2022. Draft Government Notice (drafted by WBRU) circulated in advance of the meeting (Doc Item 8A). Item subject to a vote.

8.1 The Secretary informed the Committee that the scope of this tagging exercise is to address a lacuna that was brought about following enactment of Legal Notice 69/2016, which rendered the Red-breasted Merganser a non-huntable species. The Secretary also explained that since wild finches used to be legally captured and kept until 2008 without any marking requirements, and since none of these eight species as listed in the proposed Government Notice were required to be declared during the 1997/98 and 2003 amnesties, all stuffed specimens and those in the process of being stuffed for the purpose of taxidermy pertaining to these eight species will be fitted with a unique identification device (tag) during period June–August 2022. As specified in the previously-circulated proposed Government Notice:

From the 1st of September 2022 onwards, only those specimens fitted with a unique identification device (tag) and those that fulfil the criteria of regulation 4(1)(e) of S.L.549.42 will be considered as legally possessed. Furthermore, only those specimens that fulfil the criteria of regulation 21(2)(a) and (b) of S.L.549.42 can be mounted or stuffed or in any manner processed for the purpose of preservation or taxidermy.

8.2 Mark Sultana asked whether this tagging exercise applies to all individuals in possession of stuffed Red-breasted Mergansers declared in the *Carnet de Chasse*. The Secretary replied that with respect to Red-breasted Mergansers, the tagging exercise applies to all individuals who have in their possession such specimens, even those who had acquired them from abroad. The Secretary explained that before LN69/2016 came into force, Red-breasted Mergansers that were legally acquired from other countries, including other EU Member States, were not tagged at point of entry since these were at the time included in Malta's list of huntable species.

8.3 Mark Sultana pointed out that specimens imported to Malta should nonetheless have all the necessary Customs paperwork and permits and that these documents should be verified by WBRU before the specimens are tagged.

8.4 The proposed Government Notice was put to the vote. Six members voted in favour (FKNK, Victor Dimech, Gaynor Saliba, Horace Micallef, ERA and Chairman). BirdLife Malta abstained. The proposal was approved.

9. Taxidermy collections. *FKNK's proposal submitted in conjunction with the Malta Taxidermy Federation (Doc Item 8C). Item subject to a vote.*

9.1 Mark Sultana stated that there is no point in discussing this item considering that a legal notice was published a few hours before the meeting³. Lino Farrugia replied that FKNK's document contains other proposals that were not included in the legal notice. Mark Sultana pointed out that the legal notice was published without public consultation, and it essentially specifies that no legal action will be taken if an individual obtained stuffed birds without written authorisation. Mark Sultana further stated that there are pending Court proceedings on illegally-acquired stuffed birds that will have to stop in view of this legal amendment, adding that this is unfair and tantamount to corruption.

9.2 Mark Sultana added that he was willing to discuss taxidermy, knowing that there are genuine individuals, but stated that under the circumstances he is not in position to discuss it. Whilst referring to a statement that was just issued by the Malta Taxidermy Federation, Mark Sultana lamented that it is simply ridiculous that an agenda item bypasses all procedures and is published as a legal notice. Mark Sultana, Mark Gauci and Nicholas Barbara walked out of the meeting.

9.3 Joe Perici Calascione disagreed with BirdLife Malta's stance, stating it is simply not acceptable to storm out of a meeting because of a disagreement with how things are done.

10. Proposed amendments to the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S.L.549.42).

1. Hunting at sea. *Proposal submitted by FKNK (Doc Item 10A). Item subject to a vote.*

10.1 The Committee agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

2. Salvage permit/road kill. *Proposal submitted by MTF (Doc Item 10B). Item subject to a vote.*

10.2 The Committee agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

3. EURING - BirdLife Malta Monopoly. *Proposal submitted by FKNK (Doc Item 10.3). Item subject to a vote.*

10.3 The Committee agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

4. Proposed new Schedule XI – internal ring sizes. *Documents circulated in advance of the meeting (Doc Items 10.4A - 10.4C). Item pending finalisation of review of internal ring sizes by CITES Office. Item brought forward from previous meeting. Item subject to a vote.*

10.4 The Committee agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

11. Any other business.

11.1 The meeting was adjourned at 1900 hrs.

³ [Legal Notice 107/2022](#): Conservation of Wild Birds (Amendment No. 2) Regulations, 2022.