



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate B - Protecting the Natural Environment
ENV.B.2 - Nature and Bio-diversity

19 OCT. 2006

Brussels,
ENV.B.2 AT/fl D(2006) 21401

NOTE TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ORNIS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Subject: Approval procedure for Black-Tailed Godwit management plan

Dear Member,

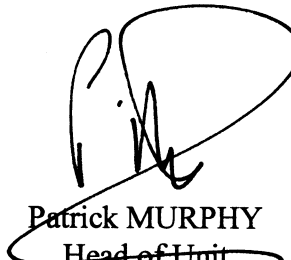
At yesterday's ORNIS Committee's meeting I sought the approval of management plans for 6 species (Pintail, Red-crested Pochard, Turtle Dove, Skylark, Velvet Scoter and Curlew), for which finalised versions had been provided to you on 4 July 2006. As I mentioned in the meeting, the only subsequent changes, made during the summer, were factual and did not in any way change the substance of these plans. These plans are supported by both FACE and BirdLife. Five of the plans were adopted during the meeting and the slightly amended text concerning the turtle dove will be sent to you shortly for approval through written procedure.

However, as regards the plan for the Black-Tailed Godwit, the situation is different. At the expert workshop, which took place on 17 March 2006 at DG ENV, there was no consensus on the issue of a potential hunting moratorium for this species. Following this, the Commission decided to correct factual errors in the plan but maintained the proposal for a hunting moratorium as one of the management measures.

However, the participants at the March 17th workshop and in particular, BirdLife and FACE did not receive the minutes of the workshop or the finalised version of the plan and therefore were not sufficiently aware of the version that was discussed at yesterday's meeting. Given the importance attached to the sustainable hunting initiative I would like to give these organisations a final opportunity to comment on the plans before finalising them.

I therefore propose that we extend the time frame for approval of the plan – a final version of which will be sent to you before the end of year using the written procedure. I apologize for the inconvenience which may have been caused by this misunderstanding.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick MURPHY
Head of Unit

Copies: Permanent Representations, BirdLife, FACE