

# “Connecting energy, protecting nature”

*Draft conclusions of a joint BirdLife-Europe and European Environmental Bureau report on the delivery of European energy infrastructure projects of common interest*

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ENTSO-E Long-Term Network Development Stakeholders Group

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# BirdLife Europe

- BirdLife Europe is a Partnership of 49 national conservation organisations and a leader in bird conservation.



# MEETING EUROPE'S RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

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# Energy infrastructure risks to wildlife



- Collision risk to birds posed by power lines, especially in migration bottlenecks e.g. Black Sea coast
- Hydro-pumped storage facilities - risk of habitat loss and impacts on ecological status of rivers
- LNG storage facilities and LNG ships – risk of water pollution and contamination, dredging, gas flaring





## Birds at risk of collision

Raptors – eagles, vultures, buzzards

Soaring water birds – storks, pelicans, cranes

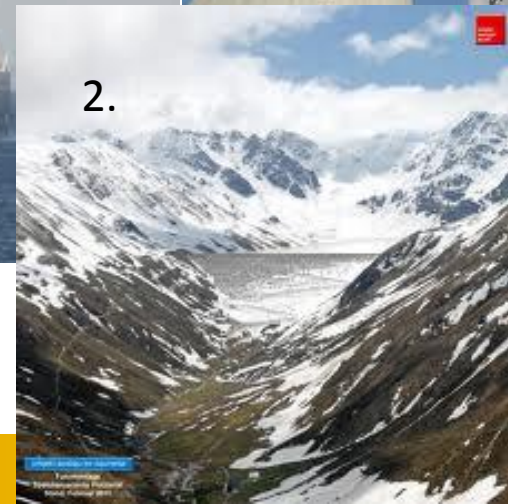
Large bodied birds - swans, geese, ducks, bustards

Other water birds – curlew, lapwings, golden plover



# PCIs with environmental risks

1. On-shore LNG terminal in Northern Adriatic
2. Hydro-pumped storage in Austria, Tyrol Alps
3. Shannon LNG Terminal in County Kerry, Ireland
4. Czech republic internal lines connecting to nuclear power plant Temelin
5. LNG Paldiski, Estonia



# Promoting Europe's common interests: six areas for improvement

1. Transparency
2. Public participation and stakeholder engagement
3. Protecting Europe's most important sites and species
4. Stakeholders working together
5. Taking the environment into account in infrastructure plans and projects
6. Mapping ecological sensitivities

# 1. Transparency

- Strong emphasis on transparency in the TEN-E Regulation.
- Low awareness in MS and little transparency in some national permitting procedures.
- Make up of the Commission's Regional Groups and working methods lacked transparency in developing the first lists.
- Very poor information provided in stakeholder consultation on first PCI list. Some projects a complete mystery!



## 2. Public participation

- Just consultation at permitting stage is too little too late.
- As a minimum National SEAs *should* ensure scrutiny by environmental stakeholders and authorities.
- TEN-E Regulation requires consultation of environmental NGOs when establishing Regional PCI lists.
- Good example of regional cooperation - ENTSO-E regional TYNDP workshops.

# 3. Protecting wildlife for sustainable development

- *The Union shall establish an internal market. It shall work for the **sustainable development** of Europe based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a **high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment** (TFEU, Article 3)*
- Environmental protection requirements must be **integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union policies and activities**, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development (TFEU, Article 11).
- Natura 2000 network is a key tool to achieve sustainable development - to enable meeting both energy and biodiversity targets.
- Caution needed to ensure PCI policy does not damage nature unnecessarily or undermine sustainable development.

## 4. Stakeholders working together

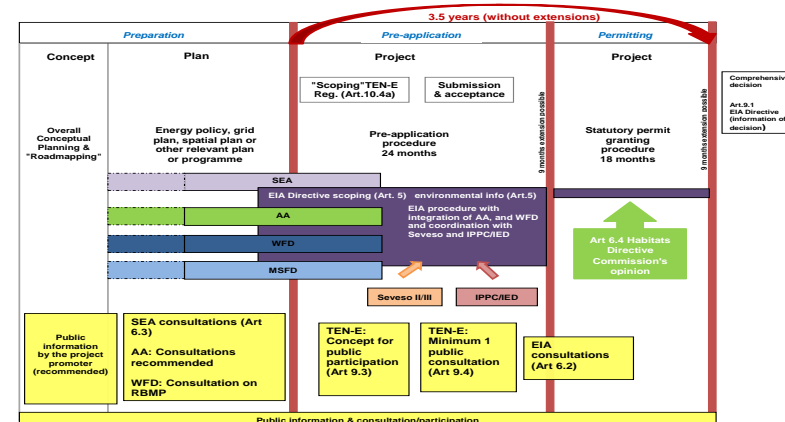
- Grid development is needed for RES and climate.
- Direct risks to wildlife and for environment in general can be largely avoided.
- Decarbonisation is urgent, so public acceptability needs to improve. Avoid impacts and improve dialogue.
- [European Grid Declaration](#) signed in 2011 by Europe's largest environmental NGOs and grid operators.
- [BESTGRID](#): TSOs and NGOs working together on pilot projects in Belgium, the UK and Germany to enhance nature protection, public participation and transparency.

Renewables  
Grid Initiative 

# 5. Taking the environment into account in infrastructure plans and projects

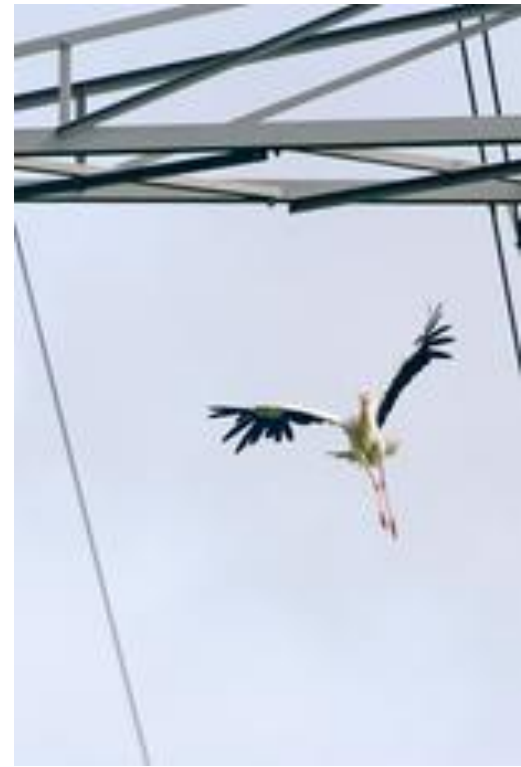
- Understand environmental consequences of projects. ENTSO-E CBA methodology should help.
- Importance of high-quality SEA and EIA for energy plans, programmes and projects. Uneven quality across Europe.
- EC guidance strongly recommends SEA for grid plans in order to efficiently streamline environmental assessments and increase public acceptability

Project	Stage	Impact Potentially crosses environmentally sensitive area (nb of km)	Typology of sensitivity	Link to further information
A	Planned	Yes (a. 50 to 75 km; b. 30 to 40 km)	a. Birds Directive; b. Habitats Directive	e.g. Big Hill SPA www....
B	Design and permitting	No		www....
C	Planned	Yes (20 km)	Habitats Directive	www....
D	Under consideration	N.A	N.A	www....



## 6. Mapping ecological sensitivities

- Data are available on which bird species are at risk, and where.
- Maps help developers, stakeholders and policy makers to promote good projects.
- The RSPB developed 4 draft maps of all electricity PCIs overlaid with the SPAs filtered for vulnerable bird species.
- Accuracy compromised due to problems with accessing power line routes: more work needed.

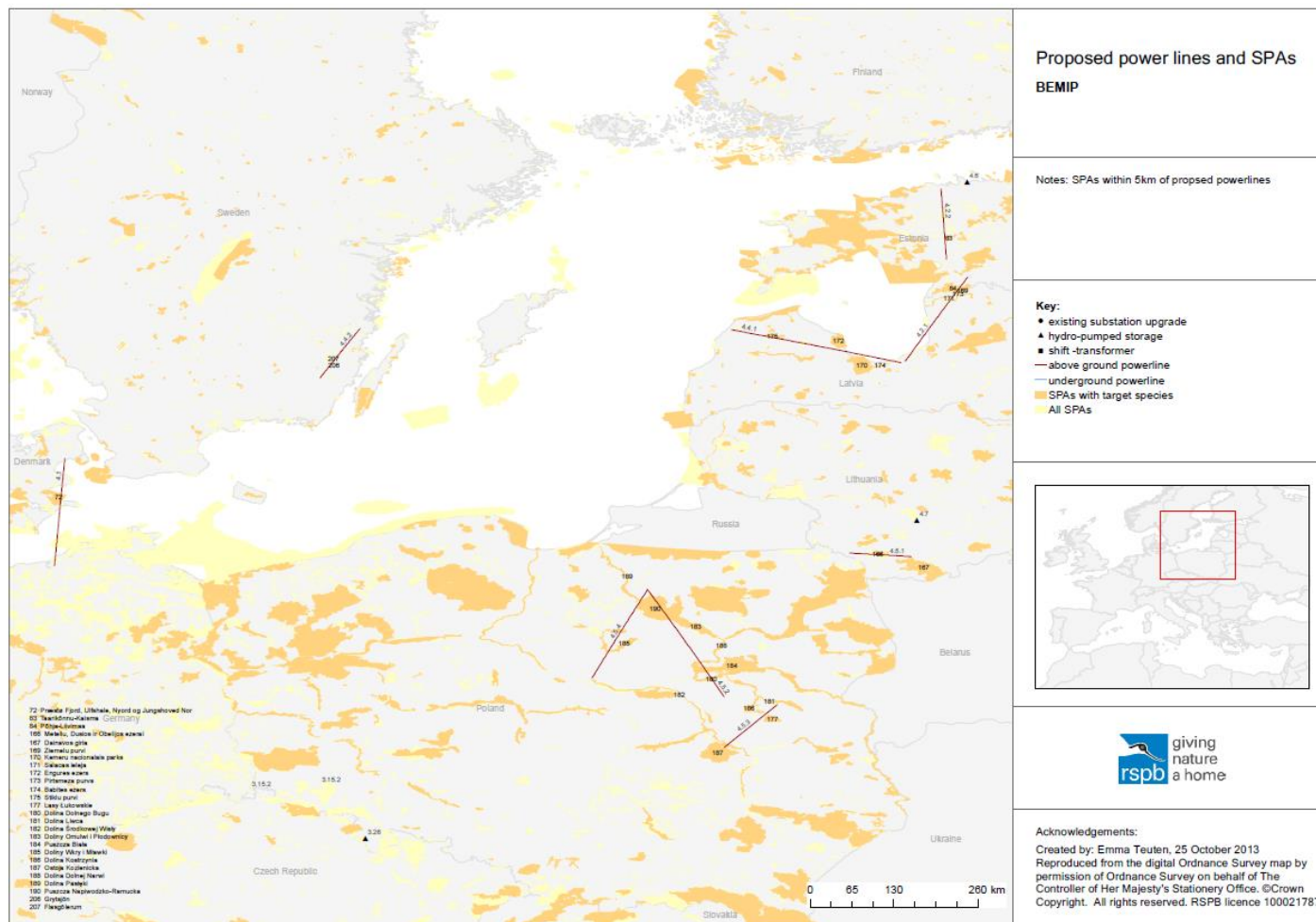




# Draft Map1: NSI West electricity



# Draft Map 3: BEMIP Electricity




# Draft recommendations 1-3

1. Ensure environmental authorities and stakeholders have access to information needed to understand the likely impacts before giving PCI status to any project.
2. Enable national NGOs to form and communicate to RGs their views on PCI projects when options are still open.
3. Do not promote as 'common interest' projects that are incompatible with biodiversity and other environmental legislation and objectives.

# Draft recommendations 4-6

4. Improve dialogue between industry, decision-makers and NGOs, and facilitate engagement by NGOs 'upstream' in decision-making and through this improve acceptability.
5. Ensure assumptions, scenarios and methodologies are robust, transparent and compatible with Europe's climate and biodiversity objectives.
6. Map all TYNDP and PCI projects in relation to Natura 2000 and nationally protected areas.





**Thank you for your attention.**

**Questions?**

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