



The International Association for Falconry
and Conservation of Birds of Prey

NEWSLETTER

1 - 1997



The International Association for Falconry
and Conservation of Birds of Prey

Member of
IUCN
The World Conservation Union

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- Part 5 Trapping
- Part 6 Migration and Ornithology

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The International Association for Falconry
and Conservation of Birds of Prey



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1997



NEWSLETTER

1/1997
April 1997

Our General Meeting will take place on the occasion of the British Falconers' Club's meeting, that will be held at Woodhall Spa on

8 - 11 October

The exact date and time of our General Meeting will be communicated later-on.

A . MEMBER COUNTRIES

alphabetic order

Most of this part of the Newsletter depends on the information given to me by the Member-Clubs.

Please send me systematically any news from your country. This newsletter should be the link between the different falconers' associations in the world.

BELGIUM

The Club Marie de Bourgogne (CMB) is celebrating its XXXth Anniversary.

The CMB together with the Belgische Vereniging van Vlaamse Valkeniers en Havikiers (BVVH), Flemish falconers, are working out a common Code of Conduct along the lines of the International Code of Conduct of the IAF. Amongst the new provisions, there would be a recommendation to the falconers to participate in bird conservation works.

Nature Conservation.

Peregrines are breeding again in Belgium after an absence of 25 years. Electrabel (the Belgian Electrical Company) has put big nestboxes on all its power plants : 12 in total. At least three of them are occupied by a pair of Peregrines, a few more are occupied by single Peregrines. The future is quite promising. Peregrine seem to prefer artificial sites; there they escape the possible predation by Eagle Owls (>40 pairs!). The industry can also have an impact in bird conservation (even nuclear!).

Well done!

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Falconers' Club (Klub Sokolniku Pri CMMJ) will celebrate its XXXth anniversary in 1997.

They will hold their Field meeting in Opcno on
7th October - 12th October

Our members are most welcome to attend.

DENMARK

Not much good has happened since the last report from Denmark. The Birdwatchers and the Animal Rights Movement have launched a very aggressive campaign against falconers. A member of the Danish Hawking Club has a permit allowing him to catch sparrows and other small birds in shopping malls and industrial buildings carrying a lanneret on his fist and scaring the birds into nets for subsequent release. He's had the permit for several years and opponents have known it all long, but have not reacted until recently.

The relationship with the Administrations is still very good. They have also been attacked, but have not taken action against the said member so far. However they might have to, as the opponents to falconry have taken the case to the chairman of the Environmental Council of the Parliament, the Socialist Steen Gade, and he has promised them to bring the case before the Minister. Falconers have neither the support of the Minister nor of anyone else in the Social-democratic lead Government, they must await a change of Government for better times.

GREAT-BRITAIN

The New EU regulation regulating trade in birds of prey would have meant falconry was no longer a viable sport, as the movement of birds of prey would be very much restricted.

We were on many occasions made aware of these decisions by IAF and lobbied our Government Department (DofE) by letters and many personal visits.

The DofE responded favourably to our requests and when the 15 member states met in March, the only voice showing concern and wanting amendments were the delegates from the UK DofE. The requests we had won were not ideal but at least we helped keep falconry as a viable sport.

Falconry Clubs of Europe must pull together and lobby their regulating authorities under the guidance of IAF. The British Falconers' Club is sending a delegate to the CITES meeting in Zimbabwe to give support to IAF, the cost of this is in the region of 3,500 £.

UK Falconry Clubs are invited to and most have affiliated with the UK "Hawk Board". The prime aim of this association is to liaise with the UK Government on falconry matters, liaise with CITES, the Police and other regulatory Bodies.

UK Falconry Clubs have strict Codes of Conduct and discipline their members who bring the sport into disrepute.

The British Field Sports Society which represents all Field Sports, has a Falconry Committee which meets 5 times per year. The Society has major Government and National contacts and helps in promoting the sport in the UK.

The British Falconers' Club has over 1,200 members, produces two

40 page Newsletters and our Journal annually.

Overseas membership is 20 per annum, UK membership is 28 per annum.

All enquiries to :

BFC Office
Home farm
Hints
Nr Tamworth Staffs
England B78 3DW
Tel/fax ++44 1543 481 737
E-mail : falconers@zetnet.co.uk

Please take note of Anthony Jack's new address :

59 Broad Bank
LOUTH
Lincolnshire LN11 0EW
Tel : ++ 44 1507 608 482

HUNGARY

The Hungarian Falconers' Club has a new president :

Janos Toth
Fuzfogyartelep
Nike krt. 15.
8184 Hungary
Fax/phone
++36 88 351 619

Hungarian falconry used to be a part of the Hungarian Ornithological Club. This year, falconers formed an association independent from the ornithological club.

The name of the new association is the Hungarian Falconers' Club (Magyar Solymasz Egyesület), it has 130 members.

Co-operation with the Hungarian Ornithological Club continues. The falconers' club became a member of the ornithological club.

In view of the independence of the falconers' club and because of the new legislation, the Nature Conservation Authority has changed the procedure of issuing permissions. The result of that situation is that until now no breeding permission has been given. It is hoped that that situation will change soon.

The Hungarian Falconers' Club held a very successful international meeting attended by 120 participants. Wildlife Conservation.

This year, after an absence of 40 years, the Peregrine Falcon is breeding again in Hungary. Peregrines have never been common, because biotops are better suited for Sakers, the breeding population of which amounts to 150 pairs.

SOUTH-AFRICA

Currently it is easier to practice falconry in South-Africa than any time in the past. There are a number of conditions under which falconry is practised :

All falconers have to belong to a recognised club. There are eight Provincial clubs at present as South-Africa consists of nine provinces

In the ninth province there is only one falconer and he

associates himself with one of the other clubs. These clubs must be recognised by that province's Counservation authority. The ordinances and laws of these provincial authorities vary greatly and what may be perfectly legal in one province may be completely illegal in another.

These clubs must "police" their members and see they do not contravene the conservation ordinances. They also determine the members' ability and recommend to the Authorities what permits to issue to individual members.

All the clubs have good working relationships with their provinces conservation authorities.

The South African Falconry Association (SAFA) was formed to coordinate these various provincial clubs. SAFA ensures that the standards and conditions of falconry are consistent throughout South Africa. SAFA's main objective at the moment is to influence the nine different provincial conservation bodies to adopt one uniform falconry policy. Most of the provinces are keen to do this and this could happen in the next year or two.

Good progress has also been made with other aspects concerning falconers such as extended hunting seasons and movements across provincial borders.

SAFA also coordinates the various clubs conservation related activities.

The Cape falconry Club has been accepted this year by the South African Falconers' Association. Up till now there have been major policy differences which precluded the Cape Club from joining. Now these differences have been addressed satisfactorily, and it seems that at last there will be a unified South African falconry community.

Now, the Cape Club will hold the permits instead of the individual members. This simplifies the paperwork considerably. The Cape Club is a sponsor of the Lesser Kestrel research being conducted at the University of Stellenbosch.

SPAIN

You certainly remember that in 1989 a legislation contained the ban on the practice of falconry allegedly because of the incredible reason that it is a massive and non-selective means of capture. IAF had launched an international campaign of support; our Spanish member fought very hard.

legal situation:

The legal situation of falconry is now in the 17 Autonomous regions :

Comunidad de Andalucia

Flying hawks has been prohibited in 1996, but falconers defended themselves. There is a good hope that falconry will be authorised.

Comunidad de Aragon

There is no legislation, but falconry is practised.

Comunidad de las Baleares

Falconry is legal.

Comunidad Catalana

So far the best legislation of Spain on falconry.

Comunidad Canaria

The authorities are not opposed to falconry, they are studying a legislation.

Comunidad Castellano Leonesa

The use of raptors for falconry is subject to authorisations issued in consultation with the falconers.

Comunidad Cantabria

Falconry is legal.

Comunidad Castellano Manchega

There is no legislation but falconry is tolerated.

Comunidad de Extremadura

Falconry is allowed.

Comunidad de Galicia

A legislation is being studied.

Comunidad de Madrid

A legislation is being studied; ecologists are putting pressure.

Comunidad Murciana

A legislation is being studied.

Comunidad Navarra

There is no legislation

Principado de Asturias

There is no legislation.

Pais Vasco

There is no legislation, falconry is tolerated.

Comunidad Riojana

Falconry is authorised.

Comunidad Valenciana

Falconry is legal

Asociacion Española de Cetreria (Spanish Association of Falconry)

The Association continues to function normally, extending its cooperation to its member-clubs and member-associations when requested to do so in legislative matters and others.

In 1996, the falconers of the Comunidad de Cantabria together with the Police and the Wildlife Service arrested a man who was robbing falcons' nests. The man is a member of no falconry association.

Nature Conservation

Raptor populations of Spain keep increasing steadily, except the Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus aureus*) and the Lesser Kestrel (*Falco Naumanni*), which remain stable.

The Lesser Kestrel meets difficulties in breeding due to the large increase of Jackdaws (*Corvus monedula*) that invade breeding places and drive the falcons away from their nests.

B . NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

alphabetic order

ARGENTINA

The interests of falconry are represented by the **Asociacion Argentina de Cetreria**. Its president is Sr. Daniel Abarquero. They have some 25 members. The association has been founded in 1991 and has received the official recognition of the Government in 1996.

The Province of Buenos Aires is the only one among the 26 provinces that has a legislation specifically on falconry. The other laws are simply silent about falconry.

The association has been granted a quota for their members of 30 raptors that may be taken from the wild, the birds must be trapped, no eyasses may be taken. They may take Harris Hawks, Aplomado Falcons, Peregrines and maybe other ones. The official authorities have put at the disposal of the falconers' association a piece of land of 6 Ha in a natural park to be used for rehabilitation of birds of prey aiming at releasing them back to the wild. The birds that cannot be released would be used for breeding.

BYELORUSSIA

Christian de Coune has been elected honorary member of the West Byelorussian Society for the Protection of Birds. I think it is not often that a falconer is appointed honorary member of a bird conservation organisation. As you know, the IAF is funding a joint project with the West Byelorussian Society for the Protection of Birds named "RAPTORS OF BELARUS - ENTERING INTO NEW CENTURY"

This joint project is now entering into its third year. This project has proven to be of great scientific value. The project has been widely advertised in Byelorussia and is getting known outside its boundaries. It is very important for falconry and to the IAF in particular to be involved in conservation activities. The funding of the Project depends only on the generosity of our members.

I shall very soon publish a booklet on the impact of the Project. THE NAME OF THE DONORS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN IT. Please fill in the attached form for your donations, do it quickly so that I can publish your names. Attachment 7 TAKE YOUR CREDIT CARD

AND
FILL IN THE ATTACHED ORDER FORM
and send it back to me. Thank you.

KAZAKHSTAN

IAF-funded research on raptors at NAURSUM Reserve in 1996
Drs. R.E. Kenward & Y.Y.A. Bragin
The funding arranged through IAF by Cees de Bruin was crucial for supporting a 4th year of work on saker falcons and imperial eagles at Naursum Nature Reserve, northern Kazakhstan, during 1996. It provided 31% of the costs of the work. During March-May 1996, Dr. Yevgeny Bragin listened daily for the two-year radio-tags on sakers returning to the reserve after migration. He detected 3 (20%) of the 15 tagged as nestlings in 1995, and 2 of the 23 tagged in 1994. One of the 1994 falcons had not been detected in 1995, so the minimum first-year survival for that year is now 26% or 23% overall. This 3rd year of records gives confidence in the 22% survival used in a preliminary model and confirms that the very high saker productivity can compensate for a low proportion living free after their first year of life. However, the question remains of what happens to the other 77%

of young birds : what proportion die on migration, or are trapped, or are free-living elsewhere?

During May and June, Yevgeny found 14 nests occupied by saker falcons. Two of the nests were robbed of their young, but a total of 42 young fledged from the remaining 12 nests, an average of 3.0 per brood, comparable with the 2.4-3.8 per brood during 1993 to 1995. The young were ringed and marked with micro-transponders, had blood and feather samples collected from them, but were not radio-tagged this year.

In early July, Ben Kenward travelled to Kazakhstan. He took with him a Global Positioning System to record the exact coordinates of all the nests used in 1993-6, both so that breeding density can be estimated and to check which are likely alternative nests of the same pair. This should enable Prof. Michael Wink at Heidelberg University to use blood samples of young falcons to see which sites changed a parent between years, and thus estimate minimum adult survival. Ben also took with him a Psion Palm-top computer and printer, with his own software for recording radio-tag locations installed, and trained Yevgeny to use the wordprocessor for future reports and the database for recording all the details of nests and young falcons.

In August, Yevgeny marked 8 young imperial eagles with new 5-year back-pack tags. All these young survived to independence, and brought to 18 the number tagged at Naursum. He will continue to track and record survival of these migratory eagles that provide so many of the nests also used by saker falcons.

Liaison continued with Drs. Anatoli Levin & Anatoli Kovshar to tabulate saker falcon breeding data in the comparative study areas established near Almaty in southern Kazakhstan. As shown in the table, no young fledged from the 21 nests checked in 1996, and only 1 of 7 nests produced young in the area nearby.

SAKER FALCON BREEDING SUCCESS DURING 1993-95 IN KAZAKHSTAN
Northern Study area

	Number of nests				Fledged young/area	
	checked	occupied	robbed	successful	succ.nest	occ. nest
1993	18	16	1	15	4.1	3.8
1994	18	16	0	12	3.2	2.4
1995	18	17	0	15	3.7	3.3
1996	18	14	2	12	3.5	3.0

Southern study area

	Number of nests				Fledged young/area	
	Checked	occupied	robbed	successful	succ.nest	occ. nest
1993	21	14	7	6	4.2	1.8
1994	22	10	5	4	2.0	0.8
1995	22	8	6	2	3.5	0.9
1996	21	3	3	0	0	0

The further outcome of this continued fieldwork was to enable IAF's involvement in a WWF International workshop at the RRF meeting in Urbino, Italy, that established a working group to promote sustainable use of the saker falcon. At least, the existence of this working group should reduce risk of an international outcry about trapping of sakers for falconry. At

best, it will lead to a stewardship system that could pioneer falconry's conservation role in the next century, using microtransponders as trapping permits and passports in a simple paperless control system that allows falconers to monitor the health of raptor populations.
This fieldwork is continuing in 1997

POLAND

I am sorry to have to announce you the death of Czeslaw Sielicki, who deceased on 25th November. He may be considered as the father of modern Polish falconry. He was one of the first who revived falconry in Poland and was one of the three founder members of the association of Polish falconers. He bred Peregrines and released them to the wild.

We present our sincere sympathy to his son Janusz, to his family and to the Association of Polish Falconers.

Falconry has been given a legal status in 1996. There is currently a draft law on animal welfare. The antis try to make use of that draft law to prohibit falconry. Most probably, no decision would be taken before the election, in which case the issue would be postponed by at least a year or two.

The fact to be authorised by the law on hunting, gives to falconry some guarantee for its survival.

A pair of Peregrines has been seen copulating right in the centre of Warsaw, one may then expect that they will breed for the first time in the capital.

C. INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

BENELUX

As you know, Benelux consists of Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg.

There is a Benelux Convention on Bird Conservation and Hunting. The implementation measures are taken by the Committee of the Ministers (the three ministers of foreign affairs).

The Convention is completely silent about falconry. We have been living for 25 years thanks to that silence. Nonetheless the three governments had to take a common decision on the different hunting methods. After more than a decade of discussions, the Decision of the Committee of the Ministers has been taken.

The use of birds of prey without any other details is designated as a lawful hunting method in The Netherlands and Belgium and so is the use of horses and a pack of hounds. The use of a bow and arrow has been rejected for rather inconsistent reasons.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

I hoped that the Recommendation on the introduction of non-native organisms into the Environment would be adapted at the meeting of December 1996. The draft said that the resolution should not affect falconry. It should be adopted at the end of this year.

The Council of Europe publishes an excellent magazine :NATUROPA.

I reproduce an abstract of its last issue, Attachement 1 . Falconry is dealt with on a very favourable way.
Thank you Council of Europe, thank you FACE, thank you Karin Meine!

CITES

The 10th Conference of the Parties will take place in Harare (Zimbabwe) on 9-20 June.

You may remember that at the 9th COP in '94, I addressed the problem of frequent border crossings by falconers, the CITES Secretariat took an official position saying that falconry birds could be exempted from formalities.

After several consultations, I drafted a text of a resolution on "frequent trans-border movements for falconry purposes". This text was taken over by Switzerland and proposed to the Animals' Committee, who modified it quite thoroughly and approved it at its meeting in the Czech Republic, 23-27 September '96. Tony Crosswell (BFC), Frank Bond (NAFA) and myself attended the meeting of the AC.

The approved text has been officially proposed by Switzerland and will hopefully be adopted in Harare.

Tim Kimmel, Frank Bond (NAFA), Tony Crosswell (BFC), a delegate from the Zimbabwe Falconers' Club (Arthur Dunkley) and myself should form a good team.

The proposal must obtain 2/3 of the 140+ Parties.

A big challenge!

The text of the proposal is attached. Attachement 2

I ASK YOU

Contact the Management Authority of your country (i.e. your CITES Administration) to convince them to vote in favour of the Swiss proposal for a resolution of the Conference of the Parties to the CITES on "Frequent trans-border movements of personally owned live animals".

Besides the good ideas that would come to you after reading the text, I would recommend to stress a few points of the draft :

TEN GOOD REASONS TO VOTE IN FAVOUR OF
THE SWISS PROPOSAL

1. The text has been approved by the Animals' Committee of the CITES after long and in-depth discussions. They cannot all be wrong. Usually the Conference of the Parties adopt proposals that have been approved by the AC.

2. At a meeting of the Standing Committee of CITES, the draft that was approved by the AC has been reviewed and minor editorial amendments have been made.

If two of the main bodies of the CITES have approved that text, it would be logical that the attitude of the Conference of the Parties would not be much different.

3. At the last Conference of the Parties in Florida in Nov. '94, the problem of frequent border-crossings of the falconer going on a hunting trip with his bird(s) had been raised. The secretariat made the following declaration :

"...falconers and their birds making cross-border journeys of "short duration. The Secretariat pointed out that it had "contacted the International Association for Falconry and "Conservation of Birds of Prey to clarify this particular issue "and that in such cases the animals could be exempt under the "terms of paragraph 3 of Article VII of the Convention."

(Com.II 9.2 p.3-4)

The Secretariat declared farther that :

"The exemption under the provision for personal effects under "Article VII, paragraph 3, of the Convention may apply in "certain cases to movements between countries of birds of prey "owned by falconers." (Doc.9.22 p.8)

In other words, the least one can say is that the Secretariat appears not to be against a more flexible system for travelling falconers.

4. Falconers do not ask for a total exemption, they ask a more flexible system : something like a "falconers' passport" that would be issued on a very strictly controlled basis, but that would grant a very flexible system; in other words :
"very difficult to get but very easy to use"

5. In the European Union, hunters have a "European Firearm Pass" (see attached abstract of Directive 91/477/EEC). Attachment 3 The hawk is to the falconer what the gun is to the hunter. If a hunter may travel freely with a firearm, why not a falconer with a falcon?

6 Statistics of trans-border movements based on CITES formalities and published by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of Cambridge are used to illustrate the level of demand for falconry birds on the international market.

Those statistics should not be used for that purpose because they may include multiple border crossings of the same bird.

For example a Czech falconer going for hunting with his hawk to Germany and comes back home just after; he will appear in the statistics as having :

. exported a bird from Czech Republic

. imported a bird into Germany
and a few days later,

. exported a bird from Germany

. imported a bird into the Czech Republic.

Only one bird is involved, it has remained the ownership of the same person, but it appears four times in the statistics.

With the proposed system none of these movements would appear in the trade statistics, as a consequence, these statistics will reflect more faithfully the actual demand on the international market.

Some years ago, Traffic International had made a study on international trade in birds of prey. They used the said statistics and came, amongst others, to the conclusion that Italy was the main supplier and the main importing country for Gyrfalcons. The explanation was that one falconer used to travel quite often abroad with his two gyrfalcons for hunting. In the same study, Traffic International, summed all border crossings, multiplied them by a sum of x Dollars and came to the conclusion that the international trade in birds of prey represented a turnover of millions of Dollars.

These statistics need to be cleaned, the Swiss proposal will definitely help in that.

7. At the CITES Conference of 1994 in Florida, the Secretariat had presented a "Review of alleged infractions and other problems of implementation of the Convention"

Most of the alleged infractions appeared to consist in falconers going abroad for hunting without completing all the required formalities when crossing the borders.

The Secretariat commented some of these alleged infractions as follows : "Most probably these exports (or re-exports) refer to birds carried by falconers during their hunting trips" (Doc.9.22, p.42).

With the proposed system, such infractions of purely administrative nature would disappear.

8. According to its preamble, the CITES Convention aims at :
"...the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora "against over-exploitation through international trade..."

The border-crossing of a falconer carrying his bird during his hunting trip is by no ways an "over-exploitation through international trade". It is no trade at all, there is not even a change of ownership of the bird.

9. Imposing heavy formalities to inconsequential actions diverts Management Authorities' administrative resources that should rather be directed towards more important tasks related to over-exploitation through international trade.

10. Directing its administrative resource towards inconsequential actions providing no gain to nature conservation harms the reputation of CITES and impoverishes its credit.

FIVE BAD REASONS FOR VOTING AGAINST
THE SWISS PROPOSAL

1. It is going to be one more document to be issued!
Reply : how many export and import documents would be issued if the Swiss System would not exist? Many more. With the Swiss system only one in three years.

2. Why all that! just for falconers?
Reply : it is not only for falconers but for a "variety of legitimate purposes, including but not limited to falconry"

3. It is going to cover illegal birds?
Reply : the Management Authority must be satisfied that the animal is legally owned by the applicant and has not been acquired in contravention of the provision of the Convention (c). The Management will not issue a Certificate of Ownership if the bird is of illegal or dubious origin.

4. It is going to favour the illegal trade!
Reply : Ask to explain how this would happen... Ask what data they have on alleged falconry-related traffic (they have certainly nothing).
The document is a certificate of ownership (b), it is then valid only for the holder,
if the holder relinquishes the ownership of the animal or if it is no longer the possession of the owner, the certificate must be returned (e,l),
the owner shall not sell or otherwise transfer the animal when travelling abroad (n).
In other words the Certificate of Ownership is valid only for one holder, he can not give the bird with the Certificate.

5. You can pass three hundred birds with one Certificate!
Reply : The animal must be "securely marked" (j), the certificate can then only be used for that particular animal and for no other one.
The Certificate of Ownership is valid only for a particular animal "securely marked", accompanied by the owner "when a live animal...is no longer the possession of the owner...immediately returned...". Such an animal is really personal "the owner shall not transfer" it.
The risk of misusing the "Swiss System" for smuggling birds is, for those reasons, negligible; furthermore, falconers do not need to smuggle birds :
The Review of alleged infractions proposed by the Secretariat to the 9th Conference of the Parties revealed only a very small number of cases of smuggling birds of prey (Doc.9.22 pp.39-44). Falconry does not need illegal birds, the legal sources are sufficient, safe and easy to have access to.

Why smuggling what you can get legally and easily?
Official figures show that in 1995, 526 falcons have been bred in captivity in Great-Britain, out of which, 256 Peregrine Falcons. In Great-Britain, in 1996, officials made random DNA tests with raptor breeders, 100% of the young tested proven to be truly bred from their parents. Legal sources are sufficient.

Falconers do not need smuggling
they need lighter bureaucracy

CITES : downlisting the Gyrfalcon.

The Government of the USA had made a proposal to be discussed at the Conference of the Parties in Harare aiming at downlisting the North-American population of Gyrfalcons from Appendix I to Appendix II . Some Scandinavian and West-European countries have put pressure on the US Government asking to withdraw the already filed proposal. Result : the Americans have withdrawn their proposal.

NAFA and Tom Cade has done a lot of work to prepare the scientific arguments in favour of the downlisting; just for nothing, or for... the next time.
Twelve years ago, I fought hard in Buenos Aires for the same downlisting, but lost by just one vote.

EUROPEAN UNION

THE EURO-CITES REGULATION.

The saga of the "Euro-CITES" has at long last come to an end!
This very important issue has caused the IAF a enormous amount of work : I opened the file by a visit to the European Commission in September 1990, the file now weighs 15 kg! it contains amongst other papers, 24 circulars to our members.
I am sorry to say that the result is not in proportion with my expectations.

The "Euro-CITES" is in fact a much stricter measure compared to the CITES itself, it contains unnecessary administrative burdens. Nonetheless, as we shall see hereafter, it must be possible to live with it.

The Regulation and its Implementation Regulation will come into force on

1st June 1997

I have summarised in the attached table (Attachement 4) the formalities to be completed for the introduction and exportation to and from the EU from and to non EU-Countries.

I recommend strongly
recommend to your members that if they intended to import birds of prey from outside the EU to do it
before the 1st June

After that date it will still be possible to import birds of prey but it is to be expected that it will be more difficult.

Some important aspects of the "Regulation on the Protection of Species of wild Fauna and Flora by regulating Trade therein" N° 338/97 of 9th December 1996,
Official Journal L 61 of 3rd March

ANNEXES

The previous Regulation (3626/82) had included all birds of prey in Annex C1.

Regulation 338/97 has listed in Annex A "only" all the European species of birds of prey (even the commonest ones!) plus the species included in Appendix I of CITES (there are few), the other ones are in Annex B.

specimens of Annex A species that are bred in captivity are treated as Annex B species (with an exception). Captive bred specimens of Annex B species are treated as ... Annex B. There are far too many species listed in Annex A, many of them are common species. Once in Annex A, a species can no longer be downlisted from it! It has been in vain that I have protested against the listing of common species in Annex A.

FREE MOVEMENT

This has been of great concern to me. Article 9 states :

- "Any movement within the Community of a live specimen of a
- "species listed in Annex A from the location indicated in
- "the import permit or in any certificate issued in compliance
- "with this Regulation shall require prior authorization.

I've spent days in the European Parliament, 8 amendments to that article have been proposed to meet our concerns. They have all been repelled by purely political votes.

I reproduce hereafter the position adopted by the Commission on that issue :

~~DRAFT~~ REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION N° 1853-96
BY MRS MUSCARDINI

Subject : Falconry

The Commission should like to point out that Article 9(1) of the Regulation concerned only requires prior authorization for the movement from a prescribed address where imported wild-collected live animals of Annex A species are involved.

Imports of wild-collected live birds of prey of Annex A species are subject to conditions that are not likely to be met where the import is for the purpose of falconry. As a result, the use of birds of prey for falconry will be limited to animals that are either collected from the wild in a Member State in accordance with Directive 79/409/EEC, or bred in captivity, or of an Annex B species. In none of these cases an authorization to move the animals is required so that the suggested amendment to Article 9(3) is not necessary.

French version : Attachement 5

The position of the Commission is clear : no prior authorisation is required for :

- Annex A birds . collected from the wild in the EU
- or . captive bred
- Annex B birds.

Prior authorisation is only required if :

- movement from the "prescribed address" and
- birds are . annex A species and . collected from the wild and . imported (from non-EU countries)

The representative of the Commission has assured me that if there is no "prescribed address" on the import permit, no prior authorisation would be required.

The problem is that the last-but-one version of the Implementation Regulation made it compulsory to indicate an address on the import permit. I drew the attention of the Commission on that point and the last version that has been definitively adopted of article 9.1 does not make it compulsory anymore to complete box 5 of the original import permit, in other words no need to mention the "prescribed address" on the import permit.

The explanation that has been given to me by the Representative of the Commission is that there is a need for a "prescribed address" only for animals that require very special conditions of captivity. He gave me the example of a Dolphin, that may obviously not be kept anywhere. He told me that such a need doesn't exist for a bird of prey.

Make sure that your Management Authority applies the possibility of not mentioning the "prescribed address". Do not hesitate to make use of the above comments : they come from the Commission itself, it is not an invention of mine.

BAN ON SALE

This was also of a great concern to me.

Article 7,1(a) states :

- "Save where Article 8 applies, specimens of species listed
- "in Annex A that have been born and bred in captivity or
- "artificially propagated shall be treated in accordance
- "with the provisions applicable to specimens of species
- "listed in Annex B."

What says Article 8?

Article 8.1. states :

- "The purchase, offer to purchase, acquisition for commercial
- "purposes, display to the public for commercial purposes, use
- "for commercial gain and sale, keeping for sale, offering for
- "sale or transporting for sale of specimens of the species
- "listed in Annex A shall be prohibited."

In other words a captive bred hawk could not be sold nor purchased!

Article 8,3. states :

- "Exemption from the prohibition referred to in paragraph 1 may
- "be granted ... on a case by case basis where ... the specimens
- ".... are captive-born and bred ... "

Needless to say that this case by case exemption would have entailed a huge bureaucracy or would have simply been paralysed.

The use of wild birds of prey for falconry is made difficult and selling captive bred hawks would have been exceedingly complicated; again a nightmare for falconers!

The solution that the Commission has found and that has been adopted is the following :

Article 27,6 and 27,7 of the Implementation Regulation state :
"6. The prohibitions of Article 8(1) of Regulation 338/97 and the provision of its article 8(3) shall not apply to :
" (a) live specimens of captive born and bred animals of the species listed in Annex 8....;
" (b) live specimens of captive born and bred animals that are marked in accordance with Article 30(1)... ;
"7. For the purposes of Article 8(3) of Council Regulation 338/97 and paragraph 6(b) of this Article, a Member State may make pre-issued certificates available to breeders approved for that purpose....".

The Commission had proposed to include in the Annex 8 referred to in above mentioned Article 27.6(a) a list of the ten bird of prey most of them being frequently used for falconry. The Member-States have rejected all the birds of prey from Annex 8! My belief is that that decision has been influenced by a misleading report made by a member of the Swedish Museum of Natural History, in which all the species of birds of prey of the said Annex 8 were said to be "currently listed by CITES, IUCN or BirdLife International as globally threatened...". In fact, not one of the bird of prey species of that Annex 8 are listed as globally threatened (Goshawks, Sparrowhawks, Kestrels, etc...!!). A biased use of CITES trade statistics, irrelevant facts and wild claims were among the ingredients of that document. I raised a strong protest against that document with the Commission.

Make sure that your Management Authority grant the above mentioned "pre-issued certificates" at least to the breeder members of your club.

THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES.
The CJE has made a decision, which might be annoying to us.

Case C-10/96

Free and tentative translation by C. de Coune :

- 1) Directive 79/409 on the conservation of wild birds, article 9.1.c must be interpreted in the sense that a Member State may not authorise on a degressive and time limited basis, the capture of some protected species, in order to enable hobbyists to supply their aviaries, whereas captive breeding and rearing of those species are possible, but are not yet feasible on a large scale in view of the fact that numerous hobbyists would therefore be forced to modify their facilities and their habits.
- 2) The national authorities, on basis of article 9.1.c of Directive 79/409, are authorised to allow the capture of protected species in order to prevent, in bird breeding

stations for recreational purposes, the draw-back of inbreeding resulting from too numerous endogamic crossings, provided there is no other satisfactory solution, being understood that the number of specimens that may be captured be fixed at the level that is objectively necessary to remedy those draw-backs, subject anyway to the respect of the limit of "small numbers" in the sense of the said Directive.

The Court admits that the capture of protected species for recreational purposes may be considered as a "judicious use" in the sense of Article 9 of the Directive.
But the reasoning of the Court is that captive breeding may be considered as an "other satisfactory solution" in the sense of the Directive, even so if captive breeding of the species concerned cannot yet be carried out on a large scale.

As you know, the Directive allows only to derogate from the protection measures "where there is no other satisfactory solution".

This Decision of the Court deserves certainly to be analysed in more details.

We are certainly not short of arguments in favour of the use of birds of prey taken from the wild.

It would be very useful to exchange our views on the issue.

I ask you : Please let me know your opinion on that subject. It might be wise to ask your lawyer what he thinks.

We must prepare ourselves to argue on this Decision, taken by the Court of Justice.

D. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

IUCN

The fact that the IAF has been admitted as a member of the IUCN is very important. You should miss no opportunity to tell it to people as an argument in favour of the fact that falconers are also conservationists.

The IUCN does not admit anybody!

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) had applied for membership in the IUCN in 1994. The application was rejected almost unanimously. In October 1996, they appealed against that rejection. The IUCN confirmed its refusal; less than 1/4 of the representatives of governments and less than 1/3 of non-governmental organisations did support IFAW's application.

The IFAW had made a very active campaign to be admitted!

They may apply again in five years.

IFAW is a typical example of an "anti-use" organisation with very

arge financial means.

his refusal enhances the merit of the IAF to have been admitted
the first attempt, without any lobbying of any sort.

E. MISCELLANEOUS

ILM PRODUCTION

received a letter from a film production company called WALLEYE
roductions Inc.

their letters are reproduced hereafter. Attachement 6

told them that we could at the very least help them when need
arises, by giving them advices concerning birds of prey, their
conservation status, conservation activities, threats and
potential solutions.

If you are interested, I suggest you to get in touch directly
with them.

Don't forget to ask them to credit your association and the IAF
if anything materializes thanks to you.

If something comes out, please let me know.

INTERNET

This new means of communication will certainly become The media
of the XX1st Century.

E-mail is a very conventient application of it : easy, quick and
cheap. I cannot but recommend you to make use of it.

INTERNET is also a means of circulating informations.

Falconry is not an exception to it. Several of our members are
"on the Net".

I would like to submit the following to your thoughts and
probably open the discussion at our next General Meeting on it

Article V of our Code of Conduct states :

"falconers should consider crafually before they give interviews
"to the press, television or sound broad-casting interests, or
"before they provide written material for publishing or take
"part in films or plays or give lectures. They should remember
"that any of these can later be altered so as to show falconry
"in an unfavourable light and they should consult their
"national association before reaching a decision. IAF does not
"approve of any sort of publicity with the sole purpose of
"making financial profit."

When our Code of Conduct has been drafted, there were no personal
computers of any kind nor, of course, INTERNET, at least at the
disposal of the public, except in science-fiction films.

It seems to me that some parts of our code apply to Internet
sites. Please let me know what you think about it.

INFORMATION TO YOUR MEMBERS

Do your members know about IAF's activities?

Please don't forget to report in your publications about IAF's
work.

FALCONERS'INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

In the same way as each member of a falconry association must
refrain from doing something that may harm the interests of the
other members, the falconers' clubs members of the IAF should
think twice before taking important political decisions, that
could bother the other member-clubs.

At our General Meeting 1996, I had proposed the text of a
Resolution. That document had not been circulated among the
members long enough before the meeting, it was then decided to
postpone the discussion on it until the next General Meeting.

I reproduce hereafter the text of that Resolution. I ask you to
meditate on it and to let me know your comments. I'll put it on
the agenda of our next meeting.

RESOLUTION

1/96

CONSIDERING that the necessary solidarity of the falconers apply
not only to individual falconers, but also to their associations;

AWARE of the fact that any action of an individual falconer, can
have an impact on other falconers;

AWARE of the fact that the action of a falconers' association,
is likely to have an impact on other falconers' associations;

AWARE of the fact that any legislation on falconry, is likely to
have an impact on the legislations of other countries;

RECOGNISING that all associations, member of the IAF are subject
to mutual obligations;

the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of

Birds of Prey gathered for its General Meeting at Freising (Germany) on the 23rd October 1996

ASKS its members not to adopt policies or make official statements that might be contrary to the interests or practices of other falconers' associations without first consulting IAF.

Such consultation should consist of a written statement sent to the President of IAF.

The President should send it without delay to the National delegates of IAF and request them to send him their comments [before a stated deadline] [within three weeks from the date of his letter].

He will then consult the Advisory Committee, and inform them of the position.

The Advisory committee may decide within the shortest possible time to hold a meeting and/or to advise the President to make a mandatory recommendation to the member association and/or to submit the case to the next General Meeting.

The President and the Advisory Committee will keep in mind that delaying their decision may be detrimental to the interests of the member association concerned and will make every effort in order to notify their decision within the best possible term.

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*

FIRST NORDIC WORKSHOP ON GYRFALCON

14-15 March
Ann (Jämtland) Sweden

This first conference devoted to the Gyrfalcon gathered over 100 participants from Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Russia, USA, etc...

The conference was held in a very beautiful region, covered with deep snow, we were right in Snowmobil-, Bear- and Gyrfalcon-country.

Tom Cade gave a very interesting paper on the Gyrfalcon in Alaska. The Gyr population fluctuates not only because of the Grouse population but also as a consequence of meteorological circumstances. In his study area the peregrine population has doubled since 1952 (before the pesticide era), it is not clear what caused this increase.

I learned amongst other things that the Gyr population amounts to about 400 pairs in Iceland, 30-40 pairs in Finland, 300-500 in Norway and 30-130 in Sweden, the figure of 17,000 pairs in former USSR has been quoted but not confirmed.

Willow Grouses are the main prey of the Gyrfalcon in Fenno-Scandia and Ptarmigan in Iceland. That bird may account for 75-80% of the Gyr's diet.

Even climatic changes have been addressed : glaciers are retreating in Scandinavia as well as in Alaska due to the warming of the climate. As a consequence, there may be dramatic changes in the distribution of trees causing a population explosion of some insects resulting in defoliation of trees which affects some rodents and may have long term impact on raptor populations.

I expected that falconry would be the target of severe attacks due to the fact that a German citizen was at that time appearing in the Court in South Germany under the charge of illegally taking of 30 Gyrfalcons and 20 Golden Eagles, probably from Norway.

I felt that it would be useful to address the meeting to explain to them what falconry is and is not and to try and correct probable prejudices.

I am very grateful to Peter Lindberg who accepted me as a last minute speaker. I spoke on the first and on the second day.

As a conclusion of my presentation, I proposed to the meeting to adopt a recommendation, that I had drafted, which would be sent to some Governments asking them to make random DNA test at randomly chosen raptor breeding centres.

After active discussions of which I understood nothing because it was in Swedish, they decided that both the Swedish and the Norwegian ornithological societies (Sveriges Ornitologiska Förening and Norsk Ornitologisk Forening) would take over my text as I proposed it and send it to the governments of some countries as well as to the European authorities.

I reproduce hereafter the text of my Recommendation.

*
* *

I am happy to say that I met with a very friendly attitude of the participants, with whom I had the opportunity of exchanging views on many subjects including, of course, falconry.

Once again, I came back with the feeling that it is worthwhile to participate in such workshops and conferences and to open straightforward discussions on falconry.

We have nothing to hide, but we have a lot to say.

RECOMMENDATION

CONSIDERING THAT :

illegally captured birds of prey are said to enter international trade;

captive breeding operations are said to be used to introduce illegally captured birds of prey into international trade;

DNA-Fingerprinting is currently the most reliable technique to ascertain the parentage of offspring and parents;

applying that technique would act as a deterrent to those who would consider introducing illegally captured birds into trade through captive breeding operations;

testing a limited number of birds designated on a random basis would act as such a deterrent;

THEREFORE BE IT RECOMMENDED TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

1.- to use the technique of DNA-Fingerprinting on a random basis to operations of captive breeding of birds of prey in order to establish the relationship of the offspring with their alleged parents;

and

2.- to apply the most severe penalties in cases of fraud.

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* *
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Naturopa

N° 82-1996

The contribution of hunters In retrospect

Karin Melne

The reintroduction of species is often regarded as one of the most successful but costly methods of ensuring their direct conservation. Operations of this kind are designed to reinforce existing populations and recolonise areas where the species in question has become extinct. The success of reintroduction depends on various factors. Local hunters and hunters' associations play an important role, participating in releases and in observation and monitoring; they are partners in and sometimes even initiators of species reintroduction measures, whether or not these concern protected species.

Peregrine falcon

The reintroduction of the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) in various regions in Germany is an example of a successful operation, thanks to the joint efforts of nature conservationists, ornithologists, falconers and hunters. Reintroduction was necessary to halt the decline of the species which had occurred since the 1950s and was principally caused by the use of chemicals in agriculture. The total population of peregrine falcons fell from 415 pairs in 1950 to some 75 pairs in 1968-69, to be found in Baden-Württemberg (35 pairs), Bavaria (25 pairs) and the Rhineland-Palatinate, Hesse and Westphalia (a few pairs). A working group for the protection of the peregrine falcon was set up in 1965 in Baden-Württemberg to determine the exact causes of their decline. It implemented in particular an information and area monitoring programme which protected existing peregrine falcon areas and prevented further disappearances (during the period of incubation and raising of the young). Other programmes were necessary, however, to preserve the existing population and encourage recolonisation. The members of the German Order of Falconers launched a reintroduction project in 1977. In only 15 years, 685 young falcons were reared in captivity; 292 of them were released between 1977 and 1986, mainly in the north of Bavaria and Hesse. This successful reintroduction operation (85% of the young falcons released became independent)

brought the total number of pairs in Germany up to 140 (in 1986). Given that the mortality rate of birds in the wild is 60% in the first year and 25% in the following years, and that sexual maturity is reached in the second year, it is estimated that of the total of 533 peregrine falcons released up to 1991, some fifty adult falcons survived in the wild.

In recent years, environmental pollution by chemicals (DDT, HCB) decreased in Germany as a result of a ban on their use in 1974 and 1977 respectively. However, there is no doubt that without the reintroduction carried out by the German Order of Falconers, the critical situation this species was in would not have improved by itself.

Alpine ibex

The reintroduction project for the Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex*) in Switzerland was also successful.

As a result of excessive hunting, particularly in the Middle Ages, the Alpine ibex had almost completely disappeared from the Alps. However, a small population had been preserved in the Italian Alps (in Gran Paradiso) owing to the passion of the kings of Italy for hunting. Numerous groups interested in the conservation of indigenous fauna decided to reintroduce the ibex to Switzerland. The first attempts, made by hunters in the 19th century, ended in failure; it was only in 1906, when genuine young ibexes were smuggled from Gran Paradiso to Switzerland, that breeding could begin, enabling a number of releases to take place at a later stage. In 1911, five ibexes were released in the Oberland of St Gallen and the reintroduction operations which subsequently took place extended the habitat of the ibex to all the Swiss Alps. The relatively slow development of the total population before 1960 (approximately 1 500 specimens) speeded up considerably (some 10 000 specimens at the end of the 1970s); in 1996 the total population is estimated at approximately 16 000 ibexes. This success of breeding and of reintroduction operations even caused problems in some release areas, where damage was

done to forest nurseries. Initially, animals were captured to restrict such damage, but this did not succeed in reducing populations. It was therefore decided to stabilise or reduce populations by selective hunting, so that in 1976 permission was given to hunt six colonies comprising a total of 300 specimens.

In view of the current situation (the number of ibexes in the Alpine countries was estimated at between 24 000 and 28 000 in 1991), it can safely be said that reintroduction operations have succeeded in making the Alpine ibex an indigenous species once again in Switzerland, thanks to the support of a large number of associations and individuals working for the conservation of the species and in the collaboration of the Federal State, cantons and hunters' and nature conservation organisations. The development of populations in certain colonised areas has been such a success that it has become necessary to authorise controlled hunting.

The ibex has also been successfully reintroduced into Austria, with the help of hunters and hunting associations, and into Germany and France, where it is not yet permitted to hunt this species. ■

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Tenth Meeting of the Animals Committee

Harare (Zimbabwe), 9 to 20 June 1997

FREQUENT TRANSBORDER MOVEMENT OF PERSONALLY OWNED LIVE ANIMALS

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONVERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Implementation of Article VII, Paragraph 3, with respect to the Frequent Transborder Movement of Live Animals

RECALLING that Article VII, paragraph 3, of the Convention provides that, other than in certain circumstances, the provision of Articles III, IV and V shall not apply to specimens that are personal or household effects;

RECOGNIZING that because the Convention does not define the terms, „personal or household effects“, in Article VII, paragraph 3, these terms may be interpreted by the Parties in different ways;

NOTING that Resolution Conf. 4.12, adopted at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Barbarone, 1983), defines „personal or household effects“ as not applying to tourist souvenir specimens acquired outside the owner's usual State of residence;

NOTING FURTHER that Resolution Conf. 8.13, adopted at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Koyoto, 1992) recognises the use of coded micro chip implants for marking live animals of Appendix I species in trade without excluding the use of other appropriate methods;

CONSIDERING that live animals of species listed in the Appendices to the Convention are often involved in frequent movement across international borders for a variety of legitimate purposes, including but not limited to companion or competition animals, household effects, or falconry purposes;

CONSIDERING that the repeated grant of permits and certificates under the Articles III, IV, V, or VI of the Convention to live animals which undergo frequent movement across international borders poses problems of a technical and administrative nature and that such movement needs to be monitored closely to prevent illegal activities;

DESIRING that exemptions provided by the Convention not be used to avoid the necessary measures for the control of international trade in live animals of species listed in the Appendices to the Convention;

RECOGNIZING that Article XIV, sub-paragraph 1(a), of the Convention provides that the provision of the present Convention shall in no way affect the right of Parties to adopt stricter domestic measures regarding the conditions of trade, taking, possession or transport of specimens of species included in Appendices I, II or III, or the complete prohibition thereof;

RECOMMENDS

- a) that the terms „personal or household effects“ in Article VII, paragraph 3, include personally owned live animals which are based and registered in the owner's State of usual residence;
- b) that any Party may issue to an owner of a legally acquired personally owned live animal residing in its State and registered with the Management Authority of the State of residence and wishing to travel to other States, a certificate of ownership for each live animal travelling to another State as person or household effects.
- c) That a Management Authority shall not issue a certificate of ownership for a live animal of a species listed in the Appendices to the Convention, which is a personal or household effect, unless it is satisfied that the live animal is legally owned by the applicant, and the animal has not been acquired in contravention of the provision of the Convention;
- d) that any Management Authority shall have the option of issuing a certificate with more than one live animal identified in the certificate of ownership; and that the Management Authority shall require the applicant for a certificate of ownership to provide pertinent data regarding the live animal, including the species, sex, marker number or other identification, and name and address of owner;
- e) that the certificate issued in accordance with paragraph b) above should include in box 5, or in another box if the standard permit form referred to the Resolution 9.3 is not used, the following language: „The specimen covered by this certificate which permits multiple transborder movements is owned for personal non-commercial use and may not be transported for commercial purposes. If the certificate holder relinquishes ownership of the live animal, the certificate must be immediately returned to the issuing Management Authority.“
- f) that certificates of ownership issued for live animals as personal or household effects be valid for a maximum period of three years to allow multiple imports, exports and re-exports of the individual live animal;
- g) that Parties consider such certificates of ownership as proof that the live animal concerned has been registered with the issuing Management Authority and allow the movement of such live animal across their borders upon presentation of the original certificate or a true copy as described in subparagraph m) below in the case of a lost certificate of ownership;
- h) that Parties not collect the above-mentioned certificates at their borders but allow the original documents to remain with the live animals and be considered valid for multiple border crossings (export and/or re-export) from each State;
- i) that relevant Parties inspect such live animal specimens to ensure that the live animals are transported and cared for in a manner that minimises the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment;
- j) that relevant Parties require that live animals which are personal or household effects be securely marked or otherwise appropriately identified in such a way that the authorities of the State into which a live animal enters can verify that the certificate of ownership corresponds to the live animal in question;
- k) that when, during a stay in another State, a live animal travelling under a certificate of ownership produces progeny, the holder of the certificate of ownership must comply with the requirements of Articles III, IV or V to export and import such progeny from the State where the progeny was produced to his usual State of residence. For progeny produced from specimens travelling under a certificate of ownership, a certificate of ownership may be issued for such progeny when such progeny assumes the parent's State of residence;
- l) that when a live animal, that is the subject of a certificate of ownership issued pursuant to this Resolution, is no longer the possession of the owner (escape, death, sale, theft, etc.), the original certificate of ownership shall be immediately returned to the issuing Management Authority;
- m) that when, during a stay in another State, a certificate of ownership for a live animal is lost, stolen, or accidentally destroyed, only the Management Authority which has issued the document may issue a duplicate. This duplicate will bear the same number, if possible, the same date of validity as the original document, a new issuance date, and contain the following statement: „This certificate is a true copy of the original;“ and
- n) that the owner shall not sell or otherwise transfer a live animal which is a personal or household effect when travelling outside of his usual State of residence under the conditions of the certificate of ownership.

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE
of 18 June 1991

on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons

(91/477/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 100a thereof,

having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

in cooperation with the European Parliament (2),

having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (3),

Whereas Article 100a of the Treaty provides that the internal market shall be established by December 1992, and that the movement of goods, persons, services and capital shall be free within the Community, and that the abolition of controls and formalities at intra-Community frontiers shall be a necessary condition for the achievement of this objective;

Whereas, at its meeting on 12 June 1984, the European Council set the objective of abolishing all passport and customs formalities at intra-Community frontiers;

Whereas the total abolition of controls and formalities at intra-Community frontiers entails the fulfilment of certain fundamental conditions; whereas in its white paper 'Completing the internal market' the Commission stated that the abolition of controls on the safety of

objects transported and on persons entails, among other things, the approximation of weapons legislation;

Whereas abolition of controls on the possession of weapons at intra-Community frontiers necessitates the adoption of effective rules enabling controls to be carried out within Member States on the acquisition and possession of firearms and on their transfer to another Member State; whereas systematic controls must therefore be carried out at intra-Community frontiers;

Whereas the mutual confidence in the field of the protection of persons which these rules will ensure in Member States will be the greater if they are governed by partially harmonized legislation; whereas it is therefore useful to determine categories of firearms whose acquisition and possession by persons are to be prohibited, or subject to authorization, or subject to declaration;

Whereas passing from one Member State to another while in possession of a weapon should, in principle, be prohibited; whereas a derogation therefrom is acceptable only if a procedure is adopted that enables Member States to be notified that a firearm is to be brought into their territory;

Whereas, however, more flexible rules should be adopted in respect of hunting and target shooting in order to avoid impeding the free movement of persons more that is necessary;

Whereas the Directive does not affect the right of Member States to take measures to prevent illegal trade in

Article 12
Notwithstanding paragraph 1, hunters in respect of categories C and D, and marksmen, in respect of categories B, C and D, may without prior authorization be in possession of one or more firearms classified in these categories during a journey through two or more Member States with a view to engaging in their activities, provided that they are in possession of a European firearms pass listing such firearm or firearms and provided that they are able to substantiate the reasons for their journey, in particular by producing an invitation.

(1) OJ No C 235, 1. 9. 1987, p. 8 and OJ No C 299, 28. 11. 1989, p. 6.
(2) OJ No C 231, 17. 9. 1990, p. 69 and

EEC REGULATION ON TRADE
IN WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

shall apply from
1st June 1997

outlines of the formalities

ANNEX A

EXPORT

ANNEX B

EXPORT PERMITEXPORT PERMIT

issued if :

- APPLICANT
proves legal acquisition
- MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
satisfied that :
 - shipment conditions = OK
 - no commercial purposes
(App. II CITES)
 - import permit
(APP. I CITES)
 - no other negative factors
(following consult.Scient.Author.)
- SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY
says :
 - no harmful effect

*
* *

RE-EXPORTRE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE

issued if :

- APPLICANT
proves legal import
- MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
satisfied that :
 - shipment conditions = OK
 - no commercial purposes
(APP. II CITES)
 - import permit
(APP. I CITES)
 - no other negative factors
(following consult.Scient.Author.)

EXPORT PERMIT

issued if :

- APPLICANT
proves legal acquisition
- MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
satisfied that :
 - shipment conditions = OK
- SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY
says :
 - no harmful effect

*
* *

RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE

issued if

- APPLICANT
proves legal import
- MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
satisfied that :
 - shipment conditions = OK
- no other negative factors
(following consult.Scient.Author.)

INTRODUCTION

ANNEX A

IMPORT PERMIT

issued if :

- APPLICANT
provides export permit
- MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
satisfied that :
 - non-commercial purposes
 - no other negative factor
(following consult.Scient.Author)
- SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY
on advise of Scient. Review Group
satisfied that :
 - not detrimental to cons.
 + - for science advancement
or - for breeding
or - research
or - education
or - non-detrimental purposes
+ - suitable accomodation
- COMMISSION
may establish restrictions
if :
 - detrimental effect
 - other negative factor
 - ecological threat

ANNEX B

IMPORT PERMIT

issued if :

- APPLICANT
provides export permit
proves suitable accomod.
- MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
satisfied that :
 - no other negative factor
(following consult.Scient.Author)
- SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY
on advise of Scient.Review Group
satisfied that :
 - not detrimental to cons
- COMMISSION
may establish restrictions
if :
 - detrimental effect
 - other negative factor
 - ecological threat

* * * *

Scientific Review Group =
delegates of Scientifi
Authority of each Member
State

Export or Introduction =
to or from countries non
member of the EU

All European raptors + CITE
App.I = Annex A.
If captive bred = Annex B
(except for buying/selling)

UNDRELINED= also in CITES

(96/C 356/156)

QUESTION ÉCRITE E-1853/96

posée par Cristiana Muscardini (NI) à la Commission

(5 juillet 1996)

Objet: La Fauconnerie

Le règlement qui régit la protection de la faune et de la flore sauvages prévoit, à son article 9, la possibilité de transferts d'animaux sous réserve de demande, et éventuellement d'octroi, d'une autorisation préalable. Mais même s'il tient compte des cas de déplacement d'animaux malades ou nécessitant un transfert dans d'autres lieux, ce texte pénalise lourdement la pratique de la fauconnerie, par ailleurs déjà admise par l'article 7, paragraphe 4, de la directive 409/79 sur la conservation des animaux sauvages.

La Commission peut-elle envisager de modifier l'article 9, paragraphe 3, du règlement (CE) 285/96 en abolissant l'autorisation préalable pour les animaux qui doivent être transférés, lorsque ce transfert concerne la faune sauvage utilisée pour la fauconnerie?

Réponse donnée par M^{me} Bjerregaard au nom de la Commission

(2 août 1996)

La Commission rappelle que sa proposition de règlement relatif à la protection des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages (*) ne prévoit d'autorisation préalable, pour le déplacement d'un spécimen par rapport à l'emplacement indiqué dans le permis d'importation, que pour les animaux vivants capturés dans leur milieu naturel et importés qui appartiennent aux espèces énumérées à l'annexe A. Le Conseil a arrêté une position commune sur la proposition, le 26 février 1996 (?).

Les importations d'oiseaux de proie vivants capturés à l'état sauvage, appartenant aux espèces énumérées à l'annexe A, sont soumises à des conditions qu'il est peu probable de pouvoir satisfaire lorsque les oiseaux sont importés dans un but de fauconnerie. Par conséquent, l'utilisation d'animaux de proie pour la fauconnerie se limitera soit aux animaux capturés à l'état sauvage dans un État membre conformément à la directive 73/409/CEE (?), soit à des animaux élevés en captivité, soit à des animaux appartenant à une espèce de l'annexe B. Aucun de ces cas ne nécessite d'autorisation pour le transfert des animaux, de sorte qu'il est inutile de modifier l'article 9 paragraphe 3 dans le sens proposé.

(*) JO C 26 du 3.2.1992 et JO C 131 du 12.5.1994.

(?) JO C 196 du 6.7.1996.

(?) JO L 103 du 25.4.1979.

(96/C 356/157)

QUESTION ÉCRITE E-1855/96

posée par Cristiana Muscardini (NI) à la Commission

(5 juillet 1996)

Objet: Trafic de chiens et de chats

En l'absence d'une législation communautaire uniforme garantissant la défense des droits des chiens et des chats, le trafic illégal de ces animaux peut se développer dans l'Union.

La législation en vigueur en Italie n'étant pas applicable au-delà des frontières de ce pays, le contrôle et la défense des droits de ces animaux s'arrêtent là où commencent les territoires étrangers qui sont aujourd'hui le théâtre de ce trafic.

La Commission peut-elle préparer une directive sur les animaux de compagnie qui prévoit l'applicabilité dans tous les États de l'Union de la réglementation relative à leur protection et à leur défense actuellement en vigueur dans l'un d'entre eux?

Réponse donnée par M. Fischler au nom de la Commission

(30 juillet 1996)

Le commerce des chiens et des chats est soumis à deux directives du Conseil, les directives 91/628/CEE (*) et 92/65/CEE (?). Si l'honorable parlementaire a connaissance de violations particulières de ces deux directives, elle

BY FAX

March 27, 1997

Fax To: Christian de coune
President
The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey
011 32 4 388 40 15

From: Karen Virta
Walleye Productions Inc.

Tel: 416-214-4755**Fax:** 416-214-4822**No. of pages:** 1 + 2

Dear Mr. de coune:

Thank you for your e-mail yesterday and for your kind offer to reproduce our initial fax in your newsletter. Attached is another copy of our earlier fax, which I hope is of better quality.

Members of your association might wish to participate in our project in one of several ways.

We are currently seeking stock footage on endangered species, preferably 35mm or 16mm, and access to potential filming sites in the wild. Interested organizations should send lists of descriptive shot and/or a screening cassette, in addition to price lists.

Letters supporting our project would also be of great assistance for future marketing activities.

It would also be helpful to receive a list of specific species that organizations work with, and descriptions of any particular projects they are currently involved in.

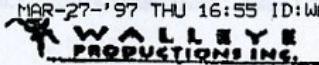
Once again, we are committed to producing an educational and entertaining film of the highest quality in order to inform viewers about the issues of endangerment and habitat destruction. We believe that our project will make an important contribution to the causes of conservation and preservation, and will stimulate viewers worldwide to take action.

Your interest in our project is appreciated. Thank you for your assistance to date and in the future.

Sincerely,

Karen Virta

260 Richmond St. East • Suite 100 • Toronto • Canada • M5A 1P4
Tel: (416) 214-4755 • Fax: (416) 214-4822 • E-mail: walleye@ldirect.com

**BY FAX**

March 27, 1997

Fax To: Christian de coune, President
International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey
011 32 4 388 40 15

From: Karen Virta
Walleye Productions Inc.
Tel: 416-214-4755
Fax: 416-214-4822

No. of pages

Dear Mr. de coune:

Walleye Productions Inc. is a multi-faceted film production company specializing in the development and production of informative and entertaining large-format films. Walleye was established in 1985 and is based in Toronto, Canada. Walleye is currently working on a film project which we believe may be of interest to you.

Our current project is tentatively entitled *Endangered Species*. Supporting the focus and philosophy of many of the world's foremost conservation agencies, this film will be a visual essay examining the lives and plight of a number of animal species being pushed to the brink of extinction. By extension, the film will be about the ultimate threat to our own human species if we continue to live without respect for all living things.

The film will be shot in IMAX® 3D/2D, at conservation agency project sites, game preserves, national parks, and other natural habitat enclosures around the world, and will make use of stock and archival footage where scenes are impossible to recreate. The use of the IMAX technology will ensure a stunning visual presentation which will keep viewers closely attuned to the important messages about conservation in the film.

Endangered Species will be shown in theatres worldwide, reaching a large, diverse audience and educating viewers everywhere about the fragility of our environment and the species that inhabit it. Ancillary educational materials will be produced to reinforce the themes in the film and further stimulate conservation and protection efforts.

In producing the film, Walleye will be working with an advisory committee comprised of selected species protection agencies and academic institutions to supply the information necessary to ensure accuracy of content in the script/film, and to support educational initiatives flowing from the film.

Currently in the development phase, we would be interested in discussing with you ways in which we might work together to achieve the goals of alerting the public to the imminent loss of animal species and stimulating conservation and protection efforts to ward off these losses.

260 Richmond St. East • Suite 100 • Toronto • Canada • M5A 1P4
Tel: (416) 214-4755 • Fax: (416) 214-4822 • E-mail: walleye@idirect.com

.../2

Page 2

We are looking for partners who could supply scientific, educational or research material (Inc literature, videos, and 16mm or 35mm stock footage) to ensure we have accurate and up-to-date information on the endangered species we will be showcasing, and/or who could work with us as above in an advisory capacity. We would also appreciate any efforts conservation organizations undertake in a supporting role (including letters of support). Finally, we are seeking financial partners and can provide you with more details if this is something your organization would potentially be interested in.

We would appreciate if you could send us literature or videos about your organization's mission goals, and activities so that we better understand what you do and also indicate if you would be interested in working with us. We are committed to producing an excellent film that serves to educate, inform and motivate into action, viewers around the world, to help save our endangered species.

Our mailing address is as follows:

Walleye Productions Inc.
260 Richmond Street East, Suite 100
Toronto, Ontario Canada
M5A 1P4

Please feel free also to call, fax or e-mail either myself or Walter Woloschuk, Director/Producer

Tel: (416) 214-4755
Fax: (416) 214-4822
E-mail: walleye@idirect.com

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Karen Virta
Production Assistant
WALLEYE PRODUCTIONS INC.

* Walleye Productions Inc. is an independent film company and is not affiliated with Imax Corporation.

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The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey

découpez ici

cut here

découpez ici

I undersigned,

name :

address :

donate the amount of

to help funding the project

RAPTORS OF BELARUS
ENTERING INTO NEW CENTURY

Pleased debit my credit card :

VISA

EUROCARD

MASTERCARD



Card number :

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Expiry date :/....

Signature :

send back to :

