

European Commission
DG Environment
Unit B3 Natura 2000

**The EU's nature
conservation policy and
appropriate assessments**

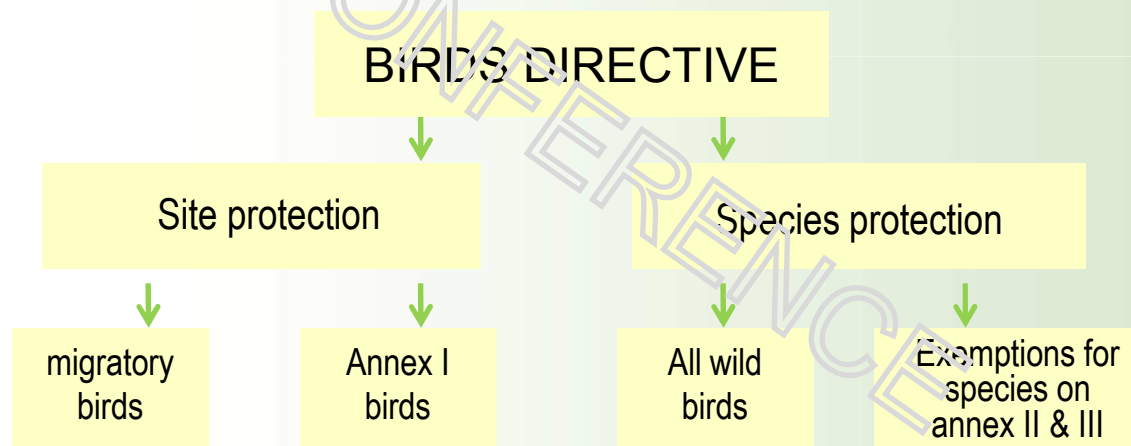
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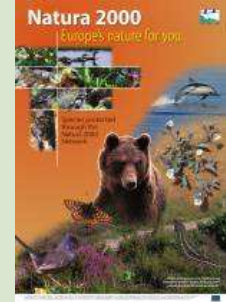
Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)



- ❖ **Protects all species** of naturally occurring **birds** in the wild state in the EU.
- ❖ **Overall objective is** to maintain the populations of all wild bird species in the EU at a level which *corresponds to their ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, or to adapt the population of these species to that level.*



Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)



- ❖ **Protects** 1000+ other threatened plants and animals and ca 230 habitat types
- ❖ **Overall objective is** to ensure that these species and habitat types are maintained at, or restored to, a '*favourable conservation status*'.

HABITATS DIRECTIVE

Site protection and management

Species protection & management

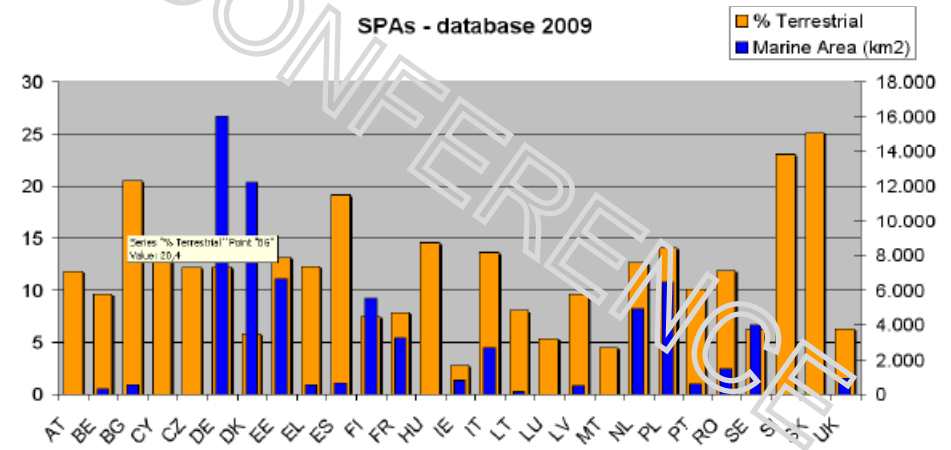
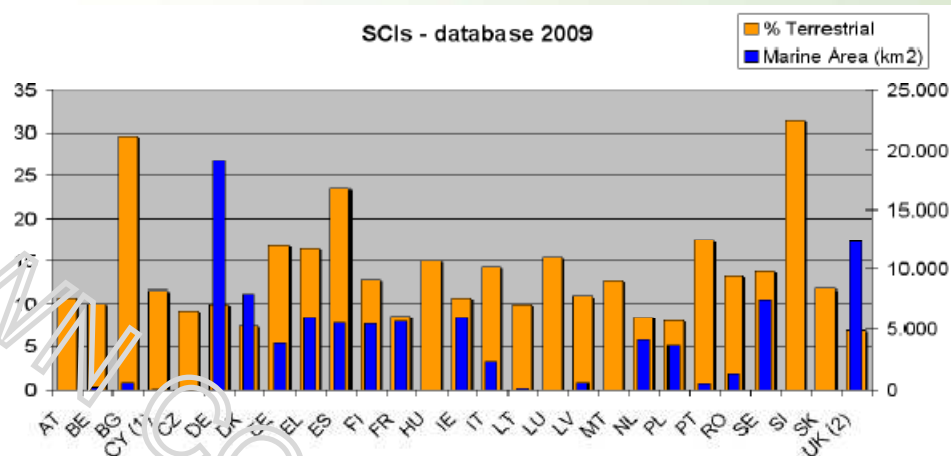
Annex I
Habitat types

Annex II
species

Annex IV
species

Annex V
species

Status of the Natura 2000 Network



EU legislation of special relevance to transport projects



- **Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive**
- **Environmental Impact Assessment Directive**
- **Birds and Habitats Directives**
- **Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information**
- **Directive 2003/35/EC on public participation**

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What is the role of the European Commission ?



- Ensure that Member States comply with their obligations
- Compliance promotion through EU Cohesion policy
- Production of guidance documents
- Work closely with Member States & stakeholders
- Information & communication
- Promotion of NATURA 2000 in other funds

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Are developments limited in Natura 2000 sites?



- Not 'a priori' prohibition of new activities

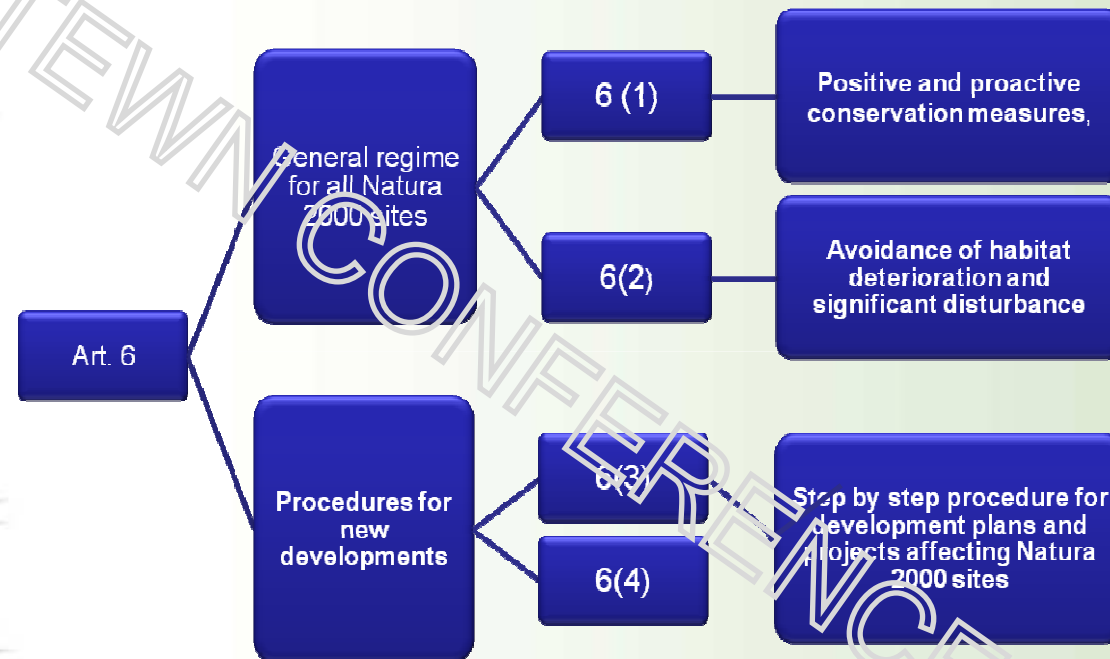
IT IS NOT A SYSTEM OF STRICT NATURE RESERVES!

- Developments assessed on a case-by-case basis
- Evaluation and decision procedure
- Supplementary protection measures for priority habitats

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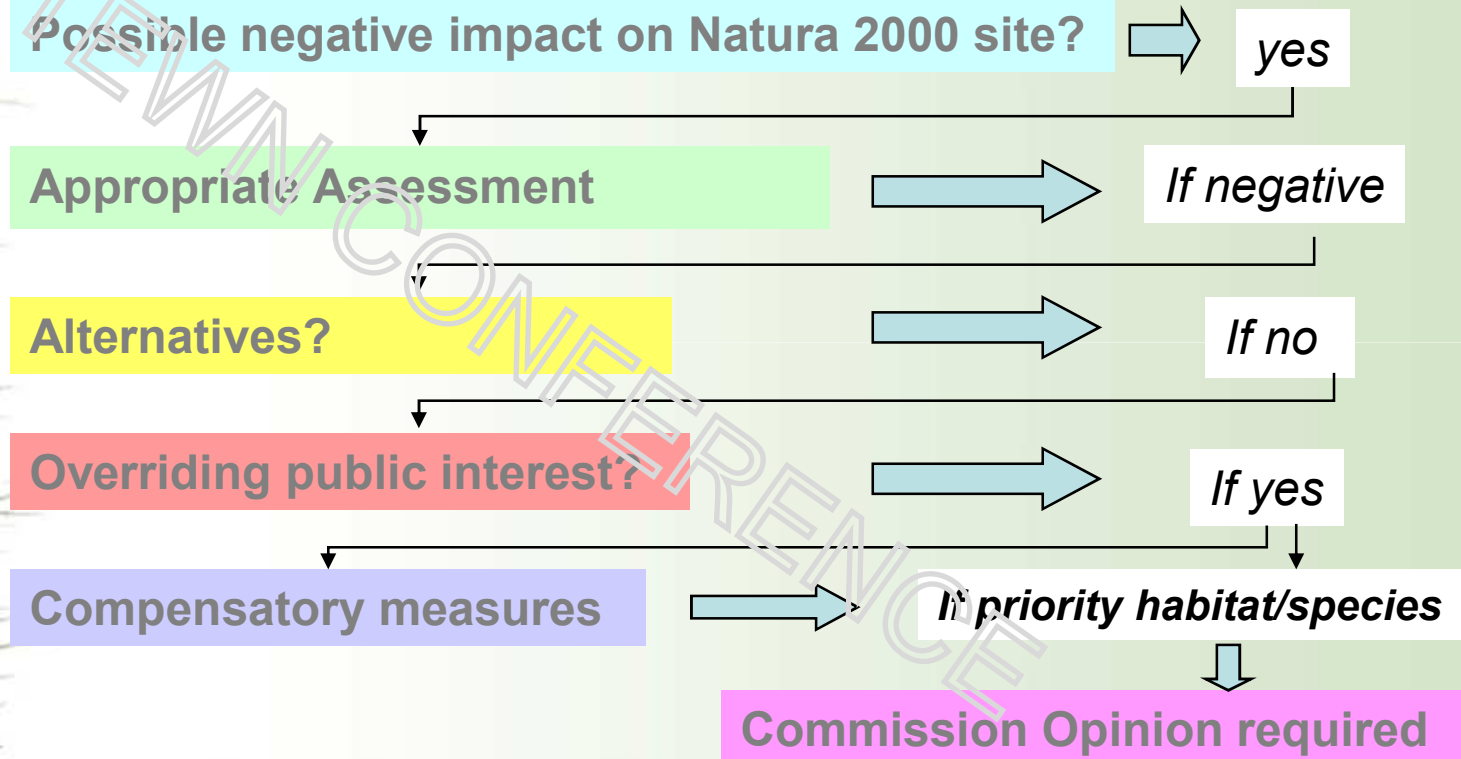
Article 6 provisions

Applies to SACs and SCIs/SPAs (except for 6(1))



New developments

Step-by-step assessment of plans and projects Affecting Natura 2000 sites (Art 6.3 & 6.4)



SPECIFIC PROBLEMS

dealing with plans and projects



- no or inappropriate nature impact assessments
- nature impact assessment too late (e.g after localisation decision has been made)
- no appropriate public consultation
- negative results of assessments not respected

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SPECIFIC PROBLEMS - cont.



- no strategic planning and SEA
- no consideration of cumulative impacts
- “salami-slicing” of projects into small parts
- no alternatives considered – alternatives are possible in most transport projects!
- no or inadequate mitigation / compensation measures

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Compensation measures



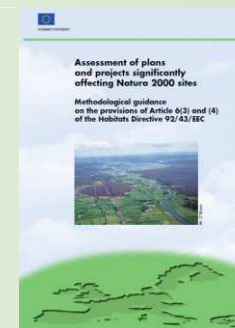
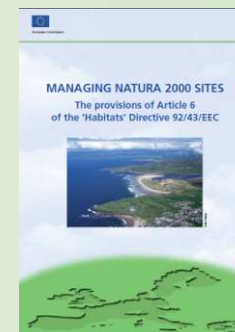
- **Within the same bio-geographic region (HD)**
- **Within the same range and/or migration route (BD)**
- **Within the territory of the same Member State**
- **Maintain coherence of the Natura 2000 network**
- **Enlargement of the same site**
- **Designation of new site with the same quality, function and structure**
- ***Restoration of another site***
- ***Creation of a new site***

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Commission Guidance

Article 6 of Habitats Directive

- ❖ Managing Natura 2000 sites (2000)
- ❖ Assessment of plans and projects :
methodological guide Art 6 (3) & (4)
- ❖ Guidance on Article 6 (4)
- ❖ Sector specific guidance
(forthcoming on wind farms, estuaries,
non-energy extractive industries...)



Economic development inside Natura 2000 areas:

- Knowledge and science based approach
- Long term planning
- Integration
- Partnerships
- Communication and information

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For more information go to:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature>

