



POWER LINES AND BIRD MORTALITY IN EUROPE

International Conference

13 April, 2011, Budapest, Hungary

**MAVIR (Hungarian Transmission System Operator Company Ltd.),
Conference Hall**

H-1031, Anikó u. 4., Budapest, Hungary, [Conference Venue](#) on Google Maps

Scope

The aim of the Budapest Conference is to advance dialogue and reach agreement between key stakeholders on the need to address the problem of large-scale bird mortality on power lines at the European level.

Mortality on power lines, especially due to electrocution, has been confirmed as one of the main threats for bird species such as Spanish and Eastern Imperial Eagles and others listed in the Birds Directive and the global Red List. Electrocutions can also disrupt electricity supplies, causing economic disruption and requiring costly 'retrofit' investments to make power lines safe.

Fortunately, however, the problem can be almost completely eliminated from the outset through well-proven mitigation measures, bringing benefits for birds, grid operators and electricity consumers alike. Large scale 'bird-safety' measures and specific local actions are priority conservation actions in many EU bird Species Action Plans. Many grid operators and regulators have also realised the benefits of eliminating electrocution risks, often working with bird conservation organisations to ensure win-win solutions are found.

Nevertheless, awareness of the problem and its solutions is far from universal, and urgently needs to be increased. There will be massive investment in power lines this decade under the European Commission's "Energy Infrastructure Package". Action is needed now to prevent power lines becoming an even greater obstacle to improving the conservation status of threatened bird species.

In the absence of coordinated leadership it will be much more costly, and potentially impossible, to reconcile the EU's climate and energy targets with its commitment to halting the loss of biodiversity by 2020.



Programme

08.00 - 08.45	Registration and coffee
09.00-09.40	Opening session
09.00-09.10	Welcoming speech from the Host <i>Mr Gábor Tari, Executive Director, MAVIR, Hungary</i>
09.10-09.15	Welcoming speech from MME/BirdLife Hungary <i>Dr Gergő Halmos, Director, MME/BirdLife Hungary</i>
09.15-09.25	Opening speech <i>Mr András Schmidt, Deputy Head of Department for Nature Conservation, Ministry of Rural Development, Hungary</i>
09.25-09.40	Opening speech <i>Dr András Demeter, Advisor, Directorate General for the Environment, European Commission</i>
09.40-10.00	Introduction
09.40-10.00	State of art: the effect of power lines on European bird populations <i>Mr Boris Barov, Stichting BirdLife Europe, BirdLife International</i>
10.00-10.30	Energy policy and bird conservation targets
10.00-10.15	BirdLife initiatives to support a European renewable energy revolution in harmony with nature <i>Dr Ivan Scrase, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK</i>
10.15-10.30	Coffee break
10.30-12.00	Existing tools, initiatives and further possibilities to reduce harmful population effects of bird electrocution
10.30-10.45	International & European legal background <i>Dr Markus Nipkow, NABU, Germany</i>
10.45-11.00	Cooperation between bird conservation organizations and electric utility companies - progress and challenges <i>Dr Klaus Richarz, Staatl. Vogelschutzwarte, Mr Winfried Boehmer, NABU, Germany</i>
11.00-11.15	Cooperation between bird conservation organizations and electric utility companies in Hungary <i>Mr András Schmidt, Deputy Head of Department for Nature Conservation, Ministry of Rural Development, Hungary</i>



11.15-11.30	Mitigation planning, impact assessment studies, monitoring & research. Priority setting (species involved, scales: time and geographical areas) – international overview <i>Mr Luís Costa, The Society for the Study of Birds, Portugal (to be confirmed)</i>
11.30-11.45	Mitigation planning, impact assessment studies, monitoring & research in Hungary <i>Dr Márton Horváth, MME/BirdLife Hungary, Hungary</i>
12.00-13.00	Lunch
13.00-14.00	Practical bird protection on power lines
13.00-13.15	Practical mitigation measures: conservation needs, solutions, difficulties <i>Dr Dieter Haas, NABU, Germany</i>
13.15-13.30	Service and living space <i>Mr Gábor Podonyi, PÖYRY ERŐTERV Power Engineering and Contractor Private Limited Company, Hungary - Joint presentation of the Hungarian electric utility companies</i>
13.30-13.45	Bird protection on high voltage transmission system <i>Mr György Bíró, MAVIR, Hungary</i>
13.45-14.00	Bird protection with knowledge <i>Mr Lars Hammar, AB Hammarprodukter, Sweden</i>
14.00-15.30	Development and endorsement of a “Budapest Declaration on the mitigation of bird mortality on power lines in Europe” and Closing remarks
15.30-15.45	Coffee break
15.45-17.30	Poster and tool (e.g. insulators, pole head types, bird diverters) session, national presentations

Informal conference dinner

18.30 – 22.00 Restaurant “Trófea Grill” (1033, Budapest, Laktanya u. 3-5.)

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