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**Sent:** 30 May 2025 12:04

**To:** OBREtenova Iva <Iva.OBREtenova@ec.europa.eu>

**Subject:** TFRB 10th meeting - Technical update of the Turtle Dove Adaptive Harvest Management mechanism

Dear Members of the Task Force on the Recovery of Birds,

Please find a revised version of the document **Turtle Dove Adaptive Harvest Management mechanism Technical update**, presented at the 10th meeting of the TFRB. This final version incorporates new population estimates calculated by PECBMS with the latest data submitted in late March 2025 by the national coordinators of France and the Netherlands (western flyway) and Greece and Romania (central-eastern flyway). Those data could not be considered for the preparation of the document in February 2025, and it was announced at the meeting that the document would be updated when they became available.

The main differences, as they are highlighted in the first section of the document WHAT IS NEW IN THE 2025 UPDATE: MAIN RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS, are:

- In the **western flyway**, the estimated breeding population size in spring 2024 is lower than the previous estimate. However, it is still the highest since 2011 (13 years), with 480,000 more pairs than in 2021, a rise of 31.5 %. As a consequence, the 10-year trend measured by the PECBMS multiplicative slope, shows a mean value clearly above 1, with the lower end of the 95% confidence interval narrowly crossing 1. The 10-year trend is thus classified as “stable” and close to “moderate increase”, which is considerable progress from the “moderate decline” of 2021.
- In the **central-eastern flyway**, the updated PECBMS data manage appears to detect some slight increase in the last year, which could be a positive response to the hunting restrictions reported. However, such increase is not statistically significant, and it will need to be confirmed in the coming years. Overall, there was no significant change in numbers during the period 2021-2024, and the estimated population size in 2024 (667,000 bp) represents that the CE flyway population has been reduced by 340,000 bp since 2005, a decline of 37% for the 19-year period. Consequently, the 10-year PECBMS trend for this flyway has deteriorated from “stable” to “moderate decline” as the multiplicative slope for that period now falls entirely below 1, indicating negative population growth.

These results do not change the technical recommendation made by the Scientific Advisory Group and presented at the TFRB meeting on 04 March 2025. For the record, in the case of the **western flyway**, it concluded that all three conditions for resuming hunting are now met. If hunting reopens, it is recommended that the potential quota for the entire flyway should not exceed 132,000 individuals, which represent 1.59% of the 8.31 million individuals estimated to be in the population at the end of the breeding season 2025.

In the case of the **central-eastern flyway**, the technical recommendation remains the same as discussed at the March 2025 TFRB meeting: to maintain, and enforce, zero harvest in the hunting season of 2025. This decision should remain in place until there is evidence of a stable recovery and similar conditions to those conditions agreed for the western flyway are met in this flyway too.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any question you might have,

Kind regards,

The Nature Conservation Unit, DG ENV

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