

Habitats Directive

Official reference	Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	
Relevant dates	Document	21/05/1992
	Publication	22/07/1992
	Entry into force	10/06/1992
	Implementation by Belgium	21/12/2001; 14/10/2005; 5/03/2006
	Implementation by Flanders	21/10/1997; 15/05/2009
	Implementation deadline	10/06/1994
Policy level	European	
Type of instrument	Directive	
Geographical reach	EU Member States	
(Legal) coverage in the BNS	Flemish region, internal waters, territorial sea, exclusive economic zone	
European contact point	Directorate-General for the Environment (DG ENV)	
Competent authorities in Belgium	Federal: Federal authorities; FPS Health, Food chain safety and Environment; DG Environment Flemish: Flemish authorities; policy domain Environment, Nature and Energy (LNE)	
Transposition on the federal level	Koninklijk besluit van 21 december 2001 betreffende de soortenbescherming in de zeegebieden onder de rechtsbevoegdheid van België Koninklijk besluit van 14 oktober 2005 tot instelling van speciale beschermingszones en speciale zones voor natuurbehoud in de zeegebieden onder de rechtsbevoegdheid van België Koninklijk besluit van 5 maart 2006 tot instelling van een gericht marien reservaat in de zeegebieden onder de rechtsbevoegdheid van België en tot wijziging van het koninklijk besluit van 14 oktober 2005 tot instelling van speciale beschermingszones en speciale zones voor natuurbehoud in de zeegebieden onder de rechtsbevoegdheid van België	
Transposition on the Flemish level	Decreet van 21 oktober 1997 betreffende het natuurbehoud en het natuurlijk milieu Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 15 mei 2009 met betrekking tot soortenbescherming en soortenbeheer (aangehaald als: het Soortenbesluit)	

// abstract:

The European Habitats Directive aims at maintaining and restoring endangered European natural habitats and wild fauna and flora. The Member States need to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for some habitats and species of particular importance for the community that are listed in Annexes I and II of the Directive. Along with the Special Protection Areas of the Birds Directive (see [Birds Directive](#) p.89; 2009/147/EC), these Special Areas of Conservation are part of the European ecological Natura 2000 network. The Habitats Directive and the Natura 2000 network result from the obligations of the EU on habitat protection, as settled in the [Bern Convention](#) (p.22), to which the EU is a Contracting Party. The Emerald network (Bern Convention) and the Natura 2000 network are therefore based on the same principles, of which the first one is de facto an extension towards the non-EU Member States.

The aim is to reach a favourable conservation status of the habitats that are incorporated in Annex I, and of the species in the Annexes II and IV of this directive. Conservation objectives determine the scientific criteria against which the favourable status should be assessed.

The Member States are obliged to report to the European Commission every six years on the favourable conservation status of the habitat types and species and on the results of the implemented policy.