

# Wingspan 2024 – Partnership for a bird-friendly energy transition



# Conference Agenda

Flagey, Pl. Sainte-Croix 1050 Brussels, Belgium

## Tuesday | 15 October 2024

- 08:00 **Welcome & Registration**
- 08:45 **Vendor Fair until 17:30**
- 08:45 **Opening Words**
- Sylvia Barova, Advisor, EU LIFE Programme
  - Dr. Rainer Raab, CEO, TB Raab
  - Liam Innis, Senior Manager – Energy Ecosystems, Renewables Grid Initiative
  - Olivier Feix, Head of Strategy, Elia Group
- 09:20 **High-Level Keynotes**
- Andrea Vettori, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Environment
  - Paula Rey, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Energy
- 09:40 **Keynote: Potential impacts of grids & renewables infrastructure on birds**
- Tris Allinson, Senior Scientist, BirdLife International
- 10:10 **Panel: Unlocking the path to a bird-friendly energy transition**
- Guillaume Marchais, Senior Environmental Specialist, EDP Renewables France
  - José Tavares, Director, Vulture Conservation Foundation
  - Lisa Garnier, Senior Expert Grid & Biodiversity R&D, RTE
  - Stefania Charisiadou, Nature Conservation Policy Officer, DG Environment
  - *Moderator: Olivier Feix, Head of Strategy, Elia Group*
- 11:15 **Coffee Break**
- 11:45 **Keynote: Low and medium-voltage cable undergrounding in Austria**
- Klaus Maras, CEO, BE Energy GmbH
- 12:15 **Presentations: Technologies & solutions to reduce bird mortality around energy infrastructure**
- Preventing wildlife electrocution, global best practices*
- Brian McGowan, Founder & Managing Director, Scientias Ireland Limited
- Probabilistic predictions of bird collisions at wind turbines and power lines*
- Dr. Moritz Mercker, Managing Director, Bionum GmbH
- Conservation of birds through the insulation of overhead power lines in Bulgaria*
- Lyubka Vasileva, Team Leader Innovation & EU Projects, EVN Bulgaria
- Video monitoring in Austria and Germany - bird behaviour around power lines*
- Rainhard Raab, Deputy CEO, TB Raab
- 13:30 **Lunch**
- 14:30 **Panel: From Science to Practice – Translating scientific findings into legislation and effective implementation of measures**
- Dr. Constance Blary, Postdoctoral Researcher, CNRS
  - Ricardo Martins, Researcher, BIOPOLIS/CIBIO
  - Liam Innis, Senior Manager – Energy Ecosystems, RGI
  - Anouk Puymartin, Policy Manager, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia
  - *Moderator: Frank Vassen, Policy Officer, DG Environment*

## Tuesday | 15 October 2024

15:30 **Coffee Break**

16:00 **Presentations: Data & sensitivity mapping to understand and prevent mortality risks for birds**

*Mitigating bird-caused electrical faults in a transmission grid in Portugal*

- Dr. Joana Bernardino, Researcher, BIOPOLIS/CIBIO

*The Avian Sensitivity Tool for Energy Planning*

- Bruna Arbo-Meneses, Science Officer Bird & Energy, BirdLife International

*Sensitivity maps for collision and electrocution in France*

- Ingrid Marchand, Coordinator LIFE Project SafeLines4Birds, LPO France

*Habitat use and influence of the energy infrastructure on Great Bustard*

- Dr Soňa Svetlíková, Scientist at Comenius University

*Results of mortality of red kite in Europe*

- Dr. Rainer Raab, CEO, TB Raab

17:20 **Closing Words**

17:30 **End of Day**

## Wednesday | 16 October 2024

- 08:30 **Welcome & Registration**
- 09:00 **Panel: Balancing nature-positive with accelerated renewable energy deployment**
- Miguel Mascarenhas, Biologist and Environmental Specialist, Bioinsight
  - Lukas Zantopp, Head of Environmental Planning & Nature Protection, Amprion
  - Zuzana Guziová, Executive Director, Raptor Protection Slovakia
  - Dr Sebastian Dunnett, Senior Programme Officer, Nature Economy, UNEP-WCMC
  - *Moderator: Liam Innis, Senior Manager – Energy Ecosystems, RGI*
- 10:00 **Coffee Break**
- 10:30 **Presentations: Case studies of successful multi-stakeholder collaborations**
- SafeLines4Birds*
- Manon Quetstroey, Manager – Energy & Nature, RGI
- LIFE EUROKITE*
- Dr. Rainer Raab, CEO, TB Raab
- Collaboration between nature NGOs and Elia, the Belgian TSO*
- Olivia Geels, Environment Expert, Elia
  - Jean-Yves Paquet, Director Department of Studies, Natagora
- LIFE Great Bustard*
- Dr. Rainer Raab, CEO, TB Raab
- 12:00 **Poster Presentations**
- 12:15 **Lunch & Poster Session**
- 14:00 **Group One: Workshop – Connecting Biodiversity 2.0**
- Group Two: Poster Session & Networking Opportunity**
- 15:00 **Coffee Break**
- 15:30 **Group One: Workshop – Connecting Biodiversity 2.0**
- Group Two: Presentations – Global Solutions for Global Challenges: Case studies from around the world**
- Impact of energy infrastructure on vultures and other wildlife in Africa*
- André Botha, Vulture for Africa Programme Manager, Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Impact of overhead power Lines on avifauna in India*
- Vidhi Modi, PhD Candidate, M. K. Bhavnagar University
- EUFLYNET COST Action - coordinating research for the protection of migratory birds*
- Dr. Ivan Maggini, Scientific Coordinator, Austrian Ornithological Centre
- Mapping priority areas for reducing bird electrocution of Lear’s Macaw in Brasil*
- Dr. Larissa Biasotto, Science Officer Birds & Energy, BirdLife International
- 16:40 **Closing Remarks**
- 17:00 **End of Day**

## Poster list

- The importance of high-quality data about wind energy infrastructures for biodiversity conservation – [Jacopo Cerri](#)
- Conservation of threatened bird's trough retrofitting of hazardous overhead powerlines in Natura 2000 sites in Western Bulgaria – [Mariya G. Georgieva](#)
- Cumulative impact of wind energy on red kite population in Wallonia and feedback on the use of two automatic bird detection systems – [Arnaud Beckers](#)
- Effects of wind turbine dimensions on the collision risk of raptors: a simulation approach based on flight height distribution – [Tonio Schaub](#)
- We make the power lines along the Danube river safe for birds – [Marek Gális](#)
- Towards a better understanding of bird collisions in windfarms using data from Automatic Detection Systems – [Charlène Gémard](#)
- Mitigating Bird Electrocutation: Conservation Efforts and Successes in Andalusia, southern Spain – [Jose Rafael Garrido Lopez](#)
- The value of cooperation and knowledge transfer to reduce raptor mortality due to power lines in the Western Mediterranean – [Helena Clavero Sousa](#)
- Predict to protect: developing trait-based vulnerability indices to wind energy development for birds and bats – [Arnaud Vansteenkiste](#)
- Effective collaboration method between NGOs and grid operators in Spain – [Alfonso Godino & Catarina Machado](#)

## Thursday | 17 October 2024

Get ready for an immersive day exploring nature and conservation technologies around Elia's infrastructure!

We ask all participants to join us at **7:45** to board the buses before we hit the road at **8:00**. We will then head to Elia's Noordschote substation, where we will get an up-close look at the wire markers. Experts from Elia and Natuurpunt will share insights on how their successful collaboration helps preventing bird mortality by collision.

We will arrive at our next stop at **11:00**, the beautiful [Blankaert Nature Reserve](#) for a guided tour. The tour involves a walk through the reserve and a stop by the observation tower where we will be able to observe different bird species in the reserve. Afterwards, we will head back to the visitor centre – a total walk of 3 km – for a lunch before our return trip to Brussels.

We will arrive back in Flagey by **15:30**, wrapping up a day filled with exploration, learning, and nature.

*We recommend you to bring good shoes and appropriate clothing.*



## Venue and programme

Our programme kicks off on Tuesday 15 October and continues until 16 October at [Flagey, Place Sainte-Croix, 1050 Bruxelles](#). The field excursion will take place on the 17 October.

Due to high demand, for those who could not register we now offer the possibility to join the conference online. Feel free to share the online registration with your colleagues that wish to attend:

- [Day 1](#)
- [Day 2](#)

## Side activities

### Networking dinner – 14 October

For those who registered to the dinner, it will take place at Volle Gas and will begin at 19:30 with a vegetarian walking buffet that includes vegan options.

We are pleased to offer the dinner free of charge to all registered participants.

### Vendor Fair – 15 October

A full-day fair will be held on 15 October, showcasing technological solutions aimed at protecting birds around power lines and wind turbines. This is an excellent opportunity to explore and learn more about these innovative technologies. The fair will run from 8:45 to 17:30.

### Poster Session – 16 October

On 16 October, posters will be displayed, highlighting projects, successful collaborations, and best practices from around the world focused on protecting avian species near energy infrastructure. A dedicated session in the afternoon will provide further insights into these initiatives.