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European Court of Justice; judgment against Germany for non compliance with EU nature protection legislation

European nature protection has a well-established tradition based on the Birds Directive of 1979 and the Habitats Directive of 1992, with both elements subsequently amended. The 'Fitness Check' of the EU Nature Directives published in December 2016 concluded that the two nature directives remain highly relevant and are fit for purpose. However, there needs to be a substantial improvement in their implementation if they are to achieve their objectives.

Against this background, several legal infringement initiatives have been commenced by the Commission, inter alia against Germany - where the Court of Justice just delivered its judgment.

EWA NEWS provides you the key arguments in the court case as well as a link to the full judgment text.