



PRESS RELEASE

**Nature protection asks for a vote of confidence from the new Parliament**

Nicosia, 23 May 2016

BirdLife Cyprus congratulates the 56 new Members of Parliament, and expresses its contentment with the composition of the new Parliament as **21 out of 56 MPs** are among those who signed [BirdLife Cyprus' manifesto](#) and pledged to protect Cyprus nature, during the [#WeNatureCy](#) campaign.

In this light, BirdLife Cyprus hopes that the course taken by the new Parliament for the next five years on matters relating to the protection of nature will be paved with clear and honest motives and will be driven by the need for biodiversity protection and the country's prosperity.

**BirdLife Cyprus stresses therefore that the establishment of a new Committee on the Environment consisting of pro-nature MPs is of utmost importance** as these MPs are expected to take seriously and thoroughly examine matters related to the protection of nature. This should also be reflected in the relevant legislative work that they will be called to undertake.

It is reminded that the 21 elected MPs who signed BirdLife Cyprus manifesto pledged to promote training and learning about nature, the creation of jobs related to the protection of nature, to uphold the law, and defend the implementation of all laws that protect nature, especially for what concerns killing of migratory birds, to promote measures for the management of all Natura 2000 sites and to protect Akamas Peninsula against degradation. The MPs also pledged to promote the reduction of chemicals used in nature or in farming and to support the expansion of sustainable farming.

BirdLife Cyprus, the most active conservation organization in Cyprus, and the national partner of BirdLife International, an umbrella organization that operates in more than 100 countries worldwide, is committed to providing the new MPs all the support and expertise required on issues related to the protection of biodiversity in Cyprus.

***#WeNatureCy campaign is funded by the Champions of the Flyway Bird Race which is organized jointly by BirdLife International and the SPNI (BirdLife in Israel).***



## ENDS

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### Notes to the Editors:

- 1) **BirdLife Cyprus** is a registered, non-governmental, not for profit organisation (NGO) that dedicates itself to the conservation of wild birds and their habitats in Cyprus. It was formed in 2003 through the merge of the two Cyprus Ornithological Societies and now has offices in Strakka, Nicosia comprised by professional staff.  
<http://www.birdlifecyprus.org/>
- 2) BirdLife Cyprus' manifesto to candidates is available here:  
[http://wenaturecy.com/manifesto/BirdLife\\_Cyprus\\_manifesto\\_for\\_pro-nature\\_candidates\\_GR\\_sig.pdf](http://wenaturecy.com/manifesto/BirdLife_Cyprus_manifesto_for_pro-nature_candidates_GR_sig.pdf)