



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS  
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES  
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES  
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

**From the Secretary General**

Ms Ellen Hambro  
Director General  
Norwegian Environment Agency  
Miljødirektoratet  
Postboks 5672 Sluppen  
7485 Trondheim  
Norway  
[ellen.hambro@miljodir.no](mailto:ellen.hambro@miljodir.no)

Gland, 24 September 2014  
SG2014-249/CHB/TOS/mik

Dear Ms Hambro,

**Re.: Potential ecological change at Ramsar Site 802 Nordre Tyrifjord**

We have recently received a detailed report from the organisations BirdLife Norway and SABIMA about renewed plans to construct a major road and railway across the Nordre Tyrifjord Wetland of International Importance.

We would firstly like to refer to earlier information received by our Secretariat about planned railway and road constructions across this same Ramsar Site in 1996 and again in 2002. The advice by the Convention on Wetlands in the past has consistently been that *“to meet its obligations under the Ramsar Convention, Norway should select the rail and/or road development route(s) with the lowest direct and indirect impacts on the ecological character of the wetland system” ... “Kroksund is clearly a key point in the ecological functioning of the whole region, proposals for new road and rail crossings should therefore be treated with particular caution.”*

We are surprised that, again, road and railway crossings of Kroksund are apparently being considered. According to Resolution VIII.9, an Environmental Impact Assessment should have been carried out in such a case. I wonder whether there has been an EIA and, if so, what were its recommendations? I would be very grateful if these could be shared with the Secretariat.

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Given this threat to the Site, and the fragility of these internationally important wetlands, we propose that the Norwegian Environment Agency invite a Ramsar Advisory Mission to visit the Site, gather the information available including any available EIAs, and assess the ecosystem functioning, the wetland values and services provided, and the potential impacts of road and railway construction according to the different routes under review.

Such a mission would help you to clarify how Norway can continue to meet its obligations under the Ramsar Convention, notably with regard to Articles 2.5, 3.2 and 4.2. Our Senior Adviser for Europe, Tobias Salathe (salathe@ramsar.org) is available to prepare the terms of reference for a mission with the Norwegian Environment Agency at your earliest convenience and to define what experts and expertise would be needed.

I look forward to your kind consideration of this proposal and to your response.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher Briggs

CC: Jan-Petter Huberth-Hansen, Ramsar NFP  
Kjetil Solbakken, BirdLife Norway  
Christian Steel, SABIMA  
Viggo Ree, BirdLife Norway