**Merops persicus**

**BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER**

**Non-SPEC (1994: —)**  
**Status** (Secure)  
**European IUCN Red List Category**  
**Criteria** —  
**Global IUCN Red List Category**  
**Criteria** —

Merops persicus has an extensive global breeding distribution, which just extends into south-east Europe. Its European breeding population is small (as few as 3,100 pairs), but was stable between 1970-1990. Despite some declines during 1990–2000, key populations in Russia and Azerbaijan increased, and the species increased overall. Although the size of the European population could render it susceptible to the risks affecting small populations, it is marginal to a much larger non-European population. Consequently, the species is provisionally evaluated as Secure.

**Merops apiaster**

**EUROPEAN BEE-EATER**

**SPEC 3 (1994: 3)**  
**Status** (Depleted)  
**European IUCN Red List Category**  
**Criteria** Moderate historical decline  
**Global IUCN Red List Category**  
**Criteria** —

Merops apiaster is a widespread summer visitor to southern and eastern Europe, which accounts for less than half of its global breeding range. Its European breeding population is large (>480,000 pairs), but underwent a moderate decline between 1970–1990. Although the species increased overall during 1990–2000—with increasing or stable trends across most of its European range—its population probably has not yet recovered to the level that preceded its decline. Consequently, it is provisionally evaluated as Depleted.

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