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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

**A MID-TERM ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTING
THE EC BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

COUNTRY PROFILES

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INTRODUCTION

In its 2006 Biodiversity Communication¹ the Commission has undertaken to provide a mid-term review on delivery of the EC Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). As most of the actions in the Biodiversity Action Plan are addressed at both EC and Member States levels effective delivery of the EU 2010 biodiversity target and Biodiversity Action Plan requires close co-operation between the Commission and Member States.

The Nature Directors of the Member States have underlined the need to avoid duplication and to build on existing reporting obligations. They emphasised that a flexible and efficient approach to monitor the implementation of the BAP was necessary and that reporting and monitoring should focus on strategic information and the targets of the BAP. They stated that any reporting system on the implementation of the BAP should, as far as possible, also be based on indicators such as the Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI) indicator set, while recognizing the constraints due to data availability in this regard.

In response, the Commission aimed to provide focused reporting while at the same time minimising the burden of information. The following approach was taken. 'Fit-for-purpose' information that could easily be collated, while still allowing for meaningful interpretation, was identified, making use of all relevant available information streams. A list of key information sources is presented as an Appendix. Use was also made of SEBI 2010 indicators as well as other reporting formats/obligations (e.g. EC and Member State Reports for Convention on Biological Diversity).

The focus of the country reporting was to be at the level of objectives and targets and not at the level of individual actions, unless such actions only or mainly related to Member States. In this way it was possible to compile a large amount of country information from existing information systems. However, for a limited number of key issues, information was not already available and a request was sent to the Nature Directors of the Member States in January 2008 in the form of a questionnaire, inviting them to provide the Commission with information for those gaps already identified.

All but six Member States² responded to the Questionnaire. The Commission then compiled country profiles for all Member States, with the assistance of a consultancy contract. These country profiles have then been sent to the Member States for verification and to give them an opportunity to provide supplementary information where appropriate. All but three Member States³ verified their country profiles. The evaluation arising from this information collecting exercise provides the basis for the country profiles presented in this report.

These assessments aim to cover the period since adoption of the 2006 Biodiversity Communication up to the end of 2008. The presentation of information in the country profiles on the allocations of funds to nature and biodiversity under different Community programmes are preliminary, some of them (e.g. rural development expenditure) originate from Member States and will be in need for further evaluation and compared further with the final adopted programmes.

¹ COM(2006) 216.

² Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovakia.

³ Estonia, Italy and Romania.

These summaries represent the first national assessments on implementation of key provisions of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan, and are valuable indication on how the Member States are delivering on their part of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan.