



Joint Declaration

Establishing a "European Natura 2000 Day"



Brussels, 15 May 2017

Recalling that Europe hosts a very rich natural heritage with great diversity of wild plants, animals and landscapes, many of which are found nowhere else in the world,

Recalling the importance of healthy natural ecosystems both for the economic activities relying on them and for the quality of life of European citizens,

Recalling that the 28 Member States of the European Union work together within the framework of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives to protect rare species and habitats across their entire range, irrespective of political or administrative borders,

Recalling that all EU Member States have designated protected sites as part of the European Natura 2000 network to help conserve the rare habitats and species in their territories,


Recalling that today the Natura 2000 network consists of over 27 000 sites, covering 18 % of EU land territory and more than 6 % of its marine areas,

Recalling that the Natura 2000 network is an outstanding example of successful cooperation across the EU,

Acknowledging that more efforts are needed to achieve the goals of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives,

Underlining in particular the importance of increased public awareness and understanding of the common responsibility to ensure a well preserved natural heritage for nature, people and the economy,

The undersigned proclaim the "European Natura 2000 Day" to be celebrated on May 21st each year through awareness raising events and networking activities to be organised across the EU.



Karmenu Vella

European Commissioner for
Environment, Maritime Affairs
and Fisheries



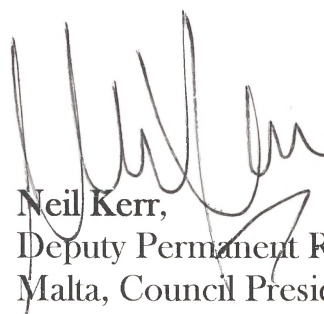
Adina-Ioana Valean MEP

Chair of the Committee on the
Environment, Public Health and
Food Safety



Karl-Heinz Lambertz

First Vice-President of the
Committee of the Regions



Neil Kerr,

Deputy Permanent Representative of
Malta, Council Presidency

