

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION – POST-2010 BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

CALL TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY FOR EU BIODIVERSITY TO 2020

Biodiversity – the variety of ecosystems, species and genes – is the world's natural capital. It is integral to sustainable development by providing vital goods and services that underpin economic prosperity, social well-being and quality of life.

In 2001, the EU set itself the target to *halt biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010*. In 2002, it signed up to a global target of significantly reducing biodiversity loss worldwide by 2010. Efforts to tackle biodiversity loss were subsequently stepped up, and an EU Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was adopted by the Commission in 2006 to accelerate progress¹.

Despite efforts and significant progress to date, there are clear indications that the EU will not reach its target.

Against this background, on 15 March 2010, the Council meeting on the environment agreed on a new vision and target for biodiversity, reflecting the most ambitious option (option 4) set out in the Commission Communication "Options for an EU vision and target for biodiversity beyond 2010" adopted in January².

The Spring European Council subsequently endorsed the vision and target on 26 March, noting that "There is an urgent need to reverse continuing trends of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. The European Council is committed to the long term biodiversity 2050 vision and the 2020 target set out in the Council's conclusions of 15 March 2010."

VISION

by 2050 European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided

HEADLINE TARGET

To halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restore them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global

¹ COM(2006) 216.

² COM(2010) 4 final, 19.01.2010.

To deliver on this biodiversity target, a new EU strategy will be developed, taking into account international deliberations on a global biodiversity policy framework to be adopted at the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in October 2010. Those negotiations will culminate in the adoption of a "post-2010 Strategic Plan" for the CBD.

In the context of Green Week³, the Commission is organising a stakeholder consultation and wishes to involve all interested stakeholders. The Commission is convinced that the strategy can only be successful if embraced by all stakeholder groups whose activities are interlinked with biodiversity. The objective of the consultation is to obtain a representative picture of the positions of relevant stakeholders to collect the views of the participants on the possible direction of a post-2010 EU biodiversity strategy. The meeting will be held in the afternoon of **3rd June 2010 from in the Charlemagne Building of the European Commission** (170 Rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels).

After a short introduction by the Commission, participants will be invited to express their views and contribute ideas on how to shape the strategy to ensure its success in reaching the 2020 target. The meeting will be held in English.

Participation is open to Member States and all interested stakeholders. **You can confirm your interest** in this meeting by filling the [attached table](#) and submitting it **before 5 May via e-mail** to ENV-BIODIVERSITY@ec.europa.eu. Due to the limited capacity of the venue, seats will be allocated in a way to ensure a fair and representative participation of stakeholders. Invitations will be limited to one individual per organisation and priority will be given to organisations representing the views of stakeholders at EU level. Those who are allocated a seat will be sent a formal invitation by 14 May with further details on the meeting venue and guidance on the agenda and structure of the consultation. In order to facilitate preparation for the meeting and reflection on the issue, we will disseminate background documents for the meeting in due course.

Stakeholders will have the possibility to express their position in writing for up to two weeks after the meeting. Additionally, an open Internet stakeholder consultation will be run for 8 weeks in the summer.

Participants in this stakeholder event will also be automatically registered for Green Week. The full programme can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/>.

³ Green Week is one of the biggest annual events focusing on environmental challenges and EU policies to address them. Under the campaign heading "*Biodiversity – our lifeline*", the 10th edition of the conference organised by the Directorate-General for the Environment will focus on biodiversity, from 1 to 4 June 2010. The sessions will address the state of biodiversity and nature in Europe and in the world, the pressures currently affecting biodiversity, the benefits they bring, and possible solutions to the current rates of loss. (See the program in <http://www.greenweek2010.eu/>)