**CO-ORDINATION GROUP FOR BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE (CGBN)**

**OPERATIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE CLOSED SESSION**

**BETWEEN THE MEMBER STATES, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (DG ENVIRONMENT) AND THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

(09.30-11.00 – 6TH SEPTEMBER 2012 - BORSCHETTE CENTRE, BRUSSELS)

**Participants** (see Annex)

**Chairs:** François Wakenhut (Head of Unit ENV.B.2 "Biodiversity") and Stefan Leiner (Head of Unit ENV.B.3 "Nature")

*This is an operational summary record of the discussions that took place. It is to be seen in parallel with the supporting documents prepared by the Commission and posted on the CGBN CIRCA site prior to the meeting ([http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/env/biodiversity_nature/home](http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/env/biodiversity_nature/home)).*

**State of play final version Biodiversity Common Implementation Framework (CIF)**

The Commission informed that the CIF orientations version note has been validated and finalized during the Nature Directors Meeting in Denmark, May 2012. Currently DG ENV is discussing with DG AGRI the possible arrangements for setting up an *ad hoc* group on Agriculture and Environment. No mandate has been established yet. Similar arrangements are undergoing with DG DEVCO to set up the respective group under Target 6 of the Biodiversity Strategy. Establishing such a group has become even more crucial after the Rio+20 outcomes and the need to ensure consistency in following up the biodiversity dimension in the overall development policy. The Commission will keep the CBGN members duly informed on the follow-up.

**Working groups under target 2 (new group on restoration prioritization framework)**

Some Member States asked for clarification on the articulation between the Green Infrastructure Working Group, including prioritised restoration framework and the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and Services Working Group (MAES). They also questioned the reciprocity of the outcomes produced by the respective Working Groups and the work performed by the CGBN. They noted the human resources' constraints to attend all groups established under the CIF and asked for very clear mandates of these groups, as well as time-frames for their work performance. Alternative means for work instead of meetings, e.g. written exchanges, which might compensate the human resources' constraints were suggested. In addition, it was noted that the WG jointly established by the Commission Services, might duplicate the work of already existing WGs. The
Commission explained that it had minimised the creation of new groups under the CIF and that each of the groups envisaged responded to specific needs. The GI & Restoration and MAES working group is established under Target 2 to support implementation of Actions 5 and 6. The GI component of the work has been suspended, pending the adoption of the GI Green Paper by the Commission. A meeting of the Working Group on 4 October in Brussels will focus on the Restoration Prioritisation Framework, and Member States were asked to send representatives with relevant expertise. Duplication of the work is avoided when establishing the new working groups. Indeed, the human resources' constraints might be a serious issue. However, the Commission is flexible in ensuring flexibility in the working arrangements, without compromising the overall purpose of the CIF and the work to be performed by the working groups. Working groups have been created in order to ensure better integration of biodiversity in various sectors. Therefore, their work is more technical in nature. Furthermore, these working groups are not meant to substitute the CGBN work.

The CIF follow-up is also on the agenda of the NDM in Cyprus.

**Latest on biodiversity proofing**

The Commission informed about the latest state of play on the background Study Towards Biodiversity Proofing in the EU Budget, prepared by IEEP. The consultant had to submit its final report till mid-August. The Commission is in the process of verifying the final version of the report. CGBN will be informed about the outcomes soon. The planned output of the study is guidelines for biodiversity proofing major EU instruments.

**Functioning chronology between CGBN and Nature Directors' meetings**

The participants agreed that the CGBN meetings and the Biodiversity and Nature Directors' meetings need to be scheduled in a way which allows the adequate flow of information and logistic arrangements.
13TH MEETING OF THE CO-ORDINATION GROUP FOR BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE
HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2012 IN BRUSSELS

List of attendees to the closed session

**Member States:**

- Austria: Edda-Maria BERTEL
- Cyprus: Eleni STYLIANOPOULOU
- Czech Republic: Pavlina MEJSTRIKOVA
- Denmark: Eva JUUL JENSEN, Lars RUDFELD
- Estonia: Kadri MÖLLER
- Finland: Heikki KORPELAINEN
- France: Fanny LENDI-RAMIREZ
- Germany: Christa RATTE, Detlef SZYMANSKI
- Hungary: Rozalia SZEKERES ERDINE
- Ireland: Ciaran O'KEEFFE
- Italy: Eleonora BIANCHI
- Lithuania: Algirdas KLIMAVICIUS
- Latvia: Ilona MENDZINA
- Malta: Alexei ZAMMIT
- The Netherlands: Hans VAN DEN HEUVEL
- Poland: Anna LIRO
- Portugal: Mario SILVA
- Slovak Republic: Jana DURKOSOVA
- Slovenia: Peter SKOBERNE
- Spain: Rafael HIDALGO
- Sweden: Michael LÖFROTH, Eva STIGHÅLL
- United Kingdom: Chris DE GROUCHY, Steven DORA, Howard PLATT

Excused: Belgium
Not represented: Bulgaria, Greece, Luxembourg, Romania

**European Commission:**

François WAKENHUT, Patrick MURPHY, Anne TELLER, Laure LEDOUX, Milena NOVAKOVA (ENV.B.2)
Stefan LEINER, Micheal O'BRIAIN, Angelika RUBIN, Stefano PANNOZZO, Fotios PAPOULIAS,
Sylvia BAROVA, François KREMER, Laura GAVILAN, Ctibor KOCMAN (ENV.B.3)
Robert SOLTYK (DG SANCO G.6)
Stelios KATSANEVAKIS (JRC)