



*EU Environmental Policy Briefing\**

## **Environment Committee Adopts Non Legislative Report on 2010 Biodiversity Target**

11 May 2007

The EU Heads of State or Government agreed in Göteborg in 2001<sup>1</sup> ‘to halt the decline of biodiversity [in the EU] by 2010’ and to ‘restore habitats and natural systems’. In order to implement this objective the Commission, in a communication<sup>2</sup> of May 2006, proposed an action plan to halt biodiversity loss.

A Parliament report (2006/2233(INI)) on the Commission communication, adopted by the Environment Committee on 28 March 2007, recommends further measures and policies that the Commission should consider in order to ensure that the 2010 target in biodiversity protection is achieved. The Commission’s action plan proposes concrete measures outlining the responsibilities of EU institutions and Member States, respectively. It also provides for indicators to monitor progress, and a timetable for evaluations.<sup>2</sup>

In the motion for a resolution, the European Parliament gives its opinion on the action plan, highlighting the need:

- To improve the role of the implementation of the Birds and Habitat Directives and Natura 2000 network and to integrate biodiversity and nature protection issues in several policy areas and strategies;
- To implement tools to reduce pollutant pressure, habitat and species extinction in the countryside and marine ecosystems;
- To draw attention in marine and agriculture policy to biodiversity and nature conservation;
- To take measures to reduce invasive alien species and alien genotypes which are a threat to biodiversity;
- To improve the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to increase synergies between international environmental agreements;
- To reduce the ecological impact of globalisation within the context of multilateral, regional and bilateral free trade agreements;

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- To continue the EU's international leadership role in working to decrease global greenhouse gas emissions;
- To improve funding for biodiversity research and national research programmes;
- To increase financing for Natura 2000 and other biodiversity actions;
- To give more attention to biodiversity-related decision making, for example by screening all new policy initiatives for potential significant negative impact on biodiversity;
- To raise public understanding of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems for prosperity and well-being; and
- To strengthen long-term monitoring, indicators and information dissemination.<sup>3</sup>

The Parliament's rapporteur Adamos Adamou MEP stresses that the 2010 biodiversity target is just around the corner and that Member States must take up all available opportunities under CAP, CFP, Cohesion and Structural Funds, LIFE+ and the Seventh Framework Programme in order to support the biodiversity targets. Greater consideration must be given to financial resources needed for the conservation of biodiversity in the 2008-09 budget review.<sup>3</sup>

In their opinions attached to the report, the Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the Committee on Fisheries welcome the initiative. The vote and final adoption of the resolution by the Parliament is currently scheduled for the plenary session on 21 May 2007.

### **References**

1. Presidency conclusion Göteborg on 15 and 16 June 2001  
[http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/docs/key\\_docs/goteborg\\_concl\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/docs/key_docs/goteborg_concl_en.pdf)
2. Commission proposes new EU plan to halt biodiversity loss  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/667&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
3. Report by the EP ENVI Committee on halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010:  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A6-2007-0089+0+DOC+WORD+V0//EN&language=EN>

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