



COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



Council conclusions on biodiversity post-2010

- EU and global vision and targets and
international access and burden sharing regime -

3002nd ENVIRONMENT Council meeting
Brussels, 15 March 2010

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

“THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- a) **CONVINCED** that the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 provides a unique opportunity to mobilise the necessary political commitment and to take policy actions at all levels to address the global biodiversity crisis;
- b) **RECALLING** its conclusions of 22 December 2009, **HIGHLIGHTING** the importance of maintaining biodiversity and avoiding irreversible damage to ecosystems and their functions, both for ethical reasons, respecting the recognition of the intrinsic value of biodiversity, and to secure social and economic stability, mitigate and adapt to climate change, and reach the Millennium Development Goals, and **FULLY AWARE** that biodiversity is essential to the existence of human life on Earth and societies' wellbeing, both directly and indirectly through the ecosystem services it provides; **RECOGNISING** that everyone is entitled to enjoy a healthy and sustainable environment, which requires the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; **RECOGNISING** the central role of biological diversity in the global fight against hunger and in favour of food security;

P R E S S

c)

- i) **CONVINCED** that the EU needs to lead by example and to take urgent measures to preserve its own biodiversity, which is also of global importance, while reducing its negative impact on biodiversity beyond its borders, and, in parallel, to show that high levels of economic development and social welfare can be compatible with, and even be increased by, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and contribute to global efforts towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- j) **UNDERLINING** that the development and transfer of best practices and technologies will be essential to achieve a coordinated response and the cost-effective use of resources in coping with biodiversity loss, climate change and desertification;

Biodiversity within the EU

1. **AGREES** on a long-term vision that 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;
2. For this vision to be achieved **AGREES** further on a headline target of halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss;
3. **HOLDS** that, given the essential contribution of biodiversity and its sustainable use and management to human wellbeing, economic prosperity and growth, the 2050 vision and the 2020 headline target have an important role to play and should also be fully reflected in the main cross-cutting EU policies and strategies, such as the

he o t I susDs EB

11. **REITERATES** the importance of protected areas and ecological networks as a cornerstone for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; hence **STRESSES** the need to promote all necessary measures to protect biodiversity in third countries, including the establishment and sound management of protected areas in response to their national needs, for instance through the "LifeWeb" initiative, while ensuring effective participation of all stakeholders, in particular indigenous and local communities; and also **STRESSES** the need to promote all necessary measures to protect biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction,

