



"An EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy"

CONFERENCE

Committee of the Regions, Brussels, 6 June 2017

The purpose of the Conference is to present [the new EU Action Plan](#), which follows up the Fitness Check of the Nature Directives, and to discuss its implementation with Member States and stakeholders. The Conference will be co-hosted by the Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the Maltese Presidency. It will involve representatives from public authorities (competent authorities for nature and other authorities) as well as relevant economic sectors and environmental NGOs.

Draft Programme

8:45-9:30 - Registration

9:30-10:30 – High level introductory session

- ✓ *Opening speech from Karl-Heinz Lambertz, First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions*
- ✓ *Opening speech from Jyrki Katainen, Vice President of the European Commission*

Opening statements from Commissioner Vella, MEP Adina-Ioana Vălean and Dr Josè Herrera, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change (tbc), (in a round table format opened and chaired by Commissioner Vella)

10:30-11:30 1st session "Smarter implementation of the Nature Directives for nature, people and the economy"

Cases of inflexible application of species protection rules, delays and unnecessary burdens in permitting procedures and insufficient stakeholder awareness and participation can create unnecessary tensions between nature protection and socio-economic activities. The action plan will set out measures to promote smarter participatory approaches and encourage full engagement of landowners and users.

Structure: Short presentation + Panel discussion + Q&A

Presentation by Fotios Papoulias, Policy Officer, Nature Protection Unit, DG Environment

Chairperson: Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director, Natural Capital Directorate, DG Environment

Panellists:

1. *Rastislav Rybanic, Director General, Ministry of the Environment, Slovakia*
2. *Dirk Fincke, Secretary General, Union Européenne des Producteurs de Granulats, UEPG*

3. *Daniel Pérez Varela, Director de Sostenibilidad e Innovación en Red Eléctrica de España, REE*
4. *Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General, COPA COGECA*

11:30 – 12: 30 2nd session: "Ownership and effective delivery of nature goals"

While Member States are ultimately responsible for implementation of the Nature Directives, the Action Plan will set out measures for the Commission and stakeholders to work more closely with them to facilitate and promote the conservation and sustainable use of nature, including through ensuring a fully coherent and functional Natura 2000 network and that species are protected and, where appropriate, sustainably used.

Structure: Short presentation + Panel discussion + Q&A

Presentation by Angelika Rubin, Policy Officer, Nature Protection Unit, DG Environment

Chairperson: Nicola Notaro, Head of Unit, Nature Protection Unit, DG Environment

Panellists:

1. *Peter Skoberne, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia*
2. *Ian Jardine, Chief Executive, Scottish Natural Heritage*
3. *Thierry de l'Escaille, Secretary General – CEO, European Landowners' Organization*
4. *Alice Belin, Seas at Risk*

12:30-14:00: lunch

14:00-15:00 3rd session: "Strengthening investments in nature"

Funding shortages are a major factor undermining the effectiveness of the Nature Directives and preventing the Natura 2000 network and wider biodiversity from fully delivering their multiple benefits to society. The Action Plan will set out measures to promote and support better use of available EU funding and to make nature more attractive for private investment.

Structure: Short presentation + Panel discussion + Q&A

Presentation by Laure Ledoux, Deputy Head of Unit, Biodiversity Unit, DG Environment

Chairperson: Micheal O' Briain, Deputy Head of Unit, Nature Protection Unit, DG Environment

Panellists:

1. *Christiane Paulus, deputy Director General Nature Conservation, Ministry for environment, Germany*
2. *Angelo Caserta, Director, Birdlife*
3. *Heidi Hautala, MEP*
4. *Claudia Terzi, Minister for Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development, Lombardia Region*

15:00 - 16:00 4th session: "Engaging people for nature"

Nature is our common heritage and provides multiple benefits to society. The Action Plan will set out measures to engage citizens, stakeholders, local and regional authorities and communities, using available platforms, and better promote local knowledge exchange of experience, as well as recognition and promotion of good management practices.

Structure: Short presentation + Panel discussion + Q&A

Presentation by Sylvia Barova, Policy Officer, Nature Protection Unit, DG Environment

Chairperson: Luisa Samarelli, Policy Officer, Nature Protection Unit, DG Environment

Panellists:

- 1. Helene Herschel, Head of Unit "Natura 2000 Network", Directorate for Water and Biodiversity, Ministry for Environment, France*
- 2. Emma Berglund, Secretary General, Confederation of European Forest Owners*
- 3. Geneviève Pons, Director, WWF*
- 4. Witold Stępień, CoR ENVE Commission First Vice-Chair, President of Łódzkie region, Poland.*

16:00-16:30 Closing session

- ✓ *Karl-Heinz Lambertz, First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions*
- ✓ *Frans Timmermans, First Vice president of the European Commission*

16:30 Cocktail

Hosted by



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of the Regions