



30 Jan 2019 | 14.00 – 16.00 (registrations open at 1.30 p.m.)

Room VMA1 (2nd floor), 2 rue van Maerlant, European Committee of the Regions

***"Bio-diverse cities and regions beyond 2020
at the UN CBD COP15 and in the next EU strategy"***
Stakeholder Consultation

Background and objectives

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is drafting an opinion on "Bio-diverse cities and regions beyond 2020 at the UN CBD COP15 and in the next EU strategy". The objective is to adopt the official position of the CoR to disseminate in the ongoing preparatory meetings and events towards the 15th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD COP 15) and consequently to contribute to the post-2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy.

The opinion would highlight the importance of the contribution from subnational governments to achieve current and future biodiversity targets, as well as the multiple benefits of biodiversity to a range of objectives that matter particularly at subnational level. The opinion would also contribute to the ongoing discussion on the next MFF. Reflection on the MFF is a necessary step to guarantee the operationalisation of the next EU budget on ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The opinion would also address key elements that the next Commission should take into consideration for the preparation of the 2021-2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy.

The proposed CoR opinion could:

- reflect on the key role of subnational governments in the development of the next biodiversity policy framework;
- formulate recommendations on how subnational governments can formally be recognised in the implementation and MRV (monitoring, reporting and verification) of the post-2020 biodiversity policy framework. This includes formulating recommendations on capacity building for the implementation and enforcement of such a framework;
- explore financial mechanisms for biodiversity action by LRAs;
- propose how subnational governments could communicate the new policy framework.

The Rapporteur Mr Roby BIWER (LU/PES) wishes to discuss these topics with relevant stakeholders

13.30 Registration and Welcome coffee

14.00 Welcome speeches

- **Roby Biwer** (LU/PES), CoR rapporteur and member of Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE), European Committee of the Regions;
- **Representative**, DG Environment, European Commission (*tbc*).

Cities and regions perspective

- **Holger Robrecht**, Deputy Regional Director, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (*tbc*);
- **Renata Gomez**, Biodiversity Policy Officer, Regions4 (*tbc*);
- *Q&A*.

14.30 Panel discussion with the audience

15.50 Final remarks

16.00 End of the meeting

Participants may speak in & listen to English only

