



## EU Conference on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 23-24/05/2019, Brussels

### Stakeholder conference on the evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

24 May 2019, European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99

### BREAKOUT DISCUSSION ON TARGET 3

2.15 – 3.30 pm, Room JDE 52

### BACKGROUND NOTE

#### TARGET 3: Increase the contribution of agriculture and forestry to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity

*3A) Agriculture: By 2020, maximise areas under agriculture that are covered by biodiversity-related measures under the CAP so as to ensure the conservation of biodiversity and to bring about a measurable improvement in the conservation status of species and habitats that depend on or are affected by agriculture and in the provision of ecosystem services.*

*3B) Forests: By 2020, Forest Management Plans or equivalent instruments, in line with Sustainable Forest Management are in place for all forests that are publicly owned and for forest holdings above a certain size that receive funding under the EU RDP so as to bring about a measurable improvement in the conservation status of species and habitats that depend on or are affected by forestry and in the provision of related ecosystem services.*

**Action 8.** Enhance CAP direct payments to reward environmental public goods such as crop rotation and permanent pastures; improve cross-compliance standards for GAEC (Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions) and consider including the Water Framework in these standards

**8a.** The Commission will propose that CAP direct payments will reward the delivery of environmental public goods that go beyond cross-compliance (e.g. permanent pasture, green cover, crop rotation, ecological set-aside, Natura 2000).

**8b.** The Commission will propose to improve and simplify the GAEC (Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions) cross-compliance standards and consider including the Water Framework Directive within the scope of cross-compliance once the Directive has been implemented and the operational obligations for farmers have been identified in order to improve the state of aquatic ecosystems in rural areas.

**Action 9.** Better target Rural Development to biodiversity needs and develop tools to help farmers and foresters work together towards biodiversity conservation

**9a.** The Commission and Member States will integrate quantified biodiversity targets into Rural Development strategies and programmes, tailoring action to regional and local needs..

**9b.** The Commission and Member States will establish mechanisms to facilitate collaboration among farmers and foresters to achieve continuity of landscape features, protection of genetic resources and other cooperation mechanisms to protect biodiversity.

**Action 10.** The Commission and Member States will encourage the uptake of agri-environmental measures to support genetic diversity in agriculture and explore the scope for developing a strategy for the conservation of genetic diversity.

**Action 11.** Encourage forest holders to protect and enhance forest biodiversity

**11a.** Member States and the Commission will encourage the adoption of Management Plans, [31] inter alia through use of rural development measures [32] and the LIFE+ programme.

**11b.** Member States and the Commission will foster innovative mechanisms (e.g. Payments for Ecosystem Services) to finance the maintenance and restoration of ecosystem services provided by multifunctional forests

**Action 12.** Member States will ensure that forest management plans or equivalent instruments include as many of the following measures as possible:

- maintain optimal levels of deadwood, taking into account regional variations such as fire risk or potential insect outbreaks;
- preserve wilderness areas;
- ecosystem-based measures to increase the resilience of forests against fires as part of forest fire prevention schemes, in line with activities carried out in the European Forest Fire Information System;
- specific measures developed for Natura 2000 forest sites;
- ensuring that afforestation is carried out in accordance with the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for SFM, in particular as regards the diversity of species, and climate change adaptation needs.

## 2. STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION



The EU has taken steps to increase the contribution of agriculture and forestry to maintain and enhance biodiversity, e.g. through management planning and biodiversity support measures under the Common Agricultural Policy. However, common farmland birds and grasslands butterflies continue declining. A high proportion of species and habitats of EU interest associated with agriculture and a significant proportion of species and habitats associated with forest areas are in unfavourable conservation status. This indicates that the measures undertaken so far have not been sufficiently effective and/or carried out at sufficient scale.

## 3. SESSION OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

This session aims to obtain stakeholder input for the assessment of key aspects of the implementation of Target 3. This will help to steer the evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, which is starting and will be delivered by the end of 2020. The discussion will address both Target 3A (sustainable agriculture) and 3B (sustainable forestry).

**The discussion will address in particular the following questions:**

### 1. Engagement of key stakeholders:

What is moving key stakeholders (farmers, foresters and land managers) to engage in the protection and management of biodiversity in agricultural and forest areas?

What are the main barriers to their engagement?

Why and how do conservation organisations cooperate with farmers, foresters and land managers?

2. **Uptake of funding for biodiversity:**

Funding is available for biodiversity support measures under Rural Development in the current CAP (2014-2020), but uptake has been uneven. In your view, what are the main barriers to uptake?

3. **Training, capacities and information**

Have farmers, foresters and land managers received sufficient training, and information to manage and restore biodiversity on their land? What are key gaps in knowledge and information?

Do nature authorities and conservation organisations have the necessary expertise to engage into an informed dialogue with forest and agriculture sector stakeholders?

4. **Governance and trust:**

Could governance be enhanced to deliver on the biodiversity target for agriculture and forests?

What are the preconditions for building trust among authorities and key stakeholders?

#### 4. CHAIR AND SPEAKERS

**Chair, moderator and rapporteur: Claudia Olazabal**, Head of Land Use and Management Unit, DG ENV

**Panellists:**

- **Pekka Pesonen**, Secretary General, COPA COGECA
- **Fanny-Pomme Langue**, Secretary General, Confederation of European Forest owners (CEPF)
- **Prof. Tomasz Zawila-Niedźwiecki**, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests of Poland, INTEGRATE Network chair in 2018-2019
- **Els Martens**, Coordination Policy Officer, Agency for Nature and Forests, Government of Flanders
- **Barbara Herrero Cangas**, EU Nature Policy Officer, BirdLife Europe