



Priorities for the Belgian Presidency
1 July -31 December 2010

All Hands on Deck for Climate and Biodiversity

Table of Content

Introduction	2
1. Biodiversity: from planning to action	3
1.1 A robust biodiversity rescue package	3
1.2 Natura 2000 as the backbone of Europe’s biodiversity	4
1.3 Forests.....	5
1.4 Freshwater: Continue EU water policy reform.....	7
2. Climate change and renewable energy future	8
2.1 Progress towards a new international agreement.....	8
2.2 Renewable Energy	9
2.3 Industrial CO2 emissions.....	9
2.4 Energy efficiency.....	10
2.5 Transport decarbonisation	11
2.6 Nuclear waste directive.....	12
3. Sustainable Agriculture.....	13
3.1 Grasping the opportunities of CAP Reform	13
3.2 GMOs	14
4. Time to secure a future for Europe’s fisheries.....	15
5. A healthy environment.....	16
5.1 Chemicals risks.....	16
5.2 Air quality.....	17
5.3 Nanoparticules.....	18
6. From ‘waste’ to ‘cradle to cradle’ - Sustainable use of nature resources and materials.....	18
7. External policy	19
7.1 European Development Policy	19
7.2 European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Policy	20
8. EU budget review: public money for public goods	21

Introduction

The year 2010 is decisive for the EU to update its fundamental directions for the next decade and to set itself on a path towards a safe and sustainable, low-carbon, resource efficient economy, the only way to addressing the current economic and ecological crisis.

In 2006, the Stern report was a wake-up call to the world, as it estimated the high economic cost the world would have to pay if immediate action to stop climate change was not taken. According to the findings of the “The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity (TEEB)”-study, initiated by the G8+5 environment ministers, the continuous loss of biodiversity will, under a business as usual scenario, cost the world at least 7 % of Gross Domestic Product in 2050. The costs of policy inaction for Europe are estimated to be at least 1.1 trillion Euro per year in 2050 (relative to 2000)¹. Many of these costs will have to be borne well before 2050.

We live at the expense of future generations and our dependency on biodiversity and the multitude of ecosystem services it provides is massively under-recorded in our conventional accounting system. The OECD Framework for a Green Growth recognises explicitly that halting the loss of biodiversity and maintaining essential ecosystem services are key policy objectives which exist at an equal level of importance as combating climate change. The costs to society, and to future generations, of not accounting to these natural system provisions are simply too huge to contemplate.

The EU 2020 Strategy must take on the full scale of the global ecological crisis, and recognise that radical change in strategies and policies is required to establish biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration as sine qua non conditions for sustainable development. Both in climate change and in the struggle against biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, Europe can and should take the lead. Not only because we want to set an example, but because we strongly believe that smart decisions will pick the fruits in a very near future. A healthy and resilient environment is not just a luxury product, but an essential condition for a sustainable economy, an inclusive society, better equipped for resilience and adaptation to climate change.

The Belgium Presidency will lead the EU through crucial international negotiations with the UN High Level meeting for the review of the Millennium Development Goals in September, the 10th conference of the parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (October 2010) and the 16th conference of the parties of the Convention on Climate Change (December 2010).

As regard to EU policies and legislation, the Belgian EU Presidency together with the Council of the EU are to take strategic decisions to profoundly modernise the energy sector and boost Europe's economy in a sustainable way, strengthen energy security, create green jobs, deliver real solutions to climate change and support the desirable phase-out of nuclear power. This includes:

- Commit to a 40% emission reduction of which at least 30% should be realized within the EU.
- Exerting strong leadership for the EU to develop a 2050 Vision for a Renewable Energy System, in line with a global objective of 100% renewable energy supply by 2050. In this context, the EU should develop a strategic focus on prioritising renewable energy and energy efficiency with the objective to phase-out the use of fossil fuels and nuclear power, well before 2050.

¹ L. Braat and P. ten Brink (2007) The Cost of Policy Inaction - The case of not meeting the 2010 biodiversity target. Chapter 6: The costs of policy inaction in monetary terms.

- Ensuring CO2 emission performance standards (EPS) are included in the new Industrial Emission Directive for the relatively small number of very large installations (>500 MWth) in the power sector.
- Ensuring EU ETS delivers real and tangible emission reductions: detailed regulations and standards will be determined that will fundamentally effect the operation and therefore success of the scheme.
- Initiating, together with the European Commission, a number of important strategic decisions to decarbonise the transport sector and putting it onto a sustainable pathway.

The Belgian Presidency also has a particular responsibility in taking advantage of the International year of biodiversity and a number of EU and global policy initiatives and legislation to strengthen the protection of forest domestically and globally as key ecosystems in providing ecological, social and economic benefits now and in the future in particular for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In the following pages, BBL, IEW, IEB, BRAL, GREENPEACE, NATUURPUNT, NATAGORA and WWF list their main demands for the Belgian Presidency of the EU. For each chapter more detailed and specific texts are available, either within the national organisations, or within the European umbrella organisations, EEB, WWF- European Policy Office, BirdLife and Greenpeace Europe.

1. Biodiversity: from planning to action

1.1 *A robust biodiversity rescue package*

In 2001, EU governments set themselves the target to halt biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010. In 2002, the EU signed up to a global target to significantly reduce biodiversity loss worldwide by 2010. 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, during which a stocktaking will be made of how and why the EU and the world have failed the 2010 target. At the same time, the EU will adopt a new 2020 biodiversity target and EU strategy for biodiversity.

We expect no less than a highly ambitious, measurable and energising new 2020 biodiversity strategy, both at EU and global level. The EU must show leadership by analyzing the reasons for its failure in meeting the 2010 target, accepting its responsibility in the degradation and loss of biodiversity and ecosystems world-wide, and making concrete commitments to turn the tide in the next 10 years. At stake is not only the survival of species, but our ability to tackle climate change and to ensure long-term human well-being and prosperity.

- In the framework of the forthcoming 10th conference of the parties of the **Convention on Biological Diversity** (CBD COP-10) to be held in Nagoya, Japan, **we call on the Belgian Presidency to lead a well prepared and coordinated EU delegation to ensure an effective leadership, and to:**

- Support the adoption of a list of SMART targets as part of the **CBD Strategic Plan 2010 to 2020**
- Support the adoption of an **Access and Benefit Sharing** (ABS) protocol at COP10
- Support the **Programme of Work on Protected Areas** (PoWPA) and its implementation

- We urge the **Belgian Presidency** to promote support for a **robust EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy**. The December 2010 Environment Council should endorse this strategy, so that it can be made effective in 2011. The unacceptable 5 year delay of the previous Biodiversity Action Plan should be avoided at all costs.

- We call on the **Belgian Presidency** to work together with the forthcoming Hungarian Presidency to ensure that the **EU strategy** does not remain a strategy agreed by the environment sector only. To become effective, it needs to be **endorsed by all relevant policies**. This means that all relevant Councils should adopt and support the biodiversity strategy, and commit to implement all actions which have a reference to the specific policy.
- In addition, we call on **Member States** to initiate a process of **review** of their own **national biodiversity action plan or strategies**, and improve them as necessary in light of the directions agreed in the framework of the EU Biodiversity Strategy. Specifically Belgium, Spain and Hungary should come forward with a strategy - as trio-Presidency they should show leadership.
- We also call on **all EU Institutions and Member States** to consider **biodiversity and healthy ecosystems as key elements of their strategies to fight against climate change**, and to mitigate and adapt to its effects.

1.2 Natura 2000 as the backbone of Europe's biodiversity

The Birds and Habitats directive and the European Natura 2000 network are undeniably the cornerstones of the protection of European biodiversity. Unfortunately, many Member States are lagging behind in the implementation of these Directives. The Natura 2000 network of protected sites is still incomplete in some Member States, with the designation of marine sites being a particular priority.

In addition, there is an urgent need to secure effective management of the Natura 2000 sites: this includes the provision of adequate financial resources and the integration of Natura 2000 in other land use policies, in order to make sure they don't remain paper parks. It is in the core interest of both nature conservation and economic development that land and water use planning systems and impact assessments guarantee the proper protection and management of the Natura 2000 network.

On the International Year of Biodiversity, we call on:

- **EU Member States** to set a focus on the **completion of the marine Natura 2000 network** by 2010. The Natura 2000 site designation process for the EU 27 needs to be completed during this trio Presidency so that all Member States can then focus on the effective management of the sites.
- **Belgium** to take the lead, by proper **implementation** and by setting **conservation objectives** for maintaining and or restoring a **good conservation status of Natura 2000 areas and species**.
- We call on the **European Commission** to significantly **increase its efforts and resources to ensure adequate implementation of the EU Nature Directives by Member States**. This includes an increased use of planning and management tools, such as site management plans and Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- In July 2010, the **European Commission** will publish the results of the survey on the costs of financing Natura 2000. Together with Member States, and with the support of the Belgian Presidency, the European Commission should- insist on its adequate funding as a key principle of the wider **EU budget debate**.

1.3 Forests

The EU must reduce its footprint on forests by reducing its unsustainable consumption, production and trade patterns. According to WWF², the EU host 7% of the world's population but relies on 17% of the world's resources - a footprint almost two-and-a-half times its biological capacity. We use up more of the world's resources and produce more waste per capita than many other countries in the world. The EU currently hosts 5 % of the world's forests³, on the other hand, together with the USA, Japan and China, the EU is one of the biggest net importers of wood products. In 2008, the EU imported about 510 million m³ of industrial roundwood. In other words, the EU is currently driving those activities that are leading to the destruction of forest ecosystems, which it seeks to end.

The EU is also a major importer of food and non-food commodities from critical forest areas, and the mobilisation of biomass for energy production in Europe is expected to increase significantly in the coming years, with potentially adverse environmental consequences on a worldwide scale.

Illegal logging

It is estimated that in 2005 23% of wooden products (including paper) imported into the EU came from so called "high risk countries", countries where the likeliness of illegal logging is very high⁴. Illegal and destructive logging contributes to deforestation and forest degradation, threatens a large and ever-increasing number of forest ecosystems and species, and undermines legitimate business by lowering global timber prices and undercutting those timber companies that act responsibly. Moreover, it is linked to organized crime, money laundering and civil wars, and leads to the loss of important revenue to forests-rich countries by compromising public services such as health and education.

Illegal logging is a pervasive problem whose consequences are mostly seen in wood producing countries outside the EU. However, the problem of illegal logging has to be addressed within the European Community as well. On the eve of two major UN conferences, where the international climate and biodiversity regime will be reshaped to meet the challenges of the new decade, the European Union cannot contradict and undermine the core of its own **international environmental commitments** by staying blind to the sales of timber from illegal sources on the EU market.

As a major importer of tropical (and other) timber and timber products, the EU carries a big responsibility for developments in countries outside its borders as well as for the legal and sustainable production of timber products within its own borders. Strong legislation at **EU level** is needed to guarantee that only timber and timber based products from legal sources are placed on the EU market.

Forests and climate change

We urge the Belgian Presidency to use the year of biodiversity to stress the importance of forests ecosystems in providing ecological, social and economic benefits now and in the future. Even though the timber harvest from European forests is generally considered as sustainable with regard to wood volumes harvested, the biodiversity aspect is often not addressed in a sufficient

² WWF 2005, Europe 2005 –the ecological footprint

³ TBFRA 2000 - <http://www.unece.org/timber/fra/welcome.htm>

⁴ A. Contreras-Hermosilla, R. Doornbosch, & M. Lodge. 2007. The Economics of Illegal Logging and Associated Trade. OECD Round Table on Sustainable Development.

manner, and the effects of forest fragmentation are under-estimated.⁵. This situation needs to change as stronger ecosystem resilience will ensure a better adaptation and minimise the negative effects of climate change on European forests.

In particular the **Green Paper On Forest Protection and Information in the EU**: Preparing forests for climate change needs to be significantly strengthened, so that all functions of forests (ecologic, social and economic) are addressed in a balanced manner, and a better consideration is given to the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to the climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The concept of a sustainable use of forests, that is recognizing biodiversity values, is also of high importance for the work on the implementation of the **Renewable Energy Directive**, especially with regard to implementation of the EU policies on biofuels and biomass.

REDD (Reduced emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) will be on the agenda of the Belgian Presidency in the context of the negotiations for a new international climate agreement. We expect Belgium to use its privileged diplomatic relations to take up a leadership role in maintaining a good EU position and in seeking support from other Parties.

We call on the Belgian Presidency to:

- Enforce a prompt adoption and implementation of thorough legislation, in order to **exclude illegal timber and regulate the sale of timber products on the EU market** before the end of 2010. The common position for legislation to halt the trade in illegal timber on EU Markets presented by the European Council in January 2010 did not live up to expectations and will not ensure that the trade in illegal timber products on the European Market is stopped. We urge the Belgian Presidency to work with other Member States towards the adoption of vital amendments by the Council to transform this law into an effective and therefore credible tool to fight illegal forest destruction.

- To use its privileged diplomatic relations to take up a leadership role in maintaining a good EU position and in seeking support from other Parties on all five priorities related to **REDD** – 1) ambitious goal for 2020 and beyond, 2) no fungibility of REDD credits into carbon markets, 3) national carbon accounting system, 4) strong biodiversity and social safeguards, and 5) short-term and long-term sources of financing. We want to be reassured that these issues will be properly addressed at the COP in Mexico in December.

- Speed up the negotiations on the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (**EU FLEGT**) partnership agreements, and take initiative to expand the use of Green Public Procurement for wood and wooden products across the whole of the EU.

- Take the necessary steps to guarantee the environmental integrity of the **sustainability criteria for biofuels and bioliquids** under RES-D and ensure the introduction of environmental and social safeguards, including the development of **binding sustainability criteria for the production and trade of biomass** that is used in the EU. The Belgian Presidency should also guarantee the consistency of this policy with the international objectives of averting global biodiversity loss, preventing climate change from reaching dangerous levels, and alleviating poverty.

⁵ EEA report No 4 2009: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/progress-towards-the-european-2010-biodiversity-target>

- Enforce the development of a **policy for forest protection and forest use in the EU** that equally considers all aspects of sustainability, contributes effectively to climate mitigation and adaptation, and sufficiently addresses the protection of biodiversity values in forest ecosystems.
- Call on the Commission to act upon its commitment⁶ to publish a comprehensive **study of the impact on deforestation and forest degradation of the EU production, consumption and trade in food and non-food commodities**. This study should identify the specific negative contribution of each of the industry sectors involved and recommend new policies, regulation and innovation to reduce their impact.

1.4 Freshwater: Continue EU water policy reform

The EU water policy reform that started with the adoption of the **EU Water Framework Directive** continues under the Belgian Presidency and moves into a new phase of implementation, more in particular of the first series of the **river basin management plans** aimed to bring our rivers, lakes, groundwater reserves and wetlands to their ecological health by 2015. In addition, the end of 2010 is also a deadline for the Member States to establish adequate **water pricing policies** that, if designed correctly, can contribute to protecting and enhancing our aquatic environment. These freshwater ecosystems are the source of water of which we and our economy depend on. They also provide other services to society: they purify water and detoxify wastes, regulate climate, provide protection from storms, mitigate erosion, and offer multiple cultural and spiritual benefits. It is therefore vital that we maintain and enhance our freshwater ecosystems and secure the important services and benefits they provide.

Implementation of the Water Framework Directive, however, is not uniform across the EU, several Member States, particularly in the Mediterranean, are delayed in their river basin planning and the EU needs to step up its efforts to bring water use into a much better balance with economic development, consumer needs and the requirements of nature.

At a time when Europe is becoming increasingly aware of its water challenges, exacerbated by expected climate change, we believe the EU must take resolute steps to make water the central plank of efforts to tackle lasting food security, public health, and climate challenges. The consequences of inaction can be significant in the form of diminishing water supplies, ever more expensive treatment, ever-increasing impacts on the economy and greater exposure to catastrophic events.

We call on the Belgian Presidency to:

- Ensure progress on the **implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)** across the EU, including adequate water pricing policies and cost recovery from polluters.
- Promote **river basin management plans** under the WFD, which should be used as regional planning instruments for energy, transport, and other developments and investment decisions. We urge in particular to widen and improve the assessment of environmentally friendly alternatives, and to make the plans a central part of strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change and reverse the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

⁶ Commission Communication on addressing the challenges of deforestation and forest degradation to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss, October 2008, page 9. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0645:FIN:EN:PDF>

- Promote an integrated approach for the implementation of the **Floods and Water Framework Directives** in order to maximise the synergies and prevent mal-adaptation.
- Lead the implementation of the EU policy to address **water scarcity and droughts**, and step up the efforts to turn the EU into a water-saving economy and society. This can be achieved by setting ambitious water-saving objectives for different water uses, defining effective measures to control and reduce water consumption, and designing effective water allocation policies.
- Address **climate change** through pro-active strategies, that aim at reducing vulnerabilities and increasing resilience of ecosystems and societies.
- Lead by example and **promote the ratification** of the International Convention on the non-navigational uses of international watercourses by Member States and the EU as a block.

2. Climate change and renewable energy future

2.1 *Progress towards a new international agreement*

At the global level, the EU must play a leading role in facilitating a restart of the Climate negotiations in the **post-Copenhagen era**, leading to ratification of new legally binding commitments for the post-2012 period under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In order to stay below two degrees global temperature rise, worldwide greenhouse gas emissions need to peak and decline by 2015. Therefore decisive action is needed to reinforce the EU's ambition and efforts regarding the reduction of its own domestic greenhouse gas emissions, to develop a comprehensive climate change adaptation strategy, as well as to provide sufficient financial and technical support for developing countries.

We call on the Belgium Presidency to:

- Ensure that Europe is playing a leading and constructive role, with a clear, unified position and active engagement in the negotiations. This should allow the EU to achieve a strong, fair and legally binding agreement under the UNFCCC no later than December 2010 (**COP-16**) while preserving the Kyoto track.
- Following the scientific evidence, and in order to stay as far as possible below the politically accepted 2°C global temperature rise, commit to a **40% emission reduction by 2020**. At least 30% should be realized within the EU. Instead of focusing on what others are doing (comparability of efforts), Europe should look more at the internal benefits of a stronger emission reduction target. Therefore greenwashing of the target is no option: the majority of the reductions has to be met by domestic actions. Hot air and LULUCF loopholes must be closed.
- Assure that the annual 2,4 billion Euros that the EU promised to contribute during 2010-2012 for the **fast-start international public support** for climate policy is additional to ODA commitments
- **Set clear figures on the EU contribution, of at least 35 billion Euros public funding a year, by 2020**. These funds should go directly to developing countries for specific and separate support for adaptation, mitigation, including forestry and capacity building, with a special emphasis on vulnerable and least developed countries. The financial support must be new, additional to ODA commitments, predictable and binding.

- Develop a **low carbon strategy for 2050** in order to achieve reductions in of at least 95% by that year.

2.2 *Renewable Energy*

Under the Belgian EU Presidency, the Council of the EU should take strategic decisions that would profoundly modernise the energy sector. The result will boost Europe's economy in a sustainable way, strengthen energy security, create green jobs, deliver real solutions to climate change and support the desirable phase-out of nuclear power.

We call on the Belgian EU Presidency to exert strong leadership for the EU to develop a **2050 Vision for a Renewable Energy System**, in line with a global objective of 100% renewable energy supply by 2050. In this context, the EU should develop a strategic focus on prioritising renewable energy and energy efficiency with the objective to phase-out the use of fossil fuels and nuclear power, well before 2050.

We call on the Belgian Presidency to:

- To initiate the development of a comprehensive **smart distribution grid initiative**. This includes setting minimum standards for all new electricity grid developments and key appliances (electric cars, etc.)
- Take, in particular, a lead in the development of an offshore grid plan, that will enable the connection of a vast amount of offshore wind power in the North Sea and the Irish Sea by 2030. This should be achieved within the context of the nine-countries **North Sea Countries Offshore Grid Initiative**, on which an agreement on implementation should be reached by the end of 2010.
- Push for the development of **effective electricity network rules**, including priority connection and the enforcement of priority grid access for renewable energy within the long term objective of a 100% carbon free electricity supply by 2035.
- Ensure that **biomass** use for heat and power and **biofuel** use to meet transport targets do not have wider environmental nor social impacts. The Belgian Presidency should push the Council to **reject the recent proposal of the Commission, which sets no European binding sustainability criteria for biomass**. Instead binding criteria should be defined. Moreover, the Commission should propose a method of plugging a key gap in the biofuels sustainability criteria, which currently ignores the effects of indirect land use change (ILUC). We urge the Belgian Presidency to integrate a methodology accounting for indirect land use change in the greenhouse gas balance, so that the real greenhouse gas savings of biofuels are accounted for.
- Ensure that Council Regulation 2002/1402 on **state aid for coal mining**, which expires at the end of 2010, is not renewed. The Commission should be urged to work with Germany, Spain and other relevant member states to ensure that current state aid schemes are rapidly phased out.

2.3 *Industrial CO2 emissions*

The **EU ETS** must now deliver real and tangible emission reductions. In the second half of 2010 several detailed regulations and standards will be determined that will fundamentally effect the operation and therefore success of the scheme.

The new **Industrial Emission Directive** for the power sector should include CO2 Emission Performance Standards (EPS) for the relatively small number of very large installations (>500 MWth). An EPS supports and complements a more effective ETS, by enabling a steeper overall emission reduction pathway that is consistent with science-based climate targets, and by avoiding investment lock-in to new high-emitting installations.

It is unacceptable to aid industrial sectors that are not exposed to international competition. However, installations that have a genuine case must be supported with targeted investments in low carbon technology as well as appropriate up-skilling opportunities for employees.

Under the Directive on Emissions trading, we urge the Belgian Presidency to safeguard the following principles:

- Emission allowances should be sold by auction as much as possible, and the access to overseas offsets should be limited
- 50% of auctioning revenues have to be earmarked to support international commitments to climate change. The remaining 50% of revenues should be used to advance the transition to clean, sustainable, energy-efficient and prosperous European economy.
- Credible emissions benchmarks, that promote innovation and support low carbon production, have to be established. Therein the companies' surplus of emission permits from phase 2 (2008-2012) has to be taken into account.
- An increase in the overall EU emissions reduction target must lead, as soon as possible, to cap reform, and in particular to an increase of the annual linear reduction factor (which is currently only -1.74% per year).

2.4 Energy efficiency

Investment in energy efficiency, at all levels from generation to actual use, is by far the most immediate, effective, and economically beneficial way to reduce emissions; and to decouple rising demand for energy services from actual energy production.

We call on the Belgian Presidency to:

- Promote the adoption of a **mandatory 20% energy saving target by 2020 under the reviewed EU Energy Efficiency Action Plan (EEAP)**. In addition, an effective revision of the **Energy Services Directive** is needed, restating the 20% mandatory energy saving target and the importance of the development and implementation of national Energy Efficiency Action Plans. Sufficient funding from the EU Budget for Energy Efficiency saving measures should be provided.
- Ensure that under the reviewed EEAP ambitious energy standards for buildings and energy using products are applied in the European Union. Key Directives to support this aim are the **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)** and the **Ecodesign requirements for Energy Using Products (EuP) Directive**.

2.5 *Transport decarbonisation*

In the second half of 2010, Belgium will have the opportunity to initiate, together with the European Commission, a number of important strategic decisions that would help putting the transport sector onto a sustainable pathway.

Without further policy interventions, greenhouse gas emissions from European transport will continue to rise, undermining reductions achieved in other sectors.

The Belgian Presidency should therefore, as part of a renewed effort to prevent runaway climate change, and to reach an international agreement in Mexico, place a particular focus on the decarbonisation of transport.

- The Belgian Presidency should push the EC to develop an ambitious **Green Paper on decarbonisation of transport in the period to 2050**. This Green Paper should set out how the transport sector can make its fair contribution to reaching an economy-wide target of 80-95% greenhouse gas reductions by 2050, as agreed by the European Council of 29 and 30 October 2009.

In line with this target, the transport sector should reach an emission reduction of at least 85%. Land-based transport should, by 2050, reach zero emissions, while aviation and shipping reduce their carbon footprint as much as possible.

The Belgian Presidency should promote a strong vision on transport decarbonisation, combining technical measures on fuels and vehicles with non-technical measures to reduce speeds and volumes of motorised transport.

- The Belgian Presidency should also ensure that the upcoming **White Paper on the Common Transport Policy until 2020** matches the ambitions of Green Paper on decarbonisation of transport in the period to 2050. The White Paper should include a greenhouse gas reduction target for 2020, as well as a coherent set of measures to achieve this. It should also commit the EU to take the necessary measures within 2020-timeframe, in order to enable large scale decarbonisation by 2050: this will include vehicle efficiency, both for light and heavy duty vehicles, speed-reduction measures, and demand management.

The Belgian Presidency should initiate decisions on concrete targets and measures to mitigate the climate impact from transport in the 2020 timeframe.

- In line with this overall ambition on transport decarbonisation, the Belgian Presidency should push for a comprehensive review of the **EU Strategy to reduce CO2 emissions from light duty vehicles**. We urge the Belgian Presidency to urgently complete this strategy by:

- adopting an ambitious Regulation on CO₂ emissions from light commercial vehicles (vans)
- reviewing the car labelling Directive.

The Presidency should also ensure that the Strategy indicates further steps to reduce CO₂ emissions from light duty vehicles, and that these steps are taken urgently. It should bring forward the review of Regulation 443/2009 on CO₂ emissions from passenger cars to no later than in 2011, to enhance planning security and timely allocation of investments by automobile manufacturers.

The Belgian Presidency should support a thorough “health check” of the EU’s policy to reduce CO2 emissions from cars and vans, and ensure a timely review of the relevant legislation.

- Under Belgium’s leadership, the Council of Ministers should also agree on an ambitious **EU Strategy for clean and energy efficient vehicles**, which combines both carrots and sticks to encourage greater energy efficiency for all types of vehicles (passenger/commercial and light/heavy duty). The Strategy should acknowledge that financial incentives and R&D programmes alone will be insufficient to accelerate technological progress in vehicles. These measures should be combined with stringent vehicle efficiency standards.

The Belgian Presidency should promote a balanced roadmap for greening Europe’s automobile sector, demanding ambitious fleet-wide efficiency gains in return for any support given.

- The Belgian Presidency should lead the Council of Transport Ministers to an agreement on the **Eurovignette Directive**. This legislation on road user charging for lorries should finally allow for the implementation of the polluter-pays principle in road freight transport. This will provide an effective instrument for Member States to increase efficiency, manage congestion and reduce emissions from lorries.

- With regard to the review of the guidelines for Trans-European Transport networks (**TEN-T**), the Council, under the leadership of the Belgian Presidency, must formally integrate the overarching transport decarbonisation objective into the assessment framework for infrastructure funding. Transport projects – including regional, urban and public transport projects – that demonstrate lasting emission reductions and create genuine added-value for the EU, should therefore be prioritised in Community funding.

2.6 Nuclear waste directive

During the Belgian Presidency, the European Commission will propose a common framework for the establishment of national radioactive waste programs. This legislation should advocate a policy of cessation in the production of radioactive waste by the nuclear power industry and the military.

For those wastes that have already been produced, there exists no technical solution whereby the detriment to human health and the environment can be guaranteed to be zero for the long-term future. In other words, safe and non-polluting disposal of radioactive wastes is not considered attainable.

We call on the Belgian Presidency to:

- Push for legislation that advocates the cessation of the production of radioactive waste.
- Push for legislation that seeks to retain radioactive wastes in surface stores, and to manage them under failsafe conditions affording the maximum in: safety (for workers and the public), security (from terrorism and theft), containment (of radioactivity from the environment), accessibility (to allow inspection and maintenance), monitorability (to ensure the early detection of any failure to meet the above criteria), and retrievability (in the event of the detection of any such failure).

2.7 *Carbon tax*

The revision of the **EU Energy Tax Directive (ETD)** is planned to begin this spring but could be delayed. This proposed revision must be accompanied by the improvements in the EU ETS (see above) and supplemented by environmental pricing schemes (see below).

In the context of Environmental Fiscal Reform there are several **further instruments complementing the ETD**, to help resolve the climate crisis, keep further cost down and generate revenue for labour market interventions or debt repayment:

- Introduction of cost-effective **road, land, air and sea-use pricing schemes** so that all forms of activities, e.g. transport, fully cover their external costs.
- The interplay between EU ETS sectors and the sectors concerned by the ETD has to be thoroughly designed in order to avoid long-term lock-in into high-carbon emitting investments.
- Environmentally Harmful Subsidies (EHS) and tax exemptions should be phased out. This requires the presentation of the long promised **Roadmap to abolish EHS** by the Commission.

3. **Sustainable Agriculture**

3.1 *Grasping the opportunities of CAP Reform*

Following on the Communication of the European Commission on the post 2013-CAP, expected in the second half of 2010, the Belgian Presidency should lead the debate on the future of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). **Agriculture provides pressures but also solutions for some of the great environmental challenges of our time**: halting the collapse of biodiversity, mitigating climate change and adapting to its consequences, dealing with the looming water crises.

Solving these challenges is the only way to ensure our long term food production capacity. **The EU must bring radical reform to the CAP**, bringing it in line with current stated objectives; making it ecologically, economically and socially sustainable; and refocusing it on rewarding farmers for the delivery of well defined public goods, such as sustainable water management, carbon sequestration, preservation of biodiversity, rural vitality, etc. The Commission, the Member States and the European Parliament must put environmental challenges and the need to build sustainability into our food system at the heart of the debate on the future of the CAP.

Indeed a new contract should be established between land managers and society recognising the vital role they play in the provision of **environmental goods and services** that are not rewarded by the market but benefit to the society as a whole. Such a policy would help to keep rural areas alive, contribute to restore the confidence of consumers in farm products (by enabling the provision of healthy food originating from healthier ecosystems), and offer a much more transparent, coherent and efficient use of taxpayers' money.

While this transition needs to be carefully managed it is time to **give the farming sector a clear long-term perspective**, by offering them a long-term safeguard of supplementary income, additional to the fluctuating returns from the sale of agricultural products.

We call on the Belgian Presidency to:

- **Promote a debate** that is open to all relevant actors – including environmental NGOs - on the future of the EU budget and the need for substantive reform of the CAP, in order to create a new fund focused on sustainable land management and rural development.
- **Start designing the post 2013 CAP**, firstly by defining the objectives, then by choosing the right instruments to meet these objectives, and finally by calculating the budget needed.
- **Design ground principles for the CAP reform:** the polluter-pays principle should be fully enforced. Environmental regulation should be reinforced. The legislative regulations that are the basis of the current cross compliance system, should be strengthened and enforced. Public money must be spent on the delivery of well defined public goods and for practices which go beyond the legislative baseline. The Belgian Presidency should explore cross-compliance as a way to deploy the green infrastructure needed to halt the loss of biodiversity in rural areas.
- That way, the CAP and the agriculture subsidies must redirect the European agriculture to a sustainable agro-ecological system.
- Invest a part of the CAP budget in projects that aim at promoting a sustainable diet. The sustainable food system is a real social and economic issue. Inadequate nutrition generates significant costs, both in terms of public health and loss of competitiveness.

3.2 *GMOs*

The European policy concerning the placing on the market and the growth of genetically modified organisms (GMO's) should be based on the precautionary principle. The GMO-policy should be evaluated: the absolute safety of people and environment must be the main priority. The Belgian Presidency should respect the position of certain Member States and their will to ban GMO's.

We call on the Belgian Presidency to:

- Consider the conclusions of the European Environment Council 4 December 2008 under the French Presidency, at which the member states agreed to **strengthen the environmental risk assessment**. The assessment should include the long term effects on the environment, public health and non-target organisms. Moreover, the socio-economic effects of the growing of GMOs should be investigated.
- Revise the **guidelines of the EFSA risk assessment**, according to these Council conclusions.
- Keep an eye on **upcoming initiatives**. At the end of June, a Commission Communication on the socio-economic effects of GMO's is expected. Moreover, mid-2010, an external evaluation of the European GMO-policy should be concluded. These two documents should be followed by proposals for legislation to improve the GMO-policy and implement the concerns of the Council of Environment ministers.

4. Time to secure a future for Europe's fisheries

The Trio-Presidency has biodiversity and sustainable use of the marine environment amongst its priorities. Fish populations all around the world are in trouble, but the EU is in a state of crisis. More than 85% of its commercial stocks are overfished, a rate far above the current global average of 25%. Nearly one-third of fish in EU waters, including iconic species like Mediterranean bluefin tuna, are at risk of collapse.

We call on the Belgian Presidency, working with other Member States to ensure that the **current Common Fisheries Policy**:

- Aims to secure *stock recovery* (and in doing so follows scientific advice), and the precautionary principle.
- Considers the *protection of the marine ecosystem* as a whole when agreeing TACs, quotas, and other management decisions.
- *Applies the EU rules on penalties* in cases of overfishing by national fleets.
- Ensures that Member States implement and comply with all the measures contained in the regulation against *Illegal Fishing* in community and international waters.
- Progresses the current commitment to implement an *ecosystems-based approach* to fisheries management.

Importantly, it is anticipated that under the Belgian Presidency the Commission will complete the review of comments and draft its proposal for the CFP reform. To take full advantage of this once in a decade opportunity to move towards more sustainable European seas, The Belgian Presidency needs to advance the discussions on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) by **calling for a radical shift towards sustainability**:

- *Ecological sustainability* must be given top priority in the objectives of the reformed CFP, as a pre-requisite for healthy marine ecosystems and a viable fishing sector.
- *Mandatory Long-term management plans* that aim to meet clear targets and follow scientific recommendations must be established for all European commercial fisheries
- Commitment to the *precautionary principle* must be reaffirmed, and a clear acknowledgement to meet Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) commitments.
- A new policy that will *minimize discards* should be adopted: catch limits should include all sources of fishing mortality. To this end, TACs and quotas should include all fish that are caught – not just landed catch (i.e. discards should count against quota and be included in scientific assessment).
- Substantial and permanent *reduction of fishing capacity* is urgently required to lessen impacts on fish stocks and the overall status of the environment. Legally binding fleet reduction targets must be agreed by Member States, with heavy penalties for failure to comply.
- *Permanent fisheries subsidies should be phased out* as far as possible, with the presumption that any public support should be minimised and compliant with the CFP, the MSFD and associated directives.
- A model of *more decentralised governance* should be established. High level objectives should be set in Brussels, but these should be complemented with appropriate means at regional and local level, that is driven by strong stakeholder co-management.
- The *consistency between fishing management in the EU and its foreign fishing policy* must be ensured, both in international waters and in third countries. The EU should strengthen its international leadership role to facilitate the adoption of policies for the protection and sustainable use of high seas resources.
- The *quality of scientific advice* available in the Mediterranean must be significantly improved..

We call on the Belgian Presidency to ensure environmental objectives in the current CFP and its planned review, as described above, and in particular to:

- Promote environmental sustainability, call for a radical cut in fleet capacity and ensure that the operational fleet structure is compatible with sustainable fishing.
- Promote a mandatory requirement for all European fisheries to have functional long term management plans agreed within a specific timeframe, and that these comply with a basic set of requirements set out in the Regulation.

We call on the Member States to transpose the Marine Strategy Framework Directive into national law, and use the opportunity to provide forums for exchange of best practice and expertise amongst Member States while involving all relevant sectors.

CFP principles must apply to all fisheries in EU waters, including the Mediterranean, and where EU vessels fish outside EU waters.

5. A healthy environment

Human health is one of the key constituents of human well-being. It must be protected by achieving a good quality of the environment, as highlighted in the EU Sixth Environment Action Programme (6EAP). The environment influences our health in many ways — through exposures to physical, chemical and biological risk factors, and through related changes in our behaviour in response to those factors. Proper environmental management is the key to avoiding the quarter of all preventable illnesses which are directly caused by environmental factors.

The Belgian Presidency will have the opportunity to follow-up on the European Environment & Health Action Plan 2004-2010, which would be an opportunity to reinforce action on air pollution and chemicals.

Human health is also (directly and indirectly) influenced by Climate Change. The Belgian Presidency should take up this issue, and push for the inclusion of the following aspects in climate change strategies:

- Control on a wide range of combustion-related pollutants, in addition to CO₂-emissions
- The impact of air pollution on human health.
- Cleaner cars, urban planning, buildings, and individual behaviour.

5.1 Chemicals risks

People are exposed to huge numbers of **industrial and household chemicals**, and to **pesticides and metals** in air, water, food and consumer products. Many of these chemicals can be hazardous to health. There is also growing concern about adverse impacts of exposure to low levels of chemicals, often in complex mixtures.

Concerns are also equally rising about **endocrine disruptors** that interfere with hormone-dependent functions in the body, such as embryonic development, production of sperm, and cancers in hormone-dependent tissues. Children are particularly vulnerable to such chemical hazards: several adult diseases are supposedly linked to exposure in very early childhood, or

exposure of parents before conception. Parents should be protected from such exposure to chemicals, especially during pregnancy and breast feeding period.

The **Biocide legislation** is currently under revision. The Belgian Presidency thus has the opportunity to make progress on this topic; and to work on an action plan that aims at reducing the use and risks of biocides. For instance, action should be taken to limit people's exposure to CMR, PE, immunotoxic and neurotoxic biocides. Specific attention should be accorded to vulnerable groups.

We call on the Belgian Presidency to:

- Accord specific attention to the Commission **endocrine disruptors' strategy**, and to the follow-up of the Council conclusion of December 2009 on cumulative effects.
- Require a thorough debate in the Environment Council about the (lack) of progress on the implementation of **REACH**, in particular with regards of the phasing out and substitution of substances of very high concern.
- Ensure continuation of the EU leading role within the **UNEP Mercury Treaty negotiations**.
- Secure that appropriate priorities, such as supply and trade, are discussed during the first **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)**.

5.2 *Air quality*

Air pollution is the environmental factor with the biggest impact on health in Europe, and is responsible for the largest burden of environment-related diseases:

- Recent estimates indicate that 20 million Europeans suffer from **respiratory problems** on a daily basis⁷.
- Increased mortality – especially from cardiovascular and cardiopulmonary diseases - is associated with exposure to **particulate matter**, in particular to small particles with a diameter less than 2.5 micrometers (PM_{2.5}). Moreover, an assessment on the progress made in improving health and environment, undertaken by the European members of the WHO, has shown that actions aimed at reducing air pollution by particulate matter are actually insufficient.
- Current **exposure to PM from anthropogenic sources** leads to the loss of more than 13 months in our country, with a European average of 8.6 months. The Belgian Presidency has the opportunity to improve this situation through the revision of the National Emissions Ceiling (NEC)-directive.

We call on the Belgian Presidency to:

- Push the Commission to adopt the revision proposal of the **National Emissions Ceiling Directive** without further delay.
- Set stricter interim air quality targets for 2020, according to the objectives of the 6th EAP.

⁷ EEA report 10/2005

- Support tighter national caps for the four pollutants (sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and ammonia).
- Insist on ambitious first-ever national caps on emissions of ultra fine particulate matter (PM2.5), which is the pollutant with highest impact on human health (with health risks even higher than PM10)
- Require additional emission abatement measures within the national programmes for the implementation of the directive.

5.3 *Nanoparticules*

Development of nanomaterials has been accelerating for the last 10 years: its global market is expected to expand by at least 100 billion euro over the next 10 years. Advocates of these technologies argue that they will provide new products and services, and even increase human capabilities. Possible applications would include better targeted medicines, more efficient energy storage and lighting, better insulation materials, and enhanced physical characteristics of natural resources.

Yet, the new properties of nanomaterials have the potential to create new hazards and risks, as studies have shown that some nanostructures are hazardous to human health. Furthermore, nanomaterials may be eco-toxic after being discharged into the environment, as their small size allows them to be easily internalised by animals and humans.

We call on the Belgian Presidency to:

- Lead the discussion on the anticipated **Nanosciences and Nanotechnologies Action Plan**, in order to ensure that fundamental research on hazard and exposure is undertaken before the further development of applications
- Ensure strict regulation, and provide information and labelling for the use of nano in food. This can be achieved through the **revision of both the Novel Food Regulation and the Provision of Food Information to Consumers Directive**.
- Encourage member states to develop a Nano-register
- Deal with the use of nano-materials in cosmetics, tires, packaging, etc.

6. **From ‘waste’ to ‘cradle to cradle’ - Sustainable use of nature resources and materials.**

A more sustainable use of resources is seen as a key element of a low carbon, resource-efficient economy. The challenge is to reduce the linear use of materials in our societies, and instead **shift towards a green “circular” economy that entails both dematerialisation and a concerted effort towards reusing and recycling materials.**

Cradle to cradle, or closing the loop through proactive product design, is one approach that contributes to this transition. These changes will require time. Therefore it is essential that current waste related policies are, at the very least, consistent with the longer term vision of a low carbon economy. The Belgian Presidency needs to take the lead in ensuring that the implementation of

the **Waste Framework Directive** drives all regions and countries forward towards a more sustainable use of materials. Currently, the emphasis on the internal free market of waste is at the expense of moving towards a circular economy, and is therefore counterproductive.

It is clear that the combination of the Waste Framework Directive and the current Landfill Directive do not address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead to reach a sustainable management of Europe's bio waste. Therefore, Belgium needs to take initiative to demonstrate the necessity of a **Bio-waste Directive**. Such a directive is entirely consistent with the drive towards a low carbon economy, and the European Commission should be pushed to start preparations on the issue.

We call on the Belgian Presidency to:

- Ensure that the implementation of the **Waste Framework Directive** does not undermine the "best in class" resource management countries. Current preparation for implementation places the emphasis on incineration of "free market" waste to the detriment of recycling.
- Insist to the European Commission to **initiate a Bio-Waste Directive**.
- Ensure that the recasts of the **ROSH and WEEE Directives** are consistent with the urgency of both the vision of a low carbon economy and the Raw Materials Initiative.

7. External policy

The EU should call for a thorough assessment of its impact on biodiversity and climate in other parts of the world

7.1 European Development Policy

As the largest provider of global development assistance, the EU has a particular responsibility towards the achievement of the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** and sustainable development in developing countries. Degradation of the natural environment and the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services have a critical impact on agricultural activities, forests, fisheries and freshwater resources, on which the majority of the world's poor depend. The MDGs recognise environmental sustainability (Goal 7) as a crucial condition for human wellbeing.

Through its development cooperation programmes the EU has shown commitment to the global environment: it has financed and implemented multilateral environmental agreements, and supported the environment by protecting natural resources.

The period during which the Belgian Presidency takes place, provides a decisive opportunity for the EU to demonstrate coherence and environmental leadership in the global arena: the MDG Review takes place in September, and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October.

We call on the Belgian Presidency to:

- Highlight, at the **UN High Level meeting for the review of the MDGs** in September, the fundamental importance of MDG 7 (on environmental sustainability) for long-term poverty reduction and human development.

- Push to **double the EU's current investment** in environment, biodiversity and the protection of ecosystem services through its development cooperation programmes. Such a commitment would also substantiate the EU's pledge to step up contributions to avert global biodiversity loss.
- Put in place the resources and relevant building blocks for the **Revised Strategy on Environmental Integration in Development Cooperation**, which has been requested by the Council for the end of 2011. This strategy should further mainstream environment as a cross-cutting issue in the EU's development programmes.

7.2 *European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Policy*

Strategic importance of the Neighbouring regions of the EU is growing due to EU energy security concerns and the foreseen impacts of climate change on Europe's doorstep. EU initiatives to consolidate regional blocks in the Near Neighbourhood are ongoing; notably the Eastern Partnership⁸, the Black Sea Synergy, and the Union for the Mediterranean. They require a coherent and harmonised support by the EU Presidencies.

In the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Black Sea Synergy context, we call on the Belgian Presidency to:

- Implement the new additional **flagship project on environment**. The environmental governance component of this project should, from 2010 on, receive appropriate funding, enhance the capacity of civil society, and ensure its involvement in environmental policy- and decision-making.
- adopt and implement a **flagship initiative on regional electricity markets**, in order to increase use of renewable sources and energy efficiency.
- Enhance the role of the newly established **Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (CSF)**, and ensure full participation of CSF representatives to the EaP's official platforms and related thematic Panels (such as the Environmental Panel, under Platform 2). We particularly support the EaP CSF Working Group on environment and energy.
- Identify a work plan for the **Environmental Partnership with the Black Sea Region**, in order to consolidate existing environmental cooperation. It is important to involve Civil Society in this process.
- Develop and adopt a **Black Sea Synergy Energy Partnership** that promotes diversification of energy sources, and particularly supports energy efficiency and increased use of renewable sources.
- Create an **ENPI Civil Society Facility**⁹, in order to allow more accessible and decentralized access to ENPI funding for NGOs and other civil society stakeholders.

⁸ Adopted at the European Council in March 09. The Eastern Partnership represents an upgrade of the Neighbourhood Policy and involves the EU, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. It aims at accelerating reforms, legislative approximation and further economic integration both bilaterally and regionally.

⁹ As in the Instrument for Pre-Accession

In the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) context, we call on the Belgian Presidency to:

Develop and implement the flagship initiatives adopted under the Union for the Mediterranean (Paris, July 2008 and Marseilles, November 2008). Out of them, we particularly support:

1. The adoption of an **Action Plan to implement the Mediterranean Water Strategy** (MWS, Barcelona, April 2010) that includes clear criteria for the adoption of pilot projects, and provides clear targets aiming to promote:

- Deep changes in attitudes towards water and a Mediterranean "new water culture".
- The maintenance and enhancement of Mediterranean ecosystems, and the goods and services they provide (including adaptation to CC impacts).
- Proper water coordination and governance, including full participation of civil society in the implementation of the MWS.

2. The development of a **Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP)**. We call for sustainable development of renewable energy, and the achievement of energy efficiency and energy security in the Mediterranean. To that end, social and environmental impacts (notably in terms of water and land use) need to be assessed, and local stakeholders should be associated in the development of a MSP in each country.

8. EU budget review: public money for public goods

In 2010 the European Commission will manage a budget of around 141 billion euro. Most of this money is attributed to the implementation of the Common Agriculture Policy and Rural Development (41%), EU's Cohesion Policy (35%), and Research (5,3%). Within the context of the EU's economic recovery plan, 2 billion euro was recently attributed to energy projects. Besides that, **only 300 million euro, or 0.2% of the EU-budget, is earmarked for environment issues.**

EU funding has certainly helped farmers to survive and has brought prosperity to poorer regions, but it has also been invested in a number of plans and projects with major detrimental consequences for the environment: from EU sponsored highways to hydro-dams, tourist developments in sensitive areas, and subsidies to farmers that stimulate intensive forms of farming.

In 2010 the **debate on the next financial framework of the EU (2014-2020)** will gather momentum. We see the upcoming negotiations as a unique opportunity to gear EU policy and budget towards a more long term sustainability path. We believe that in times of economic crisis the EU has to demonstrate all the more to all taxpayers that its budget delivers true added value, and that it supports long-term well-being and an eco-efficient economy.

It is beyond any doubt that long-term economic stability can only be achieved if climate change and biodiversity loss are addressed effectively. First results from the groundbreaking study on "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity" (www.teebweb.eu) clearly show that the costs of inaction on biodiversity would by far dwarf those of the current economic crisis. The Stern report showed the same for climate change. Industrial policy, research policy, agricultural policy and so on are all affected by this crucial move towards an eco-efficient economy, as foreseen in the Environment Council conclusions of October 2009. **The EU cohesion policy** should not be

seen as primarily a short-term economic instrument, but as a mechanism to put Europe on a more long-term, economically, socially and environmentally sustainable path. This way Europe can help its poorest regions to bring their use of natural resources, emission of CO₂, and generation of waste down to a level that is sustainable over the long-term.

Against this backdrop **there is a clear case for an EU budget that focuses on investments for a low-carbon, biodiversity friendly economy**, replacing environmentally harmful subsidies with incentives for the restoration of our natural capital and sustainable use of natural resources.

In July 2010, the European Commission will publish the results of the survey on the costs of financing of the Natura 2000. Working together with other Member States, and the European Commission, the Belgian Presidency should insist on its adequate funding as a key principle of the wider EU budget debate.

EU financial policies should re-enforce rather than undermine the Polluter Pays Principle (laid down in the EU Treaties). It must also contribute to the pricing of goods and services being influenced by external (environmental and social) costs.

We call on the Belgium Presidency to:

- Ensure that the **Financial Perspectives (2014-2020)** is developed as an **instrument for the implementation of a Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS)**, which itself should be based on an understanding of the carrying capacity of the planet and the EU's responsibility not to use more than its fair share in relation to the total global population
- promote **coherence between EU's spending and commitments made to halt biodiversity loss, to reduce carbon emissions by 40% by 2020, and to achieve "good" water status by 2015, 2021 and 2027.**
- **Mitigate the effects of climate change** while developing a **low-carbon society** should become a focus for expenditure under all EU budgets.
- support the transition from **the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) towards a Common Environmental and Rural Policy (CERP)**, with a focus on climate change mitigation, adaptation imperatives and public money for public goods and services (including ecological services and requiring *inter alia* lower carbon inputs and sustainable water).
- Strengthen **Life+** as a specific fund for Nature and Environment
- work with other Member States and the Commission to secure that adequate funding for Natura 2000 is made available, and **oblige member states to use these funds for their intended purpose**. Cost estimates of the European Commission (2004 and 2010) have proven that the current "voluntary integration option" is not working properly.
- promote prioritisation of energy efficiency, renewable energies, smart grids and related demonstration **projects for Community R&D funding**.
- Lead for an effective follow-up of the actions proposed in the European Commission's **Communication on GDP and Beyond**, measuring progress in a changing world. This includes the adoption of new measurement tools for sustainability on both the Member States' and EU-level.