

Biodiversity – Council adopts conclusions



EU member states will increase efforts to protect endangered wildlife species and habitats.

In its conclusions today, the Council reaffirms that the EU and its member states will **lead and step up efforts to halt biodiversity loss and restore ecosystems**. The conclusions provide political guidance for the work towards a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The Council also calls upon the Commission to develop without delay an **ambitious, realistic and coherent 2030 EU biodiversity strategy** as a central element of the **European Green Deal**.

Member states unanimously stress the **need for urgent global action** at all levels to halt biodiversity loss. The Council notes with serious concern the alarming state of nature, with around **one million species at risk of extinction**, and the severe implications of unabated climate change. The Council underlines the importance for the EU and its member states to develop and adopt national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) for achieving the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The Council is committed to leading by example and making a robust contribution to the adoption of an ambitious and realistic post-2020 global biodiversity framework to halt the loss of and restore biodiversity by 2030. It is also committed to **mainstreaming biodiversity into all relevant EU policies** such as the new **common agricultural policy (CAP)**. Member states unanimously underline the need to **eliminate subsidies harmful to biodiversity** and to enhance the review of the implementation and accountability of nature and biodiversity policies, actions and commitments, with the aim of stepping up actions on all levels.

In addition, the Council calls for the full, effective and coherent integration of biodiversity into the design and implementation of the EU's **multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027** as well as in future policies such as the **common fisheries policy** and the **circular economy** action plan. Member states will accelerate the transition towards a **resource-efficient, safe, circular and climate-neutral economy** that also **protects and restores biodiversity and ecosystem services**.

Member states underline the importance of making domestic and international **financial flows, including in public procurement, consistent with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**.

The Council will revert to this issue in order to adopt a mandate for the EU position in the negotiations at the **UN biodiversity conference (CBD COP15)** in October 2020 in Kunming, **China**. The landmark conference is due to agree a post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

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