

[Press release – Public hearing on link between biodiversity loss and pandemics such as COVID-19](#)



Organised by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, the hearing will address the loss of biodiversity and the extent to which this increases the risk of pandemics due to change in land use, climate change and wildlife trade. The role that the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 could play in countering biodiversity loss and in increasing the EU's and the global commitment to biodiversity will be discussed.

Dr Anne Larigauderie, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and Dr Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency, will open the public hearing.

The detailed programme is available [here](#).

You can follow the hearing live [here](#) from 9.00 on Thursday 14 January.

EU biodiversity strategy for 2030

On Thursday afternoon, Members will discuss the draft report by rapporteur [César Luena](#) (S&D, ES) which responds to the [Commission's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) and welcomes the level of ambition in the strategy. The draft report underlines that all main direct drivers of change in nature must be addressed and expresses concern about soil degradation, the impact of climate change and the declining number of pollinators. It also addresses the issues of funding, mainstreaming and the governance framework for biodiversity, calls for a Green Erasmus programme focused on restoration and conservation, and emphasises the need for international action, including with regard to ocean governance.

You can follow the committee meeting live [here](#) from 13.15 on Thursday 14 January.