



The Green 10. A group of leading environmental citizens' organisations active at EU level

# ENVIRONMENT AT THE HEART OF EUROPE

## An environmental roadmap for 2009-2014

# THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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**Bankwatch Network**  
**BirdLife International**  
**Climate Action Network Europe (CAN)**  
**European Environmental Bureau (EEB)**  
**Friends of the Earth Europe**  
**Friends of Nature International**  
**Greenpeace European Unit**  
**Health and Environment Alliance**  
**European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E)**  
**WWF European Policy Office**

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## **Preface: Peace and Prosperity in Times of Ecosystem Breakdown**

### **The political challenge for the next 5 years (2009-14)**

Over the past 50 years, the European Union has sought to foster peace and prosperity in Europe. But today it looks set to fail in this objective as its existing policies are driving over-consumption of natural resources and the degradation of ecosystems.

While the challenges Europe and the world face seem at first glance divergent, the Green 10 believe that many are, at heart, environmental. Europe is already living beyond what is safe and sustainable – our rate of natural resource use is more than twice the biological capacity. We continue to deplete natural resources, destroy or damage ecosystems and pollute air, water and soil. Global competition for natural resources is already a cause of conflict, often sparking violence. The old recipe of material prosperity – economic growth – is accelerating climate change, the decline of biodiversity and the collapse of global ecosystems, thus undermining economic activity and the basis of our future.

Our existing responses only reduce the speed of these impacts. They do not address the root-causes. The major political challenge for the EU is no longer to slow down these negative trends but to reverse them. That would be real progress.

### **Green 10 vision for the next 5 years**

*The Green 10 is a collection of the ten largest environmental networks active at the European level and present in Brussels.*

Because many challenges are environmental, the future success of the EU depends on the strength of its environmental vision. In times of resource scarcity and ecosystem breakdown, security policy means climate stability and water security. Peace is built with energy efficiency, wind and solar power. With this, countries become less dependent on other, finite energy resources. Food security depends on sustainable agriculture, and ecosystem protection becomes a fundamental prerequisite for quality of life and economic prosperity.

The EU must play a leading role in the promotion of sustainable development at the global, regional and national levels. It needs to challenge and change its current consumption and production patterns, as well as its transport patterns. It must put the economy on a low energy and low resource use path. The EU should extend this vision to the world by addressing its own extensive imports. It needs to protect and invest in ecosystems that support dwindling biodiversity and to ensure the right of its citizens to live in a healthy environment. And all this whilst drastically cutting its greenhouse gas emissions.

The EU needs an ambitious Sustainable Development Strategy, beyond what was agreed in 2006, and the right instruments to implement it. The new Sustainable Development Strategy, with environmental, social and economic pillars, should replace the current Lisbon Strategy when it comes to political priority setting, and should be built on a combination of legislative, political and financial instruments.

### **Role of the European Parliament**

The election of a new European Parliament in June 2009 is an important moment to instil a new vision of the EU in the world: an agenda not based on fear, plundering of resources and ecosystems, economic competition or political domination. This vision should be based on Europe's principle values: peace, cooperation, integration, solidarity and respect for human rights and environmental protection.

Since the 1991 Maastricht Treaty introduced the 'co-decision procedure', the European Parliament has assumed an increasingly important role in EU policy-making. The new Lisbon Treaty (if and when it

enters into force) would give new powers to the Parliament. Co-decision between the Council and European Parliament would then be substantially extended. The extension into agriculture, fisheries and structural funds as well as external policies would be particularly important. The Parliament's budgetary powers will also give it important responsibilities for how public money is used in the EU and how it affects the rest of the world.

With these extended powers the European Parliament is in an even stronger position to make a difference to the protection of the environment and people's health. We hope that this will motivate European citizens to make use of their right to vote; the new Parliament will have a significant impact on our security, prosperity and quality of life.

Our demands for the Next Parliament can be summarised as follows (details on the following pages)

1. Prevent the 6th Great Extinction: Biodiversity Loss and Ecosystem Breakdown
2. Agriculture Policy Reform: Public Money for Public Goods
3. Promote A Clean and Efficient Energy System
4. Matching Words with Action? For a Sustainable EU-Budget
5. A cleaner, safer environment for healthier Europeans
6. Take Global Responsibility
7. EU leadership to enable a new international Climate Change agreement
8. Make Europe the most Transport-efficient economy in the world
9. Act upon the limits of natural resource availability
10. Improve the implementation and Enforcement of Legislation

**We call on all political parties and MEP candidates to sign up to the recommendations in this manifesto and use it to make Europe a global leader of sustainable development.**

# 1. Prevent the 6<sup>th</sup> Great Extinction: Biodiversity Loss and Ecosystem Breakdown

## The political challenge for the next 5 years

Europe's most valuable habitats are being lost or degraded. Global species extinction rates are over 100 times the natural rate. The figures suggest that we are witnessing the 6<sup>th</sup> great planetary extinction. Most major marine fish stocks are outside safe biological limits. Worldwide, forest ecosystems are being destroyed as forest is converted agriculture and illegal logging increases. Moreover, a growing body of evidence is exposing the negative environmental impact of genetically modified (GM) crops. Invasive Alien Species are adding further stress on fragile ecosystems. All this will be further exacerbated by the effect of climate change. Yet healthy ecosystems are vital buffers against the impacts of dangerous climate change.

When the next European Parliament will start its work in 2009, it will likely have to conclude that the EU has failed to meet its objective of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. Despite its international commitments, the EU has failed to apply any meaningful strategy to reduce its overall footprint on world's forests. Despite so-called reforms, the Common Agricultural Policy has continued to be a major driver for biodiversity loss. The scale of the EU's failure to protect our seas and manage our fisheries sustainably is abhorrent. The EU is displaying an embarrassing lack of control and a disregard for the warning signs of ecosystem breakdown.

## Green 10 vision for the next five years

A political driver for more ambitious European biodiversity policies is needed. Ecosystem and biodiversity concerns must be reflected in all relevant EU policies. A long-term vision for biodiversity alongside concrete objectives and biodiversity loss reduction targets for the next decade are needed. It is time for the EU to look beyond simply halting the loss of biodiversity and more towards reversing the negative trends. We need to restore diverse, strong and resilient ecosystems without which we will be unable to adapt to climate change.

Besides promoting the implementation of existing conservation policies, the EU's budget must be spent in a manner that restores our ecosystems. Healthy and biodiverse ecosystems are of concern not just for conservationists. Human well-being depends on the continued flow of public goods and ecosystem services that are taken for granted. Climate change and ecosystem breakdown are part of the same problem. Care must be taken to ensure unnecessary trade-offs between EU climate policies and those to protect biodiverse ecosystems.

The next five years will be pivotal in establishing a financing mechanism for our remaining forests in the global post-2012 climate regime. It is also time for the EU to move from rhetoric on illegal logging and timber protection to effective legislation. New legislation is also needed to prevent contamination by GMO crops and to ensure producers are liable for damage they cause.

## The Green 10 call on MEP candidates and political parties to:

1. **Be a driver for an ambitious new political framework for biodiversity protection** which will not only seek to halt biodiversity loss, but which will actually restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the EU and globally. This should include binding EU rules to deal with Invasive Alien Species. The new political framework for biodiversity protection must demand a stronger integration of these concerns in all relevant EU policies, or the policy will fail.
2. **Radically revitalise the debate around financing, implementation and communication of laws that have been proven to be effective**, such as the Birds and Habitats Directives, or are in the process of being implemented, such as the Water Framework and Marine Strategy Directives. It

should ringfence at least €6.1 billion per year for Natura 2000 sites. The Parliament should assess implementation of these laws in the Member States over five years. It should propose ways to improve compliance and penalise states for persistently failing to meet their legal obligations under these Directives.

- 3. Ensure a thorough and transparent reform of the way in which the EU carries out GMO risk assessments.** In particular, encourage the European Commission to fulfil its role as a risk manager and to ensure the proper application of the current rules on GMO authorisation. To also encourage the Commission and Member States to adopt strict rules to prevent contamination in the EU ("coexistence") by supporting the lowest technically possible thresholds for GMO presence when the Seeds Directives are amended, as well as supporting a strict and full liability regime which places the burden on companies and farmers using/producing GM crops.
- 4. Ensure real reform of the Common Fisheries Policy.** This should include effective measures to switch from conventional to ecosystem-based management practices, radically cut the EU's fleet size and fishing capacity and finally remove counter-productive subsidies. The establishment of no-take zones, the improvement of stock recovery plans, measures to combat illegal fishing and an increase in the Commission's inspection capacities are essential, as is the introduction of a cap on total allowable catches in line with scientifically recommended precautionary catch levels.
- 5. Support the EU in taking stronger measures against deforestation and forest degradation,** including at international level. This should be done in the context of preventing further climate change and biodiversity loss. The Parliament should ensure successful implementation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan, including the adoption of a legislation that will reduce and ultimately stop illegal deforestation by preventing the sale on the European market of timber and timber products coming from such sources. The Parliament needs to ensure also that the EU is leading the establishment of an international funding mechanism to protect the world's remaining ancient forests in the global climate regime post-2012 (alongside funding for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries). The EU should commit sufficient financial resources to rapidly make this operational.

## 2. Agriculture Policy Reform: Spend Public Money for Public Goods

### The political challenge for the next five years

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) absorbs over 40% of the EU budget and, despite successive reforms, it broadly fails to adequately address current environmental challenges such as biodiversity decline, climate change, air pollution, soil degradation, pesticide exposure and a gathering water crisis. Climate change will require deep changes to land use and farming to ensure effective mitigation and adaptation, making it ever more urgent for the EU to develop a coherent sustainable policy that delivers public goods from public money. Most of CAP spending still goes to untargeted direct payments to farmers, with insufficient connection between the level of payments and the level of public goods provided, including the 'non-crop' goods, such as water quality, wildlife habitat and other ecosystem services. In fact, the highest payments often still go to the biggest, most competitive and most intensive farms.

### Green 10 vision for the next five years

The CAP needs an urgent and radical overhaul to transform it into an effective sustainable land use and rural development policy based on the principle that all public funds should clearly deliver well identified public goods, i.e. farmers should be paid for the delivery of those services to society that are not rewarded by the market, such as wildlife habitat, clean water, carbon storage, and landscape enhancement. The CAP should also promote and support farming methods, such as organic farming, that reduce, or refrain from, pesticide use, and that are generally sustainable and good for public health. Public demand for healthy, quality and GMO-free food must be taken into account and steps taken to ensure that this type of food be widely accessible to the European public. Contamination of the environment, food and animal feed with GMOs must be prevented.

With high prices to stay, regulatory instruments will become ever more important as a driver for a more sustainable agriculture. EU action to protect soils is badly needed as our soils degrade year after year.

### The Green 10 call on MEP candidates and political parties to:

- 1. Promote environmental protection and sustainability including positive impacts on people's health** as a key objectives for the CAP and re-orient spending toward the provision of public goods, particularly supporting sustainable farming practices, and rural development, organic farming. Ensure full implementation of all Integrated Pest Management (IPM) standards and ensure that they become a mandatory baseline for farmers receiving public support.
- 2. Devise effective tools to support Europe's High Natural Value farming systems**, those traditional extensive farming systems that are vital for the maintenance of Europe's ecosystems and landscape but that are often uncompetitive on a free market.
- 3. Link trade with sustainability:** export subsidies and other policies damaging developing countries must be ended, while international agreements must be developed to ensure that basic environmental and social standards are implemented for all products traded on the world market.
- 4. Call for a new debate to ensure adoption of a Soil Framework Directive** which will lead to a reversal in current process of soil degradation if a deal is not reached during the 6<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary term.
- 5. Prevent irreversible contamination of the environment with GMOs**, and thereby ensure the viability of conventional, GMO-free and organic farming.

### 3. Promote a Clean and Efficient Energy System

#### The political challenge for the next five years

The European energy sector is still dominated by large centralised power plants using polluting fossil and nuclear fuels, as well as highly energy intensive heating and transport structures that are largely based on oil and gas. Fossil fuel use is responsible for 80% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. What is more, only 0.6% of the oil, 2% of the gas, 7.3% of the coal and almost none of the world's uranium reserves lie within the 27 EU Member States. Urgent change is needed in order to achieve EU climate commitments and keep global temperature rise below the dangerous threshold of 2 degrees Celsius and to secure a sustainable energy supply. The EU has to phase out highly polluting and hazardous fuels like coal, oil and nuclear and invest in a truly sustainable energy system.

#### Green 10 vision for the next five years

Looking ahead to the end of the new Parliamentary term, the EU and its Member States will have to implement some important structural changes to secure the development of a clean energy system that has as its cornerstone the efficient use of energy and the broad deployment of renewable energy technologies.

Energy conservation is one of the most cost-effective tools for the EU to fight climate change and promote smart economic growth for the benefit of the environment and society at large. In order to reach the enormous potential savings, it will be decisive for the EU to finally adopt a legally binding target of 20% energy efficiency by 2020 as set out in the Commission's Climate and Energy Package and to ensure fast and resolute implementation of existing and forthcoming legislation in this field.

At the same time, the effective and timely implementation of the new renewable energy Directive (adopted in 2008) will be crucial in achieving the 20% renewable energy target by 2020, boosting clean and secure energy supplies in Europe. In addition, the EU will have to press ahead with the development of a modern, flexible energy system that allows for the optimal integration of renewable energy technologies.

#### The Green 10 call on MEP candidates and political parties to:

1. **Ensure that the target of 20% energy consumption reduction by 2020 becomes legally binding.** This is the 'missing link' in the Climate and Energy package presented in 2008, a flaw that the Council failed to change.
2. **Enable strong EU policies for energy efficiency standards of all new and old buildings.** This will bring jobs and save billions in fuel costs. It is estimated that the strengthening of the existing rather tame Energy Performance of Buildings Directive alone may save up to 460 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year – or about 10% of EU CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
3. **Continue pressure on the transport sector for ongoing improvements in energy efficiency of cars.** Also, incentives for substantively enhanced public transport both for passengers and freight – including extension of the European railway networks– must be pursued which would help shift away from more environmentally harmful transport modes: so called 'modal shift'.
4. **Closely follow the implementation of the Energy-Using-Products Directive so that it dynamically increase energy efficiency standards for a large variety of consumer and industrial products,** ranging from information technologies to heat boilers, from fridges to electric motors in industry.
5. **Actively assist the implementation and monitoring of the renewable energy Directive** keeping a careful watch on the provision of effective and stable support for diverse renewable energy technologies. All renewable energy development needs to follow a strategic approach, to ensure

rapid implementation, planning security and to minimise conflicts with other policy objectives, such as the strengthening of ecosystems for climate change adaptation.

6. **Ensure modernisation of the electricity grid system so as to enable the large-scale integration of renewable energy** technologies until 2020 and beyond, while phasing out nuclear energy and coal technologies. This must include the availability of an interconnected grid network, onshore and offshore, and its flexible operation.
7. **End EU subsidies from export credit agencies and public investment banks for fossil fuel projects and nuclear** leading to its phase out and provide financial and legislative incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

## 4. Matching Words with Action – For a Sustainable EU-Budget

### The political challenge for the next 5 years

The Green 10 welcome a “no taboos” EU budget debate as a unique opportunity to bring the spending and revenue policy of the EU in line with its policy objectives, in particular with the Sustainable Development Strategy, EU climate policy and the objective to halt the decline of biodiversity. The principle of “public money for public goods” needs to be at the heart of any EU budget - anything else cannot be justified to taxpayers and Member States.

Environmental organisations have long-criticised the EU budget for contributing hugely to environmental degradation. In many parts it is also in direct conflict with EU environment policies. At the same time, too few EU funds are provided for implementing environmental policies, within and outside EU borders.

Despite some limited reform, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is still not fit for an environmentally sustainable future. EU Cohesion and Structural Funds are often invested in projects such as new motorways and incinerators that increase greenhouse gas intensive energy consumption and transport growth. Although EU environmental assessment techniques are increasingly used, and some funding for environmental investments is encouraged in the current Structural and Cohesion Funds, a lack of political commitment to sustainable development persists. Similar problems exist in many other areas of EU spending.

### Green 10 Vision for the next 5 years

The upcoming debate on the reform of the EU Budget and the next Financial Perspective 2014-2020 should concentrate on promoting sustainable development in the EU and globally. The financial revenue and spending mechanisms of the EU should be dedicated to sustainable development and none of its expenditures should run counter to this objective. The EU's spending decisions should be taken with one focus on the future, in light of the planet's resource constraints and the need to provide prosperity for future generations fairly across the globe. The European Parliament, which has a powerful role on the budget, should have the courage to break with the past, and start with a visionary and environmentally sustainable “blank sheet of paper”.

### The Green 10 call on MEP candidates and political parties to:

*Apply two over-riding principles:*

- 1. Sustainability in Europe and globally** should be the fundamental objective of the new EU budget, identifying environmental, social and economic dimensions. The EU budget should follow the EU Sustainable Development Strategy objectives for promoting sustainable production and consumption, decoupling transport growth from economic growth and becoming a zero waste society.
- 2. Public money for democratically-agreed policies, delivering public goods and services for society as a whole.** EU funds<sup>1</sup> must deliver clear and definable benefits for all EU citizens in an accountable and transparent way. The European Investment Bank should also be bound to the same principles in its lending operations as part of this process.

And promote the following foundation stones:

- 3. An ambitious renewed Sustainable Development Strategy** that recognises the social, economic and environmental as inseparable and interdependent components of human progress. This should provide an overarching objective for EU policy, which includes follow-up of the Lisbon Strategy for

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<sup>1</sup> EU funds include the Cohesion fund, Structural funds and pre-accession funds for candidate countries

reform, a social agenda and ensuring more weight is given to the international dimension of sustainability than before.

4. A climate policy that ensures that the EU is doing its utmost, domestically and globally, to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial times.
5. The EU's key international commitments such as the UN Charter, the UN Millennium goals, the UN Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention on Biodiversity and the Aarhus Convention.
6. **A thorough socio-economic analysis of the planning and implementation of Trans European Transport Network (TEN-T)** infrastructure projects since 1994. This should measure the achievement of original policy objectives and include demand forecasts and cost-benefit analyses. Current TEN-T plans must be analysed in the light of recent EU commitments to limit climate change and the renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy.
7. **A future Cohesion policy that follows a climate neutral and resource efficient development path.** Integration of environmental objectives and concerns should not only be vertical –through direct environmental investments– but also horizontal –by checking environmental sustainability of spending in all EU-funded projects. This greening of EU funds should significantly strengthen support for energy efficiency, renewable energies, clean public transport, climate mitigation and adaptation, NATURA 2000 protected areas, eco-innovation and environmental governance.

## 5. A Cleaner, Safer Environment for Healthier Europeans

### The political challenge for the next five years

European citizens are worried about the air they breathe, the safety of the food they eat and the water that they drink. Almost nine in every ten citizens say they are concerned about the impact of the environment on their health. Environmental pollution is damaging human health in Europe. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that environmental factors play a role, not only in accidents and injuries but also in over 80 diseases including allergies and asthma, respiratory disease, cancer, cardiovascular disease and certain reproductive and developmental disorders. In the EU, evidence points to outdoor and indoor air pollution, noise, food-borne diseases and chemicals, including biocides and pesticides as the causes. Emerging environmental health threats relate to climate change, such as heat waves, flooding and the return of some “tropical” diseases; nanotechnologies; and, electromagnetic fields.

More than half of citizens questioned believe that the European Union is not doing enough. Although life expectancy in Europe continues to increase, allergies and some cancer rates are increasing steadily, particularly in children. Estimates suggest one in four children in Europe now have some kind of allergy, and childhood cancer is growing at 1% every year. Despite this, better air quality standards could help reduce asthma and improve respiratory health, and careful implementation of the new chemicals policy REACH will help reduce the burden of many diseases. Indeed, many research scientists consider that restricting certain chemicals is the key to bringing down the rapidly rising breast and prostate cancer rates in Europe. Apart from the human misery that cancer causes, each cancer case costs an average of 2.14 million Euros per year.

### Green 10 vision for the next five years

Despite the above, the EU’s environmental health policy is beginning to contribute to improved human health. The challenge ahead is to begin to control some of modern environmental health related pandemics, such as cancer, obesity, mental health problems, cardio-respiratory disease, and fertility problems. An emphasis on primary disease prevention being better than cure must be the way forward.

An important strategy is to ensure that the findings of the substantial EU environment and health research budget are taken into account in information and policy action. In particular, more attention needs to be given to: speeding up the incorporation of latest health research science into policy; setting standards to meet the needs of vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, the elderly and those already suffering illness. Furthermore, we need to ensure that the real cost of inaction to health of energy, transport, chemicals and pesticides policy are incorporated into policy-making so that they become a driver for a more sustainable and healthier future.

Overall, the Green 10 would like to see Parliamentarians consider more fully the positive health benefits of protecting biodiversity and a healthy rural and urban human environment in the drive for a sustainable future.

### The Green 10 calls on MEP candidates and political parties to:

1. Renew support for concrete actions to the **EU Action Plan on Environment and Health 2004-2010 and a clear vision post 2010** and ensure support for the World Health Organisation Environment and Health Ministerial process on Children’s Environment and Health both within Europe and internationally.
2. Continue to call on the Commission and Member States to provide financial and political support for an EU-wide **Human Biomonitoring Surveillance System** with links to environmental policy legislation and monitoring, and health indicators.

3. Ensure that public health is at the centre of climate change adaptation policies both in the EU and internationally and also the benefits to health of climate mitigation actions are fully considered in EU domestic actions.

#### **Chemicals / REACH**

4. **Strictly monitor the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)** by using powers of oversight and position in the ECHA management board to ensure regular reports back to the European Parliament; and by scrutinising the work programmes, the general and financial reports provided annually in order to ensure full implementation of the chemicals legislation REACH.
5. Ensure that the maximum number of chemicals meeting the criteria for substances of very high concern under REACH, including known hormone-disrupting chemicals, are put onto the candidate list (Annex XV) and made subject to the authorisation procedure as soon as possible, or added in an ongoing fashion as information arises.

#### **Air Quality**

6. **Ensure that the revision of the National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) directive includes ambitious emission reduction targets for 2020** and refuse any weakening of the existing targets for 2010. Ensure a 2013 review of air quality health standards which offers at least a level of protection of health based on World Health Organisation guidelines and a level of ambition that includes climate change objectives (see climate section).
7. **Ensure the Commission produces a Green Paper on indoor air pollution** that leads to concrete EU legislative proposals based on World Health Organisation indoor air quality guidelines and revisions of other relevant EU directives on the energy efficiency of buildings and construction products.

#### **Biocides**

8. **Guarantee that the revision of biocides legislation grants a maximum level of health protection**, particularly to children, the elderly and all other vulnerable groups. Make sure that active substances classified by the Community as being either carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic to reproduction, or disruptive to the endocrine system are no longer granted authorisation, and that all neurotoxic and immunotoxic substances are labelled accordingly.

#### **Nanotechnology, EMF and Noise**

9. **Restrict the marketing and use of nano materials** on the EU market, until the environment and health implications of nanotechnologies are more fully understood. An adequate regulatory framework based on the precautionary principle is needed, which includes clear labelling requirements.
10. **Review all electromagnetic field (EMF) regulations** based on new findings on increased exposure to wireless devices and health effects research, as described in the Bioinitiative report and recommendations.
11. Ensure further reductions in noise exposure that should be secured during the **revision of the Environmental Noise Directive**.

## 6. Take Global Responsibility

### The political challenge for the next five years

With its global presence and global influence, the EU has a special responsibility to the rest of the world. It is the world's largest single market and the main trading partner as well as largest international aid donor spending €46 billion a year on development assistance. While being traditionally one of the frontrunners of international environmental governance, the EU has gradually adapted its external focus to the need of "competitiveness" recently spelled out in its 'Global Europe' agenda that intends to provide a response to new global challenges, such as the rise of China and India, by aiming to secure access for European companies to natural resources abroad. In parallel, the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed in 2000 by the international community are due to be achieved by 2015. Yet many of these goals are still far off track including MDG7 which is the underlying basis of basic human development – environmental sustainability.

The new Lisbon Treaty (if and when it enters into force without changes in the relevant parts) would reaffirm the leading objectives of sustainable development and environmental protection and would lead to a new institutional architecture for the external role of the EU, including a High Level Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and a new European External Action Service.

### Green 10 vision for the next five years

The EU's external policies, including trade, investment and aid, alongside its other policies that cause an external 'environmental footprint' must be assessed and adapted to achieve environmental sustainability. MEPs, with their counterparts in national Parliaments worldwide, should continue to draw public attention to pressing environmental, human rights and social problems and ensure concrete steps for change as well as transparency and accountability and the involvement of civil society.

### The Green 10 call on MEP candidates and political parties to:

- 1. Ensure better integration of critical cross-cutting issues, including environmental sustainability, in the EU's development cooperation policies** in order to improve the effectiveness and impact of aid (build on EP report A6-0476/2006).
- 2. Ensure policy coherence in EU policies:** for example, policies on trade, investment, agriculture, energy and security should not undermine but support international commitments and action on the environment, climate change and development.
- 3. Call for legally-binding provisions to ensure that the operations of European companies abroad do not violate human rights and environmental sustainability.**
4. Ensure that European development expenditure channelled through the European Investment Bank and other financial institutions (e.g. World Bank) support and not undermine sustainable development objectives of the European Union.
- 5. Ensure that new and additional financial resources (over and above Overseas Development Aid) are acquired to assist developing countries with developing in a climate-friendly way and adapt to the impacts of climate change,** in accordance with the polluter pays principle and fully consistent with the UNFCCC structure. In addition, a financing mechanism is needed to stop and reverse deforestation. Maintaining and restoring the functions of ecosystems on which people depend will help resilience to climate change and aid their capacity to adapt.

## **7. EU Leadership to Enable a New International Climate Change Agreement**

### **The political challenge for the next five years**

The EU has a long-standing goal of limiting global average temperature increases to below 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. The scenario most consistent with this goal, reported in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, requires that global emissions will need to peak between 2000 and 2015 and decline thereafter. A global agreement with provisions and scope commensurate with this challenge will need to be agreed in Copenhagen in 2009. Decisions made and actions taken in the next five years in the EU, as one of the major emitting economic groups and one with a high historical responsibility, will be critical for whether the Union does its fair share towards avoiding dangerous climate change which is threatening people and ecosystems.

### **Green 10 vision for the next five years**

In order to avoid dangerous climate change, the EU must make strides towards the transformation of its economy from one that remains energy-profligate to one that is highly efficient, and which uses renewable resources rather than fossil ones. While doing so the EU should not give in to false solutions currently promoted, such as nuclear power. Instead, it should implement true no-regrets greenhouse gas reduction policies with co-benefits in health, ecosystem preservation and biodiversity, poverty reduction and employment, and energy security. The emission reductions that the EU needs to achieve must be in line with the best available scientific information and must be adaptable to address new scientific evidence, while providing medium- and long-term provisional targets to guide the emissions reduction trajectories. The EU must transform the challenge of climate change into an opportunity to make Europe sustainable, and the most resource efficient economy in the world: the costs of inaction, after all, are far higher than the costs of action.

### **The Green 10 call on MEP candidates and political parties to:**

- 1. Champion the need for an at-least 30% cut from 1990 levels in the EU's domestic emissions by 2020** including an effective compliance mechanism to ensure that Member States will meet their emission reduction commitments.
- 2. Ensure that the renewables and energy efficiency legislation is consistent with the 30% domestic emissions reduction target**, with binding targets and policies. Ensure that ALL relevant EU policies, measures and investment (through EU funds and the European Investment Bank) contribute to the emission reduction efforts in a sustainable fashion.
- 3. Ensure that the EU adopts effective and consistent climate change adaptation policies** and measures in all relevant sectors, all in line with the need of strengthening ecosystems and addressing existing threats to biodiversity and environmental services. The implementation, strengthening and adequate funding of existing environmental legislation (such as the Water Framework and Nature Directives) is essential for adaptation.
- 4. Strengthen the EU Emissions Trading Scheme so that it fulfils its potential as a fair and cost-effective emission reduction mechanism for the EU's energy-intensive industries.** This includes full auctioning of emission allowances for all sectors from 2013 onwards. Auctioning revenues should be earmarked for emission reduction and adaptation activities, half in the EU and half in developing countries.
- 5. Ensure additional financial and technological resources to support developing countries** in following a low-carbon development path and addressing their need for sustainable adaptation.

6. **Member States should achieve binding greenhouse gas emissions mitigation efforts in developing countries** on top of their domestic emission reduction obligations and ensure the creation of a financing mechanism to stop and reverse deforestation.
7. **Avoid the piecemeal regulatory treatment of individual pollutants and instead adopt an integrated approach to climate change** mitigation and adaptation that takes into account co-benefits and aims at synergies with other policies, e.g. on biodiversity, poverty reduction, public health and energy security, all of which could potentially offset mitigation costs.
8. **Take global leadership in working with international partners**, including legislators in Member States and other countries, to help ensure that a global deal can be agreed in Copenhagen in 2009 that is sufficient to address the challenge of avoiding dangerous climate change.
9. **Ask the Commission to propose legislative instruments so that the European Investment Bank takes account of climate change implications** when making or guaranteeing loans and impose a moratorium on funding until sufficient data are available, in accordance with advice from the OECD, G8 and the Extractive Industries Review.

## 8. Make Europe the Most Transport-Efficient Economy in the World

### The political challenge for the next five years

It is necessary to set binding targets for transport efficiency of the European economy, energy efficiency of transport, and decarbonisation of transport fuels, so that greenhouse gas emission trends from Europe's transport system will be consistent with an overall 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

The EU and the European Investment Bank are on the verge of spending €150 billion on transport projects across Europe. The impacts of these projects on some of Europe's most outstanding nature protected areas could be devastating - over one thousand Natura 2000 sites could be damaged by 21 of the Tran European Transport (TEN-T) Priority Projects alone. If biodiversity and ecosystems are to survive in the face of climate change, they will need to be protected, and other EU policies, including on transport, will have to be harmonised with that protection.

### Green 10 vision for the next five years

Europe's strength in managing the environmental impacts of transport has primarily been so far to set increasingly tough environmental standards for vehicles and their fuels. In some cases (e.g. air pollution) this has been quite successful, in others (CO<sub>2</sub> and noise) far less so.

Europe should build further on this strength because the job is far from done. Cars, vans, trucks -not to mention aircraft and ships- need to become much more energy efficient, and the carbon footprint of the energy used by transport needs to be reduced drastically.

However, the inexorable rise in transport demand has wiped out the gains from better technology. Our big challenge is therefore to make Europe's economy the most transport efficient economy in the world, the economy that needs the least transport to prosper. There is an analogy with energy efficiency here; transport and energy use are alike in many ways. Both are indispensable to any modern economy and both are means to an end, rather than an end in themselves. Both are not external costs in themselves, but rather an important cause of external costs. But, crucially, both are in the end costs to society and should be used as sparingly as possible.

At the beginning of the 1970s there was a generally-held consensus that economic growth and growth of energy consumption inevitably go hand in hand. Today, it is clearly nonsense to view energy saving as a bad thing. Thirty years on, transport policy makers have some catching up to do. There is abundant scientific evidence that reducing transport can have numerous positive consequences (better traffic flow, improved safety, reduced environmental and health impacts) – especially when transport prices are too low, as they generally are. Transport pricing is vitally important. The EU should put no obstacles in place for transport pricing, as it currently still does, and instead promote and oblige Member States to introduce smart infrastructure charging systems.

### The Green 10 call on MEP candidates and political parties to:

- 1. Introduce a sectoral greenhouse gas emission reduction target for transport** (including aviation and shipping) by 2020 consistent with a -30% greenhouse gas EU target by 2020, and specific underlying targets for transport efficiency of Europe's economy, energy efficiency, and decarbonisation of transport fuels, and reject inclusion of road transport in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).
- 2. Push for a much better screening of the environmental impacts of EU -and European Investment Bank- funded transport projects**, particularly to ensure new projects do not negatively affect biodiversity.

3. **Drastically ease restrictions for lorry charging** in Europe.
4. **Introduce stringent sulphur standards for shipping fuels and PM and NOx standards for shipping engines**, both at IMO and EU level.
5. **Structural, Cohesion and the European Investment Bank funding should primarily be earmarked for environmentally friendly transport projects** such as traffic management systems, urban and regional public transport, intermodal solutions, and biking lanes.
6. **Send a strong political message by rejecting Trans European Transport Network (TEN-T) projects that show significant environmental impacts –including biodiversity impacts.** This should be preceded by a full environmental assessment of such projects funded by the EU and the European Investment Bank.

## 9. Act upon the Limits of Natural Resource Availability

### The political challenge for the next five years

There is increased awareness and evidence that we are living in a resource-constrained world. Global price increases for even basic food items such as rice, as well as for widely-used metals or minerals such as copper underline this. Biocapacity indicators such as the ecological footprint show that the population of the planet has been in 'ecological debt' since the mid-1980s, and our current rate of use of planetary resources is 25% over the Earth's actual carrying capacity. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment of 2005 showed that two-thirds of the planet's ecosystems are in decline.

The majority of the demand for natural resources comes from Western, industrialised societies with economies supported by unsustainable levels and patterns of consumption and production. The quantity of resources used, and the pressure on the environment resulting from the rich minority of the world's population is severely diminishing the viability of the planet to support us in the future, even if the majority of the world's population still has access to too few resources for decent living standards.

Sustainable resource use is also linked to mining under environmentally and socially sound circumstances/conditions, an issue so far mostly neglected by the EU. A quarter of EU's citizens surveyed (Eurobarometer, March 2008) listed 'depletion of natural resources' as a main environmental issue of concern. Yet the EU's claims that it is a resource-efficient society are not supported by its policies. The EU Natural Resources Strategy launched by the Commission in 2005 did not contain any targets or timetables, and focused more on basic data gathering and on introducing a lifecycle approach to policy development. Also, waste and product policies have not evolved to make any serious links between resource efficiency or resource use and waste prevention or recycling. The Commission's Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), published in July 2008 falls far short of aims to alter consumption or production patterns, let alone accelerate such changes.

### Green 10 vision for the next five years

Europe has a global responsibility to be a leader in developing a natural resource strategy addressing the inequitable global use of natural resources, particularly in setting policy priorities based on setting limits to this use. The EU needs to set ambitious but necessary targets for itself, such as a Factor 4 efficiency increase by 2030 and a Factor 10 increase by 2050 (compared with current efficiency levels). This needs to be achieved by adopting specific policies in priority production and product areas, by maximising collection of materials for recycling, through strong regulatory and fiscal support for reprocessing in production processes, and finally by reducing transport implications as far as possible.

### The Green 10 call on MEP candidates and political parties to:

- 1. Make the European Parliament a driver for an ambitious new political framework that accelerates change in unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.** In particular, insist on the extension of the Ecodesign of Energy-using Products Directive so that it focuses on products more broadly while clearly addressing natural resources impacts. The Parliament will also need to block the proposed change in the European Ecolabel Regulation that would let companies use the 'self-declaration' system for the label, rather than independent verification, currently done through a formal application procedure.
- 2. Demand an EU Natural Resources policy** that meets escalating global crises on the availability and use of natural resources by featuring clear targets on resource efficiency, with Factor 4 by 2030 and Factor 10 by 2050 as starting ambition levels; and produce sustainability criteria on natural resources use.

3. **Ensure that the EU plays the role of global leader in reducing the negative impacts of mining activities** within the EU and around the world. The new EU strategy on non-energy raw materials should especially take into account, and promote safeguards related to, the EU's climate change and biodiversity objectives, and it should address a broad range of environmental and social issues on mining, from the site location phase to end-of-life.
4. **Insist that the reviewed Thematic Strategy on Waste Prevention and Recycling (for discussion in 2010) has EU waste prevention targets** and appropriate policy mechanisms to ensure effective and maximised waste recycling in a more systematic way than the targets recently agreed in the revision of the Waste Framework Directive.
5. **Stimulate renewed debate on the Beyond GDP agenda** and on fiscal mechanisms encouraging more sustainable resource use, including on products containing recycled materials, products that are more resource efficient and eco-labelled (whether Fair Trade, organic, or ecolabelled) products.
6. **Promote mandatory 100% Green Public Procurement** at all levels of government by 2020.

## 10. Improve Implementation and Enforcement of Legislation

### The political challenge for the next five years

EU environmental legislation has been notoriously badly implemented by the Member States. Infringement cases relating to the environment consistently represent almost half of all pending infringement cases in the EU. The Sixth Community Action Programme establishes the effective implementation and enforcement of Community legislation on the environment as a key strategic objective. The European Parliament reconfirmed this in its report on the mid-term review of the 6<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme. It also called on the EU budget authorities to ensure the Commission will have all the necessary financial and human resources so that the “most efficient monitoring of implementation and enforcement of existing legislation is carried out in all Member States.” This needs to be recalled at all annual budget negotiations.

Members of the European Parliament have an important role vis-à-vis the Commission and Council on monitoring the correct transposition and implementation of environmental laws. Environment and health are key concerns for EU citizens. Awareness is increasing that a clean and healthy environment is essential for their well-being and, in the long run, a condition for a sustainable economic development. The credibility of the EU depends largely on coherent policies in these areas, and enforcement of EU laws is an important part of this.

### Green 10 vision for the next five years

Adoption of strong legislation is important, but is only the first step towards good EU-wide environment and health protection. Having spent so much time and effort on adopting laws, MEPs should engage more in their transposition and enforcement. The Green 10 wish to encourage Members of the new Parliament to follow more closely what happens during the transposition process. The European Parliament has the right to request reports and should use this right to hold Member States accountable. Strengthening cooperation between the European Parliament and national parliaments could contribute to more support for EU laws at national level and lead to better enforcement.

### We call on MEP candidates and political parties to:

1. **Organise regular debates with the Commission and Council on the progress of implementing environmental Directives** in all EU Member States and resist attempts to reduce reporting requirements to the European Parliament. Good reporting is a basic requirement for efficient monitoring.
2. **Insist that adequate resources are allocated to the relevant services of the Commission overseeing the implementation of environmental Directives** and also ensure that adequate funding and staff capacity is available to assist the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws in all Member States.
3. **Ensure that all EU policies assist, not hinder, the effective implementation of environmental legislation** and that ‘better regulation’ initiatives should aim at unambiguous and transparent rules, avoiding duplication of tasks but in no way weakening existing legislation. Clear and transparent rules contribute to better implementation.
4. Insist that binding legislation with clear targets and timetables remains the priority option to achieve environmental goals and will facilitate monitoring tasks.
5. **Insist on the revision of the Aarhus regulation for the EU so that public interest groups get access to judicial review of EU institution decisions** in order to defend citizens’ interests on environment related matters.