



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

LIFE Nature and Biodiversity – preparing the future

A Conference of the LIFE Programme

Day 1: Monday 31 May 2010

Registration of participants from 11:00, entrance hall of Gasperi Room at Charlemagne building - Rue de la Loi, 170 - 1049 BXL

12.30 **Lunch** (open for all registered participants)

14.00 Session 1: LIFE & Biodiversity Gasperi Room

LIFE+ biodiversity is a new strand, and has meant a learning process for everyone concerned. With the help of participants, the Commission will be seeking to clarify what the needs, the gaps and the constraints are in this field, as well as what our expectations are regarding possible LIFE+ biodiversity projects.

Moderator: Mr. Simon Goss, DG ENV LIFE unit E3

14.05 **The LIFE program as an instrument in EU nature and biodiversity policy** (Mr. L. Miko, Director DG ENV directorate B, tbc.)

14.20 **Contribution of the LIFE program to meeting BAP targets - present situation and future needs** (Mr. Marco Fritz, DG ENV, B2)

14.35 **Defining LIFE Biodiversity today** (Mr. Frank Vassen, DG ENV LIFE unit E3)

14.50 **LIFE Nature projects on biodiversity – main achievements and gaps** (Mr. Bent Jepsen, LIFE NAT coordinator, Astrale)

15.05 **Rural Development funds as an instrument for protecting biodiversity-complementarity with LIFE** (speaker from DG AGRI, tbc.)

15.20 **Open discussion**

15.50 **Coffee break**

16.20 **Researcher's view. How can research be more involved in LIFE? What are the obstacles?** (Prof. Costas Thanos of the University of Athens, Greece)

16.35 **Member states' view. How to reach the BAP targets and how LIFE can contribute? What are the needs?** (Austrian LIFE committee member, tbc.)

16.50 **NGO view. How to reach the BAP targets and how LIFE can contribute? What are the needs?** (Mr. Boris Barov, European Conservation Manager of Birdlife International European Division)

17.05 **Open discussion**

17.50 **Conclusion of the session** (Mr. Joaquim Capitaó, Dept. HoU DG ENV LIFE unit E3)

18.15 - LIFE Nature Award- Gasperi Room

Presentation Mr. Simon Goss, DG ENV LIFE unit E3

19.00 - Networking Cocktail

Day 2: Tuesday 1 June 2010

9.00 Session 2: LIFE Nature & Biodiversity

As the Commission is beginning to think beyond LIFE+, it will be seeking stakeholders' views on what has worked well in the LIFE Nature programme and what should be changed, trying to have an open and productive discussion. This is your opportunity to put your views across and help us shape the future nature conservation instrument.

09:00 **Introduction to day 2** (Mr. Janez Potočnik Commissioner DG ENV, tbc.)

09:15 **Taking stock:** Multimedia presentation and intervention (Mr. Angelo Salsi, HoU DG ENV LIFE unit E3)

- What are the main successes of LIFE Nature until now? (flagship species and habitats, such as birds, mammals, river restoration, wetlands)
- What have we missed? Less visible biodiversity, e.g. invertebrates.

09:45 **Panel 1: The legal framework**

- The financial instrument and its regulations
- What has worked well?
- What has not worked so well? What needs to be changed?
- Discussion on art. 9 on complementarity, EC co-financing rate, art. 3 of the Regulation on eligibility criteria, LIFE outside the EU territory

Moderator: Mr. Juan Perez-Lorenzo, DG ENV LIFE unit E3

Panel: DG ENV LIFE unit E3 (Ms. Esther Pozo Vera), representative DG Agri (to be appointed), a regional NGO (Ms. Heidrun Fammler Baltic Environmental Forum)

10.15 **Coffee break**

10.45 Panel 2: The LIFE of the future.

- What is the ideal instrument? LIFE in its present form? A catalyst? A dedicated fund to finance Natura 2000?
- What about integration?
What type of projects should be financed in the future? (Ambition, scale, innovation and experimenting)
- How to focus EU priorities: priority points? Art. 17 report and EEA data.

Moderator: Mr. Angelo Salsi, HoU DG ENV LIFE unit E3

Panel: DG ENV B2 (Mrs. Claudia Olazabal, tbc.), DG ENV B3 (Mr. Stephan Leiner - tbc), a NGO (Natuurpunt-BE), a National or Regional authority (Mr. Miguel Castroviejo – ES, tbc.), DG ENV LIFE unit E3 (to be designated)

12.45 - Closing session

(Mr. Timo Makela, Director DG ENV-directorate E, tbc.)

13:00 Lunch

Tuesday 1 June 14:30

You are kindly invited to the opening session of Green Week!