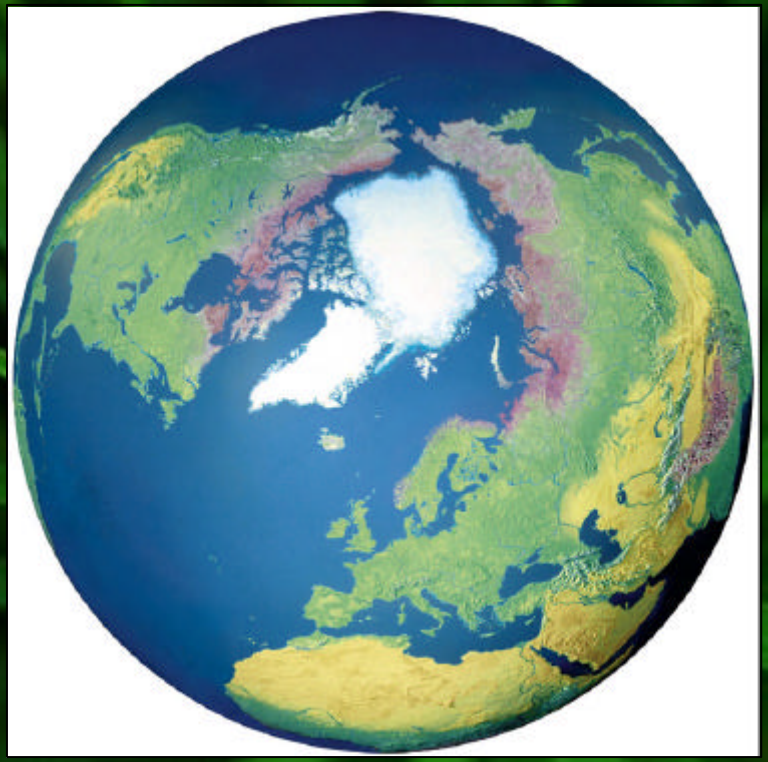
EU BIODIVERSITY POLICY



Programme for European Economic Area and Norwegian Financial Mechanism Conference, Oslo, 23-24 Nov 2006

Ladislav Miko
European Commission
DG Environment

Communication on halting the loss of biodiversity to 2010 – and beyond

Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being



Context

- **responds to 2010 commitments & SDS objective for recovery of natural systems**
- **builds upon EC Biodiversity Strateg Action Plans**
- **takes account of broader policy developments (CAP, CFP, Cohesion, etc.)**
- **builds on wide-ranging expert and public consultation**

Purpose

- ***to pull together EU actors to meet 2010 targets and foster recovery of biodiversity***
- ***also***
  - ***promotes recognition of link between biodiversity and ecosystem services***
  - ***promotes shift towards a new balance between conservation and development***

Content

COM

- Introduction
- Why is biodiversity important?
- What is happening to biodiversity and why?
- What have we achieved so far?
- What more needs to be done?

Annexes

- **<u>EU Action Plan to 2010 and Beyond</u>**
- Indicators



What more needs to be done?

4 policy areas

- **Biodiversity in the EU**
- **The EU and global biodiversity**
- **Biodiversity and climate change**
- **The knowledge base**

10 objectives related to these policy areas

4 key supporting measures

Policy Area 1
Biodiversity in the EU

Objectives

1. To safeguard the EU's most important habitats and species
2. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside
3. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider marine environment
4. To reinforce compatability of regional and territorial development with biodiversity in the EU
5. To substantially reduce the impact of invasive alien species and alien genotypes

Policy Area 1
Biodiversity and the EU (cont)

Examples of actions

1 - Most important habitats and species

- **Finalise Natura 2000 network, extend to marine, manage sites**
- **Strengthen coherence, connectivity**
- **Species action plans**

2 - Wider countryside

- **Secure/restore high-nature value farmland & forests**
- **Put in place river basin management plans**
- **Reduce principle pollutant pressures**

3 - Wider marine environment

- **Implement ecosystem approach**
- **Fully implement stock and bycatch measures in CFP**
- **Reduce principal pollutant pressures**

Policy Area 1
Biodiversity and the EU (cont)

Examples of actions (cont.)

4 - Regional and territorial development

- **Ensure cohesion and structural funds contributing to biodiversity**
- **Better spatial planning at MS level**

5 - Invasive alien species

- **Develop comprehensive strategy**
- **Early warning system**

Policy Area 2
The EU and Global Biodiversity

Objectives

6. To substantially strengthen effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services
7. To strengthen support for biodiversity and ecosystem services in external assistance
8. To substantially reduce the impact of international trade on global biodiversity and ecosystem services

Policy Area 2
The EU and Global Biodiversity

Examples of actions

6 - International governance

- **Strengthen implementation of CBD**
- **Improve oceans governance**

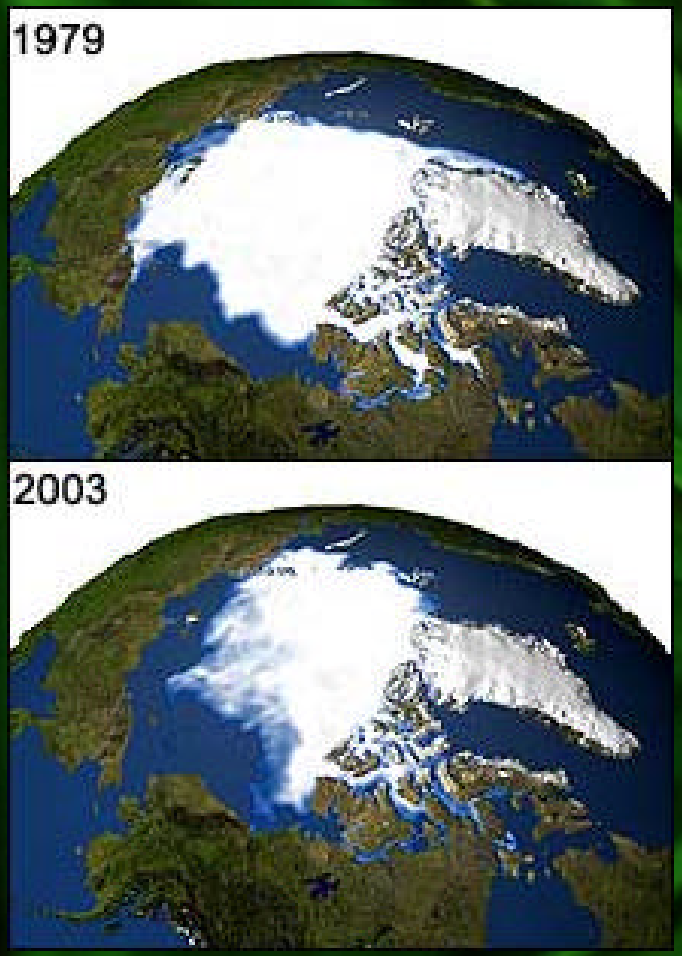
7 - External assistance

- **Ensure adequate earmarked funds for biodiversity (GEF, bilateral)**
- **Strengthen mainstreaming of biodiversity in geographical programmes**

8 - Trade

- **Bilateral agreements to support Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade**
- **Identify major impacts of EU trade on biodiversity, put in place measures to reduce impacts**

Policy Area 3
Biodiversity and Climate Change



Objective

9. To support biodiversity adaptation to climate change

Examples of actio

- Emissions cuts
- Enhancing coherence & connectivity of Natura 2000
- IA of key adaptation and mitigation measures

Policy Area 4
The Knowledge Base

Objective

10. To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in the EU and globally

Examples of actions

- New EU mechanism for independent, authoritative, advice to inform implementation and policy development
- Enhance research on state and trends of biodiversity, pressures on biodiversity, effectiveness of policy responses

Supporting measures

1. **Ensuring adequate financing**
2. **Strengthening EU decision-making**
3. **Building partnerships**
4. **Building public education, awareness and engagement**

Relevant for broader Europaen area:

- need for harmonisation and collaboration

- complementarity instead of duplication

Funding instruments available in EU

- **Common Agricultural Policy – EAGGF**
  - Rural development regulation
- **Structural Funds**
  - Regional Fund, Social Fund, Leader+, Interreg
- **Cohesion Fund**
- **LIFE Nature (till 2006),** around 76 mio € spent annually
- **LIFE+** (from 2007 onwards), around 300 mio€ annually

Other fianancial instruments:

Norway, Switzerland, 5specialized) national funds

An EU Action Plan to 2010 and beyond

- Specifies actions targeted at delivering on 2010 commitments
- Addressed to both community institutions and MS and specifies roles and responsibilities of each
- Provides clear set of targets and indicators against which to evaluate progress

Monitoring, evaluation & review

- **Annual implementation reporting to Council and European Parliament**
- **Streamlined monitoring and reporting framework, indicator set**
- **Mid-term evaluation of implementation and effectiveness 2008**
- **Full evaluations 2010 & 2013 – to feed into Financial Perspectives 2014+**

…announcing an EU debate on a longer-term vision

- as a frame for policy
- ‘a vital, and indeed vitalising, part of the debate on the future of Europe.’ (Commissioner Dimas at Green Week 2006)



Commission comment

‘The Communication is as ambitious as possible in the current policy framework’ but ‘not sufficient to meet the longer-term challenge.’ (C Day, Secretary General)

‘Putting biodiversity on the pedestal is not going to do the trick…We have to fight, day in day out to make sure…our words are translated into action.’ (M P Carl, Director General ENV)

‘Sustainable development is very much the over-arching principle for the EU…biodiversity is very much part of the EU political project.’ (C Day, Secretary General)





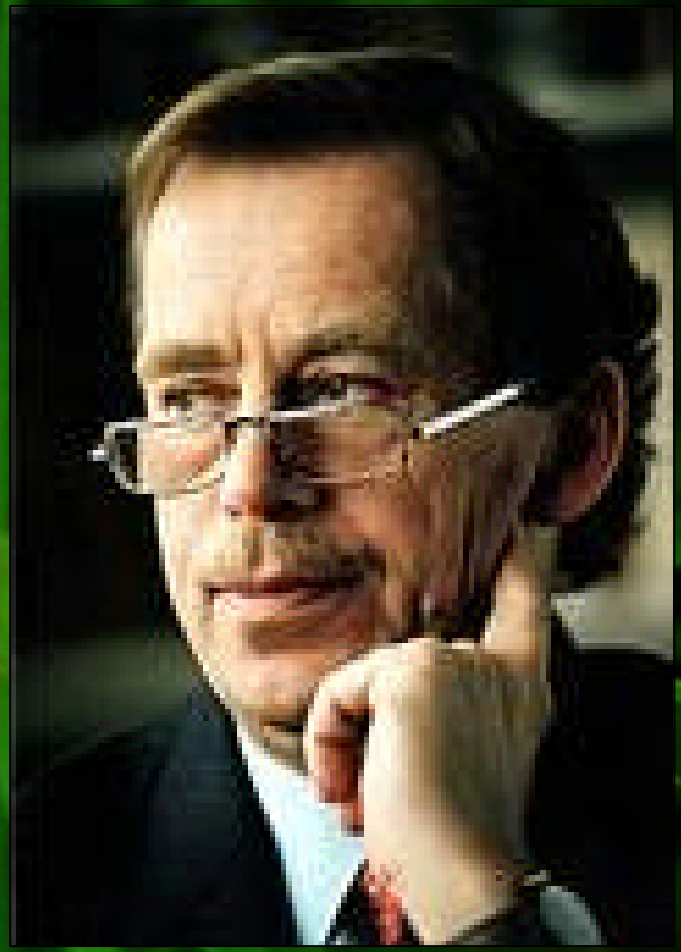
Reactions from Member States and civil society

- ‘The efforts under way…deserve every attention and support of international institutions and governments…’ (Presidents of Hungary, Lith[illegible], Austria and Finland)
- ‘The Biodiversity Communication is a major [illegible]p forward. It is an expression of commitment and a framework for accountability. Read it seriously…’ (Achim Steiner, Executive Director UNEP)
- ‘EEB, Europe’s largest federation of environmental citizens’ organisations, welcomes the Communication’

…and from Vaclav Havel

ex-President Czechoslovakia & Czech Republic

‘In the future there should be no need for a Ministry of Environment. What I imagine is a Ministry of Decency overriding all other departments, which would work to integrate a sense of humility to all life…’



Some thoughts for possible synergies in financing

- Aligning financing with common priorities (EU Communication Action Plan, CBD, PEBLDS…)
- Dedicate financing to actions directly contributing to 2010 target, link evaluation of projects to it
- Dedicate determined amounts for biodiversity
- Support the projects at local level, where EU funding hardly accessible (administration burden)

Some thoughts for possible synergies in financing

- Combine funding where cofinancing may be a problem (NGOs, small landowners)
- Support transboundary projects on EU/nonEU country
- Coordinate training/public awareness activiies to avoid duplication
- Support « work in field » rather than othe activities (implementation, monitoring/evaluation, enforcement..)