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Biodiversity in the EU after Nagoya, vleva, December 22nd 2010

This event was organised by Minaraad and the Liaison agency Flanders-Europe (vleva).

Chair: Jan Verheeke Minaraad.

Iris Lauwaert, Cabinet Joke Schauvliege: Outcome & follup-up of the Nagoya Conference

Preparation of the conference: Nairobi (May 2010) en ABS-working groups, conference in Ghent in September 2010 (targeted larger audience but some key messages were formulated).

.COP 10: 42 points on the agenda – 3 objectives linked to the 3 pillars of sustainable development

.Importance of the COP 10: key moment (cf. European legislation)

.Several policy packages

1) Strategic Plan: Long-term vision (2050):

- to halt the loss of biodiversity, contributing to public health and poverty eradication.
- 5 strategic goals linked to 20 target with soci-economic impact
- 3 targets by 2015 (ecosystems, ABS)

2) Access & Benefit Sharing

- Had been negotiated previously but advancing was difficult during COP
- Important for various sectors
- ~ Fair & Equitable sharing of the benefits of genetic sources

3) Strategy for Resource Mobilization

- All types of resources
- North South discussion (N wanted first assessment on the need of resources South financial contributions)

4) Climate change and biodiversity

5) Protected areas

6) Marine biodiversity

Important: Develop procedure to identify 'Ecological and Biological Significant Areas'

7) Other

- Forestry: enhanced cooperation

FOLLOW-UP of COP 10:

.Conclusions of the EU-environment Council: first step to the translation in EU-legislation. It is important that all legislative initiatives of other sectoral policies keep these measures in mind.

.Rio 20+: May 2012: 2 important themes: green economy linked with TEEB and institutional framework for Sustainable Development

.COP 11 India October 2011

Anne Teller, European Commission

.EU-biodiversity policy

Evolution: with exception of the bird and the habitat directive (end of the seventies) the first EU-legislation was created through the COP in the '90ies =>

2001: ° targets and afterwards Action Plan in 2006 (Based on Millennium ecosystem assessment)

.Post-2010 strategy

- based on the communication of DG ENV in January 2010, the Council Conclusions of March and COP 10

- Contribution of Member states and through consultation

- Public consultation open for everyone: mainly citizens

-Sub-targets and measures: the rationale was subsidiarity: where the EU can make a difference

-de knowledge base: different from previous targets

.Objectives

1) Preservation of Nature (Natura 2000: more funding is needed, marine territories must be better identified, some issues to tackle in new member states, ...)

2) Green Infrastructure: preservation in and outside protected areas (f.ex. green cities, roofing, restoration of ecosystems, .)

3) Agriculture and rural areas: through direct payments and agro-environmental measures in pillar 2 (incl. forestry)

4) Fisheries

5) Invasive species – by 2012 first Commission initiatives

6) Contribution to global biodiversity

Integrating initiatives: Cohesion Policy, CAP, Whitepaper on sustainable transport, Budget Review, Resource Efficiency Flagship (EU2020)

.Follow-up:

- Publication of the strategy hopefully in February 2011

- Council conclusions in June

- End 2011: green infrastructure strategy

- 2012: Invasive species

Q&A:

When will this policy be visible on MS-level: important to lobby on MS-level after council conclusions of June.

When will USA participate in the COP? Obama prioritises Climate change, he can't do both at the same time.

PANEL: CIVIL SOCIETY

Sabien Leemans, WWF

.results Nagoya

. Biodiversity in the EU: political will is needed. WWF has made a brochure on the EU (available on the website) Budget Review: to realise all biodiversity goals more funding is needed. Now only LIFE+ is a possibility (only 0,2% of the entire budget – the new Multiannual Financial Framework should preview 1%) => all harmful subsidies and grants for biodiversity should be eliminated. (=> Anne Teller: Commission will take initiative/ is one of the priorities)

. Biodiversity in the world: COP11 resource mobilization targets should be adopted

Leen Franchois, Boerenbond (Farmers' organisation)

.Agriculture and biodiversity are not always best friends but there are complementarities. (f.ex. grasslands in extensive agriculture stimulates biodiversity, honeybees, ...)

.Nagoya: important is to think about how the preservation of biodiversity can be combined with an increasing population and demand for food ?!

.Flemish agriculture: 10% of the farmland is managed by agro-environmental measures (project example: Eco²)

.Biodiversity targets may not endanger the economic sustainability of the agriculture

.Gaps in biodiversity research: to verify how land management can be combined/integrated with biodiversity measures with respect for the economic aspect of agriculture

.Pressure on land is higher in Flanders than in the rest of the EU: Flanders is with regard to biodiversity a LFA, less favoured area.

.When Nagoya measures will be translated into EU and national legislation: local and regional needs should be respected (=> Anne Teller: socio-economic aspects of ecosystems will be taken into account).