EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU

TEN GREEN TESTS FOR THE CYPRUS PRESIDENCY – July 2012

1. Renew the commitment to sustainable development in the wake of Rio+20

- In the light of the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, start a debate about the need for a new Sustainable Development Strategy and the changes that are required in the Europe 2020 Strategy and its implementation.
- Ensure that the EU plays a progressive role at the key international forums which will carry forward the outcomes of Rio+20 such as the UN General Assembly and in the preparations for the next meeting of the UNEP Governing Council.
- Ensure that the Resource Efficiency Roadmap is given an ambitious follow up and plays a central role in the preparations for the 2013 Economic Semester by putting a thorough evaluation of the integration of the Resource Efficiency objectives into the 2012 European Semester on the agenda of the Environment Ministers and ensuring that this feeds into the Annual Growth Survey for 2013.

2. Green the EU budget

- Lead the budget negotiations in a direction that focuses on how the EU budget can be transformed into an instrument for positive change fulfilling the EU's objectives in the field of climate change, biodiversity loss and resource use.
- Ensure that 1% of the EU Budget is devoted to LIFE, the EU's only dedicated environmental Fund.
- Ensure a greening of all the spending lines under the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the Structural and Cohesion Funds, transport and energy funding, research and innovation funding, with sufficient funding to be allocated to funding the Natura 2000 network to secure an annual total of 3.5 billion EUR.
- Ensure that the decisions on the next Financial Perspective will be taken in a transparent manner and that sufficient opportunities for public participation will be arranged.
- Ensure that environmental sustainability will be central to all external dimension policies and spending, along with a significant increase in financial support for sustainable development in the least developed countries.

3. Change the direction of Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform

- A meaningful greening of the direct payments comprising a real and significant green component in the form of a strong mandatory package of good agronomic and environmental practices.
- Top up payments/premia for all high nature value farming areas and especially permanent pastures, organic farming systems and Natura 2000 zones.
- Strengthening the cross compliance regime through the inclusion of the Water Framework Directive, while maintaining all existing elements such as the Birds and Habitats Directives.
- A second pillar which is focused on EU objectives in the field of biodiversity, soil, water, coastal areas and climate and represents a large part of the total CAP budget (minimum 50%) in order to ensure ambitious measures.

- Scientific and independent monitoring and assessment based on a robust sampling approach and methodology for all rural development measures and pillar one greening components.
- A new and efficient farm advisory service system which targets the second pillar programmes but also the greening component.

4. Safeguard Europe's fish stocks

- Ensure a reformed CFP that will have the goal of restoring and maintaining, by 2015, populations of harvested species above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yields.
- Fishing opportunities should be fixed at levels not exceeding those recommended by the best available scientific advice.
- The allocation of fishing opportunities should not be done through mandatory Transferable Fishing Concessions; rather, access rules should be based on a set of criteria that ensure a transition to, and support for, environmentally (selectivity, impacts on habitats and non-target species, CO2 emissions) and socially (number of jobs created, working conditions) sustainable fishing.
- The CFP should include legally binding and time-bound objectives for fishing capacity, as well as requirements to measure and monitor fishing capacity.
- Make the release of EU fisheries funds conditional on meeting the above requirements and by awarding access to fishing resources in a way that encourages a shift to sustainable, low-impact fishing practices and safe, long-term employment.
- Increase the area that is protected as marine reserves to 40%.

5. Stop Climate Change and save energy

- Play a leadership role to ensure progress in the negotiations towards an international agreement that will effectively limit global warming to well below 2℃ and to solve the issue of surplus credits from the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.
- Take action and commitment to meet at least a 30% greenhouse gas reduction by 2020 through domestic action
- Support ambitious milestones for 2030 and 2040 in line with the recommendations of the 2050 Low Carbon Roadmap and push forward the adoption of ambitious post-2020 targets, in accordance with the no-regret scenario based on decarbonisation, high renewables and energy efficiency choices.
- Take effective steps to rescue the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), including by proposing long-term solutions to match the EU ETS with the objectives of the 2050 decarbonisation roadmap, and ensure that ETS revenues are used to invest in climate action.
- Ensure that the proposed revision of the F-Gas Regulation will lead to the prohibition of placing HFC equipments on the market as soon as possible, i.e. before or by 2020 for most sectors
- Request the Commission to prepare measures for the elimination of black carbon in the EU by 2020.

- Reach an agreement on the Energy Tax Directive that leads to significantly higher minimum levels, especially for diesel, maintains the CO2 component proposed by the Commission and removes tax exemptions.
- Prevent the use of the most climate damaging biofuels and introduce a specific proposal for feedstock-specific indirect land use change (ILUC) emission factors when calculating carbon footprints.
- Ensure that Council Conclusions on Adaptation to Climate Change support an appropriate use of EU funds for this purpose and create a new impetus to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

6. Accelerate the reform of EU water management

- Lead a debate on the EU's Blueprint for Water which will
    - accelerate the implementation of the Water Framework Directive;
    - halt further deterioration of European rivers caused by shipping, hydropower and other infrastructure;
    - effectively tackle the impact of agriculture on waters; and
    - create an ecosystem-based framework for an ambitious new water efficiency policy in Europe.
    - Strengthen economic incentives for an efficient use of water resources and safeguard the human right of access to water.
- Strengthen the Commission's proposal for a revised Directive for Environmental Quality Standards for water, in particular retaining the inclusion of pharmaceuticals, and include phase out measures for the most hazardous substances.

7. Protect European citizens from harmful chemicals

- Maintain the EU's leading role in international negotiations on a Mercury Treaty.
- Insist that the Commission will propose legislation on use and end-of-life treatment of nanomaterials and amendments to existing legislation to take account of potential effects of nano technology.
- Support the Commission's proposal to end the exemption for using cadmium in batteries for cordless power tools by 2016 at the latest.

8. Rein in GMOs

- Work to put in place a rigorous, comprehensive, coherent and mandatory regime for the risk assessment of GMOs.
- Oppose any new authorisation for or cultivation of GM crops until the new regime is in place, so as to prevent risks to environment and human health.
- Guarantee Member States the right to decide whether or not to cultivate GM crops in their territory.

9. Invest in nature and biodiversity

- Ensure adequate funding for biodiversity and Natura 2000 according to the Prioritised Financing Frameworks, totalling at least 3 billion EUR for N2000 from the EU Budget.

- Ensure N2000 management plans (or equivalent instruments) are in place in all EU countries according to the timeline set out in the Habitats Directive and move ahead in a timely manner with the new biogeographic process.
- Support the development or adoption of new legal instruments in the area of invasive alien species and soil protection.
- Ensure that all EU countries sign the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing and agree on the resource mobilisation strategy.

10. Promote transparency and accountability

- Swiftly resume the discussions on the recast of Regulation 1049/2001 on Access to Documents, cooperate with the European Parliament to secure a progressive outcome and in case refuse any weakening of the Regulation, with a view to reaching agreement on an improved instrument before the end of 2012.
- In the light of recent jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice, call on the Commission to come forward with a proposal to strengthen Regulation 1367/2006 on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention in order to ensure compliance with the Convention.
- Revive discussions on the Commission's 2003 proposal for a Directive on Access to Justice.
- Ensure effective follow-up to the Commission's recent Communication on better implementation.