EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU

TEN GREEN TESTS FOR THE LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY
July – December 2013

1. Sustainable Development

- Building on the European Council conclusions of October 2012 on the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, maintain the pressure on the Commission to develop a new Sustainable Development Strategy and call on the Commission to assess the changes that are required in the Europe 2020 Strategy and its implementation;
- Ensure that the EU plays a progressive role in the key international forums and processes which will carry forward the outcomes of Rio+20 such as the UN General Assembly, in the preparatory process for the next meeting of the UNEP Environmental Assembly and in the preparation of sustainable development goals;
- Adopt Council Conclusions at the December Environment Council as input to the 2014 European Semester process, which call for a systematic shift of taxation from labour to resources, phasing out harmful subsidies and a greater alignment with environmental policy priorities including water and waste.

2. Stop climate change

- Play a leadership role to ensure progress in the negotiations towards an international agreement that will ensure that emission reduction pathways to 2050 are based upon latest scientific information on keeping well below a 2℃ rise, bearing in mind an emerging consensus that staying below a 1.5℃ rise is more likely to be required; and to annul surplus credits from the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol;
- Lead the negotiations on the revision of the F-Gas Regulation to a successful conclusion in order to ensure an effective market shift to climate-friendlier alternatives and market leadership for European companies;
- Prevent the use of the most climate-damaging biofuels by amending the Commission's proposal so as to use the proposed indirect land use change (ILUC) emission factors in both the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and Fuel Quality Directive (FQD) for compliance purposes, not only reporting, and support the cap on land-based biofuels;
- Take effective steps to rescue the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), including by taking further the Commission's proposals for long-term solutions to match the EU ETS with the objectives of at least the 2050 decarbonisation roadmap, and ensure that ETS revenues are used to invest in climate action.

3. Save energy

- Facilitate a constructive discussion on a 2030 EU climate and energy policy framework to ensure that binding energy saving targets are central to an ambitious, legally binding framework including targets for emissions reductions, sustainable renewable energy and energy savings;
- Reach an agreement on the Energy Tax Directive that leads to significantly higher minimum tax levels, especially for diesel (at least €470/1000 litres by 2018), maintains the CO2 component proposed by the Commission and removes tax exemptions;
- Do not allow shale gas, the exploration of which comes with high environmental and economic risks, to become a major distraction from more effective climate and energy strategies such as energy savings and renewables.

4. Improve the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive

- Swiftly resume the discussions on the revision of the codified EIA Directive (2011/92/EU), cooperate with the European Parliament to secure a progressive outcome with a view to reaching agreement on an improved instrument before the end of 2013;
- Ensure as far as possible that such discussions lead in the direction of a meaningful strengthening of the Directive, including by ensuring its conformity with the spirit and letter of the Aarhus Convention, mandatory requirements to consider meaningful project alternatives, a broader scope for the Directive to cover inter alia climate change and ecosystem services, post-EIA monitoring linked to measures and sanctions and measures to prevent any project starting without development consent based on a valid EIA.

5. Marine protection in the Baltic Sea

- Promote an implementation of the Baltic Sea Regional Strategy that will support achieving key environmental objectives set by the Water Framework and Marine Strategy Directive.
- Give the proposed Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management (MSP-ICM) environmental protection as its one and only legal base.
- Ensure that EMFF funding will be conditional upon compliance with the CFP and IUU regulations, and that EMFF investments will not continue to drive overfishing e.g. through the support of engine replacement, modernization of vessels, temporary cessation of activities, or the construction of new vessels. Member States should have the flexibility to allocate more resources to control and enforcement measures and data collection.

6. Protect high environmental standards at international level

- Ensure that bilateral trade negotiations between the EU and Canada and the US will lead to an upward harmonization of environmental standards and take the form of a regulatory floor, and not a ceiling;
- Oppose the inclusion of an investor state dispute settlement mechanism, as Australia successfully did in its recent trade deal with the US, which would make the EU and national governments liable to expensive lawsuits for passing environmental legislation.
- Ensure that environmental sustainability is central to all external dimension policies funded by the EU budget, along with a significant increase in financial support for sustainable development in the least developed countries.

7. Protect the public from hazardous chemicals

- Encourage the development of an EU-wide nano register on manufactured nanomaterials as well as ensure that the amendment of REACH annexes will properly address manufactured nanomaterials.
- Strengthen the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel Conventions on chemicals and wastes in order to reduce human and environmental exposures to hazardous chemicals, especially Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) according to the REACH Regulation.
- Ensure that the Council conclusions on the REACH EDCs review (according with article 138(7)) are properly taken under the Environment Council and acknowledge that substances with endocrine disrupting properties cannot be adequately controlled.
- Encourage the Commission to accelerate its work on the EU Strategy on EDCs.

- Promote substitution of hazardous chemicals by safer alternatives as a driver of sustainable innovation and green economy.

8. Support the development of an ambitious air package

- Start discussions with Member States and the Council on the revised Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution with the clear and only objective of achieving by 2030 "levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on, and risks to human health and environment";
- Support ambitious binding emission reduction commitments for 2020, 2025 and 2030, including 2020 levels going significantly beyond those of the revised Gothenburg Protocol and the 2005 TSAP;
- Support the inclusion of harmful air pollutants in the scope of the NEC Directive, in particular PM2.5, mercury, methane and black carbon;
- Support the introduction of EU-wide source control measures to limit emissions from transport, with a particular attention to shipping and non-road mobile machinery, from domestic sources and the agriculture sector;
- Ensure better coherence between the objectives of the different pieces of EU air legislation (e.g. NEC and Ambient Air Quality) with the aim of achieving the EU's 6th EAP objective in the shortest time possible;
- Support action to reduce emissions of black carbon, methane and ozone since these air pollutants are also responsible for climate change;
- Support the continuous enforcement and strengthening of EU ambient air quality limit values, based on the latest scientific evidence and WHO recommendations.

9. Conserve nature and biodiversity

- Achieve an agreement on the proposal for a Regulation on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union (ABS regulation).
- Push for a new legislative proposal on invasive alien species to be adopted by the Commission during Lithuanian Presidency and make an increased effort to achieve significant progress in defining the position of the Council by the end of the Presidency.
- Following deals made under the Irish on the EU budget, including the LIFE Regulation, support national level programming of EU funds to give priority to biodiversity conservation, to cover in particular the financing needs of the N2000 network.

10. Promote better environmental governance

- Call on the Commission to come forward with a new proposal for a Directive on Access to Justice, building on and strengthening the 2003 proposal;
- Encourage the Commission to make good progress with the preparation of a horizontal EU law for Environmental Inspections aiming at the publication of the draft before the end of 2013;
- Ensure effective follow-up to the Commission's 2012 Communication on better implementation;
- Counter the growing tendency for the economic crisis to be used as an excuse to push for deregulation in the environmental sector.

Brussels, 1 July 2013