



EEB BIODIVERSITY SEMINAR 5/6 MARCH 2001, BRUSSELS

EU Nature Protection: Bottlenecks in implementation and enforcement New strategies

Background

The main pillars of EU nature protection are the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive. Both directives are also the most important European legal tools for achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

However, both Directives are poorly implemented and enforced in Member States. The European Court of Justice has already condemned several Member States and a number of other cases are pending. There are several bottlenecks in the implementation and enforcement of both Directives. Member States are reluctant to accept the legal obligations posed by both Directives. The designation of site boundaries appeared to reflect economic interests instead of being based on ecological criteria. While complaints go through a cumbersome, slow and untransparent procedure, many sites are being destroyed. NGOs play a very important role as watchdogs, but are still not properly involved in the process.

As it stands the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive are not sufficient to ensure an overall biodiversity protection, strategies for non-protected sites are needed. The recently proposed sixth Environmental Action Programme provides an opportunity to make a first step in the right direction. Important issues are combating desertification, soil protection, integration of biodiversity objectives in agricultural, structural and forest policies and spatial planning.

Objectives of the Seminar

For the participants the EEB Biodiversity Seminar is aiming to:

- Give an overview of the current state of affairs of nature protection in the EU and EU priorities
- Provide the platform for an orientation debate for the Biodiversity working group
- Discuss and draft priorities for future strategies and actions on nature protection outside NATURA 2000
- Discuss and agree on position and demands for improving the complaints procedures

EEB Biodiversity Working Group Members and EEB Members are invited to contribute and participate at the seminar.

Looking forward to welcoming you at the EEB Biodiversity Seminar,

Stefan Scheuer
Co-ordinator of the EEB Biodiversity Working Group



DRAFT AGENDA

Location: European Environmental Bureau, Boulevard de Waterloo 34, B-1000 Brussels

5 of March

Chair:

Rapporteur:

Time	Subject	Speakers	Content
13:30	Introduction	Christian Hey (EEB)	Aim of the seminar
13:45	Habitat and Species Protection: Overview of current state of affairs, 6EAP	Carlos Martin-Novella (EC) Liam Cashman (EC) Short statements by BIDI group Members	Presentation of EC Priorities and EEB Biodiversity Working Group concerns Orientation debate
16:00	Biodiversity Plan and Nature Protection outside NATURA 2000	Carlos Martin-Novella (EC) Lorraine Dufficey (Irish Wildlife Trust)	Short presentations and discussion and possible future actions. Related topics desertification, soil protection, integration of biodiversity objectives in agricultural, structural and forest policies, spatial planning.
17:30	EU enlargement and biodiversity	Andras Krolopp (CEE WEB)	Short presentation, discussion and future action
18:00	END		

6 of March

Chair:

Rapporteur:

Time	Subject	Speakers	Objectives
09:00	Complaints procedure: case studies from south and north	Karin Dubsy (Coastwatch Europe) Susana Lopez (Ecologistas en Accion)	Discussion
10:30	Summary of action points	Rapporteur Day 1 and 2	
10:45	Minutes and Action Points from last meeting Functioning of the Group	Andras Krolopp (CEE WEB) Karin Dubsy (Coastwatch Europe) Gijs Kuneman (SNM)	Priorities and actions up to now Relation to EHF Future Plans and Priorities Group Structure
12:00	Meeting with MEPs on Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Karin Dubsy (Coastwatch Europe)	Preparation of the meeting
12:30	Lunch Break		
15:30	Concluding remarks		
16:30	END		