



TEN TESTS FOR THE PORTUGUESE PRESIDENCY

1. NEXT STEPS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Hold a substantial debate about progress on the EU Sustainable Development Strategy at December European Council, leading to:
 - Decision to introduce a major initiative for Environmental Tax Reform, and speed up environmentally-harmful subsidy phase-out
 - Targets for greening the Lisbon Process, relating to energy and resource efficiency and public procurement
- Insist that the Commission produces a Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan focusing on action, having clear priority environmental objectives linked to the 6EAP, and including product policy based on robust legislative proposals establishing minimum standards, a 'Top Runner' scheme for Europe to drive forward environmental improvements, and environmental objectives in advertising

2. A MEANINGFUL BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

- Leading to genuine efforts from business sectors beyond the legally-required minimum
- Preventing 'green-washing' by setting clear guidelines. Be sufficiently open to involving several kinds of company ranging from blue-chip to SMEs.
- Include environmental citizens' organizations in its elaboration.
- Not distract political attention and resources from the obligations and targets already set, especially by the Birds and Habitat Directives.

3. FURTHER STEPS IN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

- Aviation emissions in the EU Emissions Trading System leading to real emission reductions in the sector, it should start at 2010 for all flights landing and arriving, include a multiplier (minimum: 2), ambitious caps (50 per cent below average emissions level of 2004-06) and EU wide harmonised allocation through full auctioning, strong limits for external credits
- Support the Commission in delivering a proposal to amend the EU Emission Trading System giving certainty over emissions reductions through a top-down EU wide cap, sending a clear carbon signal by using auctioning and clear and stringent limits on the use of external credits
- Clear and ambitious EU leadership in UN negotiations leading to an agreement on beginning negotiations on a post-2012 extension of the Kyoto framework
- Lead EU discussions on how to share future emissions reductions targets cooperatively
- Ensure EU-Africa strategy includes EU action to address sustainably Africa's vulnerability to climate change and its development needs

4. AIR QUALITY: NO MORE BACK-SLIDING

- Stick with the Council Position in first reading treating it as the bottom line in negotiations with Parliament
- Take all opportunities to strengthen the proposed limit value for PM2.5
- Reject specific exemptions for industry concerning their obligations under IPPC
- Put pressure on Commission finally to produce ambitious Euro VI proposal for lorries and buses

5. STRENGTHEN THE MARINE STRATEGY DIRECTIVE

- An unambiguous requirement to achieve 'Good Environmental Status'.
- A list of Good Environmental Status criteria/descriptors which are scientifically sound and politically ambitious
- Sufficiently strong provisions for tackling the problem of unsustainable fishery management in the EU.

6. MAKE PROGRESS ON SOIL PROTECTION

- Agreement in the Council for a strong Soil Framework Directive which includes long-term generation targets for specific soil problems and legally-enforceable medium-term targets to be set or agreed at EU level

7. PHASE OUT MERCURY

- Strong promotion at UNEP of a global new, binding instrument to reduce global mercury use by 70% by 2017.

8. WATER SCARCITY AND QUALITY

- In discussions on the Commission's Communication on Water Scarcity and Droughts provide a high profile to the tools and mechanisms which the Water Framework Directive provides for tackling these problems, the most important one of these being demand management through water pricing;
- Ensure that the 'good chemical status' of waters becomes well-defined and monitored and that long-term chemical pollution ceases including for water-bodies which are not yet used for drinking water abstraction

9. PROMOTE REDUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES

- Set EU quantitative targets for pesticides use and risk reduction
- Make Integrated Pest Management (IPM) a minimum for conventional farmland and increase land under organic farming
- Introduce levy on pesticides to finance measures under National Action Plans, and advisory services to farmers for implementation of IPM standards
- Institute No-spray zones to protect the aquatic environment and sensitive areas
- Ban aerial spraying to protect human health and the environment
- Ban substances on the basis of their intrinsic hazard (cut-off criteria)
- Require comparative assessment and substitution by less hazardous substances and non-chemical alternatives
- Protect vulnerable groups, including foetuses, infants and children
- Block zonal division of the EU for product approval, and support a mutual recognition system which allows Member States greater discretion to change the proposed conditions of use or refuse to authorise products on the basis of health and environmental protection
- Require regular evaluation and monitoring programme for pesticides and including newly-identified effects
- Provide greater transparency in the pesticide authorisation process

10. IMPROVING ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

- Adopt an improved version of the proposed Directive on protecting the environment through criminal law
- Hold a broad debate on improving implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law.
- Make proposals for a substantial increase in the Commission's capacity to deliver on its enforcement obligations and the capacity of national and local government to enforce EU environmental law, including through the EU cohesion policy
- Increase public involvement, through open and transparent infringement procedures, and access to justice as required by the Aarhus Convention