



Media Briefing for journalists

BirdLife Europe's environmental priorities for the Hungarian Presidency

January – July 2011

BirdLife Europe's bi-annual Greening Europe magazine presents our environmental priorities and requests to the new Presidency, the European Institutions and the Member states.

It is produced together with our Hungarian BirdLife Partner MME and provides an inside view into the main issues concerning the environmental priorities. BirdLife asks the Presidency to pay special attention to these topics and make sure progress is achieved during their Presidency period.

In its publication 'Greening Europe' [2], BirdLife Europe identified **"Five keys for a successful Hungarian Presidency"**:

- The Presidency and the Council should support an ambitious EU Biodiversity Strategy that incorporates new tools to radically improve implementation of EU nature legislation, and initiates the development of sectoral biodiversity strategies.
- The Council, in their reaction to the communication of the European Commission on the EU Budget review, must call for the delivery of environmental policy through all funding streams, the elimination of all perverse subsidies, and the provision of sufficient resources for environmental objectives.
- The Council conclusions on the European Commission communication on CAP reform must fully endorse a far-reaching reform based on rewarding farmers for the delivery of public goods and effectively addressing biodiversity loss and climate change.
- The Presidency should promote a strong initiative to address bird mortality caused by power lines, asking for immediate measures to coordinate the solution of the problem at a Community level, building on the outcomes of the expert workshop organised by the Presidency.

- The Presidency, Member States and the European Parliament should keep pressure on the European Commission to address the indirect land use change caused by biofuels and put in place mandatory biomass sustainability standards.

Ariel Brunner, Head of EU Policy at BirdLife Europe stressed the importance of this Presidency: **“The Hungarian Presidency of the EU starts at a time which offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to address the biodiversity crisis. If the EU is not to miss the biodiversity target again, a radical overhaul of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is urgent.”**

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Notes for the editor

[1] BirdLife Europe

BirdLife Europe is a global Partnership of conservation organizations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. The BirdLife Partnership operates in 116 countries and territories worldwide. BirdLife Europe supports the European and Central Asian Partnership for BirdLife International and is present in 45 countries and all EU Member States.

<http://europe.birdlife.org>

[2] You can download the publication at

http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/Greening_Europe_Hungarian_Presidency.pdf