



## MEDIA RELEASE

Environmental NGOs call for the EU Budget to shift from perverse subsidies to investments in ecosystems and green economy

Brussels April 13 – Today, Environmental NGOs (1) among which BirdLife Europe (2), highlighted in a public hearing at the European Parliament (3) the environmental impacts of the EU Budget and the potential for a quality spending of European taxpayers' money.

The Coalition for Sustainable EU Funds argues that the current EU Budget does not deliver what European taxpayers expect: well-being, jobs and a healthy environment.

If the EU Budget is to meet these expectations, European decision-makers must prioritise the elimination of harmful subsidies, which increase energy consumption, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and biodiversity loss. They also called for significant resources to be reallocated for urgent investments in sustainable sectors such as energy savings, ecosystem-based risk prevention and adaptation to climate change, and nature conservation and restoration.

“The new EU Budget is a golden opportunity to help putting the EU on the road toward a real resources efficient economy” commented Ariel Brunner, Head of EU Policy at BirdLife Europe. “The current levels of misuse of taxpayers money are not tenable when the EU is squeezed between budgetary constrains and ever going ecological crises”, concluded Mr. Brunner.

The seven NGOs have come together to ensure that European investments contribute to a sustainable Europe highlighting three key priorities, tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and inefficiency use of natural resources. To this end, they have tabled detailed proposals to European decision makers on reforms of all the main EU funding instruments such as regional funds and agricultural and fishery subsidies. They have also asked for a strengthening of the LIFE+ instrument, the only dedicated environmental funding stream of the EU that currently receives a paltry of 0.2% of the overall budget.

The public hearing “EU Funds: Assets or Liabilities?” will take place on 13th of April 2011, from 14:00 to 18:00, in the European Parliament, Paul-Henri Spaak P7C050.

ENDS

### Notes for the editor

(1) The Coalition for Sustainable EU Funds is made up of seven prominent environmental NGOs active at Brussels level: BirdLife Europe, CEE Bankwatch Network, Conservation International - Europe, European Environmental Bureau, Friends of the Earth Europe, Transport & Environment and WWF. The coalition aims for a reform of the EU Multiannual Financial Framework and its financial instruments, the EU Funds, in order to make sure that they contribute to sustainable development and are spent efficiently and in a transparent manner.

(2) BirdLife Europe supports the European and Central Asia Partnership for BirdLife International and is present in 45 countries and in all EU Member States.

<http://europe.birdlife.org>

(3) For more info about the event, please click: [http://www.birdlife.org/eu/eu\\_events.html](http://www.birdlife.org/eu/eu_events.html)

### Contacts:

Bruna Campos, EU Financial Perspectives Policy Officer, BirdLife Europe / Conservation International – Europe, [bruna.campos@birdlife.org](mailto:bruna.campos@birdlife.org), tel +32 2 238 50 99

Pieter De Pous, Director of Policy, European Environmental Bureau, [pieter.depous@eeb.org](mailto:pieter.depous@eeb.org), tel +32 2 289 1306

Sébastien Godinot, Economist, WWF EPO, [sgodinot@wwfepo.org](mailto:sgodinot@wwfepo.org), tel +32 2 740 0920

Antoine Kedzierski, Policy Officer, Transport and Environment, [antoine.kedzierski@transportenvironment.org](mailto:antoine.kedzierski@transportenvironment.org), tel +32 2 893 0852

Markus Trilling, EU Sustainable Funds Coordinator, CEE Bankwatch / Friends of the Earth Europe, [markus.trilling@foeeurope.org](mailto:markus.trilling@foeeurope.org), tel +32 2 893 1031

---

BirdLife Europe  
Avenue de la Toison d'Or 67  
1060 Brussels, BELGIUM