

Title



The main pressures and drivers causing biodiversity loss are well known and include habitat loss or change, introduced species, pollution, over-exploitation, and climate change. The principal pressure is habitat fragmentation, degradation and destruction due to land-use change. Nearly 30 % of the fragmented EU land is mostly due to urban sprawl and infrastructure development. Urban sprawl, for example, can impact land changes through the transformation of urban-rural linkages. Infrastructure development involves both settlement expansion as well as the expansion of transport networks.

Reforming the €336 billion Cohesion (regional) Policy, second largest EU fund, will be a decisive tool for shaping EU's future resource efficient and low carbon economy. It could play a crucial role in steering local economies and in accelerating the transition progress towards building sustainable economies within ecological limits. While the total budget can only serve as catalyst to a transition towards a low carbon economy it is crucial that funding is concentrated while allowing for regions to support their potential.

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- [Cohesion Policy 2014 -2020: NGO recommendations for Trialogue \(2012, September\)](#)
- [Joint NGO Briefing: Ex ante conditionalities in the Common Provisions Regulation: a crucial tool to improve quality and delivery \(March 2012\)](#)
- [Joint NGO Briefing: Cohesion Policy: Green investments to deliver sustainable prosperity and jobz \(March 2012\)](#)
- [Cohesion Policy: Green investments to deliver sustainable prosperity and jobs \(2012, March\)](#)
- [Joint NGO Briefing: Greening the Cohesion Policy: Supporting and improving climate thematic concentration \(February 2012\)](#)
- [Joint NGO Briefing: Biodiversity investments under Cohesion Policy - a smart contribution to reach EU 2020 objectives \(2012\)](#)
- [Green Infrastructure Briefing \(2011\)](#)
- [Statement on Cohesion Policy \(2011\)](#)
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