

Key recommendations to the Lithuanian EU Presidency

Title

As Lithuania has taken over the **Presidency of the European Council** for the period July to December 2013, BirdLife Europe together with **LOD (BirdLife in Lithuania)** has produced a policy brief highlighting the **key recommendations** to the new EU Presidency. Lithuania will be running the Presidency of the European Council amidst critical debates for the future of Europe's environment and climate policy. A successful Lithuanian Presidency would:

- **Correct a flawed and outdated bioenergy policy** The Lithuanian Presidency has the opportunity to take the lead in ensuring that the real impacts of **biofuels**, **biomass** and **Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC)** on the climate are accounted for.
- **Secure quick progress on much needed regulation of Invasive Alien Species** The European Commission's proposal on **Invasive Alien Species** is expected by the beginning of the Lithuanian Presidency. Strong leadership from Lithuania will be needed to drive progress through Council and finally tackle a problem which is devastating Europe's natural environment and costing Member States at least 12 billion euros a year.
- **Ensure that regulatory and budgetary dossiers help, and do not hinder, the achievement of the EU's biodiversity and climate policies** Under this Presidency period, there will be a chance to ensure robust environmental measures in both the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and the **Maritime Spatial Planning Directive** and guarantee that **LIFE+**, the **CAP**, the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund** and the overall **European budget** support the achievement of the Union's objectives on climate and the environment.
- **Set a clear path towards an ambitious, comprehensive and coherent 2030 climate package** Finally, Lithuania will preside over the launch of the negotiations on a climate framework beyond 2020. Only strong political leadership from the Lithuanian Presidency with an eye for the long-term perspective can deliver the low-cost, low-carbon energy supply Europe needs.

For more information: please contact **Ariel Brunner**, Head of EU Policy at BirdLife Europe.



Stichting BirdLife Europe gratefully acknowledges financial support from the European Commission. All content and opinions expressed on these pages are solely those of Stichting BirdLife Europe.