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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- **Correct a flawed and outdated bioenergy policy** The Lithuanian Presidency has the opportunity to take the lead in ensuring that the real impacts of [biofuels](#), [biomass](#) and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.

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