

To the kind member of the Press

For Immediate release

The 10 leading environmental NGOs appeal to the European Parliament to block the Juncker Commission in its current structure and put forward a list of formal requests.

Brussels, Belgium - 15 September 2014

After the open letter to President Juncker the 10 leading environmental NGOs in the EU, the Green 10, demand change in the composition and mission letters of the new Commission.

In a brief sent to all MEPs the Green 10 state:

“The Juncker designate Commission represents a serious downgrading of environment and a roll back of existing EU commitments to sustainable development, resource efficiency, air quality, biodiversity protection and climate action. This would represent a betrayal of the interests of EU citizens, a vast majority of whom feel strongly about the environment. The special Eurobarometer 416 from 8 September 2014 shows that despite the economic crisis, 95% of the interviewed citizens said that protecting the environment is important to them personally and that more should be done.

According to the Green 10: “The European Parliament must react forcefully to prevent an agenda which seems to erase 30 years of EU environment policy without democratic debate. As a minimum the Parliament must demand to:

1. **Establish a Vice-President for Sustainability**, coordinating the environment, fisheries, agriculture and regional policy portfolios. This would allow a proper space for environmental and resource efficiency policies. In addition to that the Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness needs to mainstream environment in his agenda explicitly.
2. **Upgrade the Vice-President for Energy Union to a Vice-President for ‘Climate Action and Energy Union’** and have this reflected in her mandate. This would mean that the Commission representative within the international climate negotiations would have a clear mandate to address the climate crisis. Furthermore climate action should become a cornerstone for the work of all eight members of the Project Team for a Resilient Energy Union and a forward-looking Climate Change Policy.
3. **Ensure the Environment portfolio is reinstated**, restoring its competences and providing the Commissioner with a new mandate to respect the European Parliament’s work and implement the 7th EAP. The Parliament must furthermore demand that the mandate to the environment Commissioner to weaken the Nature Directives is replaced with an instruction to strongly implement nature conservation legislation and to work to achieve the EU 2020 biodiversity target. He should also continue to give priority to protecting people’s health by strengthening, not weakening key legislation on air quality and chemicals, and move the responsibility for biocides and pesticides back to DG ENV.
4. **Resolve potential conflicts of interest for the nominees**, and notably for the Climate and Energy portfolio.

Read more in the attached brief

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