

JOINT STATEMENT



KEEPING THE IMPACTS OF USING NATURAL RESOURCES WELL WITHIN SAFE ECOLOGICAL LIMITS

A JOINT STATEMENT FROM CEMEX EUROPE AND BIRDLIFE EUROPE ON THE EU'S NATURE CONSERVATION POLICY



Good regulation drives innovation in industry. Since 2007, CEMEX and BirdLife Europe have been working in partnership together in pursuit of a common vision of achieving environmentally sustainable development. The partnership is premised on the basis that corporates and NGOs with compatible aims and interests can generate significant gains, for both business and biodiversity by working together.

For the partnership to continue to advance and evolve, an understanding and recognition of strategic or emerging issues of mutual interest is important. This joint policy statement, which focuses on the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, aims to clearly define where the partnership stands in relation to this important legislation, marking a new chapter in the partnership.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- CEMEX and BirdLife Europe recognise the intrinsic value of nature and the importance of conserving biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services that underpin sustainable development. BirdLife Europe and CEMEX call upon EU governments to take all necessary action to fulfil the commitments taken in the EU's biodiversity strategy in order to meet its 2020 targets and achieve its 2050 vision.
- This commitment is, inter alia, emphasised in CBD COP 10 Aichi target 4, which states that "By 2020, at the latest, governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits."
- We believe there is not, and must not be, a conflict between sound conservation and sound business.
- Clear and consistent regulation, guidance and implementation that is science based- and outcome-driven are preconditions for both areas of interest.
- We believe that sound and well implemented legislation are important in order to provide a level playing field for industry and stimulate innovation and enhanced performance.
- The EU Birds and Habitats Directives provide

an appropriate and effective legal instrument for the conservation of biodiversity in Europe and an appropriate framework for the development of extractive activities in harmony with nature.

- The NATURA 2000 network must be supported as the cornerstone of an EU wide Green Infrastructure, and as the primary tool for biodiversity conservation in the EU. We believe that a swift completion of the network, especially at sea, and the development of high quality management plans, followed by the activation of effective management and sufficient financing are crucial both for ensuring conservation outcomes and to guarantee security and predictability for economic investments.

POLICY COMMITMENTS

- CEMEX and BirdLife Europe believe that the EU Birds and Habitats Directives should be applied effectively and consistently across the Member States, allowing public authorities to work with companies to leverage potential synergies and strive to integrate conservation efforts with economic activity.
- We recognize the importance of effective habitat protection and active management for biodiversity conservation. We believe that all stakeholders, including companies, should positively contribute to the management of Natura 2000 sites where appropriate.
- We recognise that protection or special measures may be appropriate where vulnerable or irreplaceable habitats exist that cannot be restored under any viable means.
- We believe management and restoration of sites should be science-based and outcome driven. Natural regeneration should be fully recognized as a restoration strategy and habitat creation, in line with European nature conservation priorities, should take precedence in the choice of post-extraction land use.
- CEMEX commits to develop a rehabilitation plan for all new and existing active sites, and to restore its quarries according to an approved plan that takes into account biodiversity. CEMEX believes that it can play a positive role in fostering biodiversity in its extraction sites in Europe, and that 'biodiversity-focused rehabilitation' is a powerful tool for this purpose.

- CEMEX will aim to achieve a net positive impact on biodiversity (NPI), recognizing both the potential for active habitat restoration or creation throughout the quarry cycle (operations through to closure).
- We stress the importance of adherence to the mitigation hierarchy as a basic approach to site developments; such an approach enables site developments to work towards NPI.
- Both biodiversity and minerals are inherently local: they are where they are. Reconciling the needs of conservation and extractive industry requires a strategic approach to land planning, at an appropriate scale.
- We believe that adequate, transparent and participatory project and land planning through effective communication and consultation, allied with a precautionary approach and rigorous environmental assessment will minimize negative impacts and potential conflicts.
- Strategic planning presents opportunities for 'win-wins'. It helps avoid conflicts with strictly protected or vulnerable areas, enabling the identification of areas with high potential for habitat restoration and re-creation, and seeks to identify and realise opportunities for the positive enhancement of biodiversity within the landscape.
- BirdLife Europe and CEMEX call upon the EU and Member States to enact sweeping green public procurement policies to ensure that cement, concrete and aggregates used in public works and publicly funded projects is sourced from producers adhering to high environmental standards and sustainability is taken into consideration in choice of suppliers.

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