



PRESS STATEMENT - Brussels, 1 October 2014 – for immediate release

To the kind members of the press,

Despite an eloquent performance and environmental pledges, designate Commissioner Canete does not convince. His credibility is severely undermined by his political background and the opaque relationship with the oil industry. The European Environmental Bureau and Birdlife Europe joint statement.

«Miguel Arias Cañete was well prepared tonight but the gap between his words now and actions at home when in government remains” - said **Jeremy Wates, European Environmental Bureau Secretary General** – “What Europe needs at this key moment ahead of the Paris Climate Summit is someone who is a credible advocate to put us on a path to the decarbonisation our economy – not someone who states his firm commitment to fossil fuels without presenting a timeline for their phase-out. Given the widespread and growing public concern around Canete’s track record, if his appointment is confirmed, it will damage the credibility of the EU itself.».

Ariel Brunner, Head of EU Policy at Birdlife Europe, stated: «Canete gave a structured and well prepared display of environmental convictions. We would be happy if he was to deliver what he promised. But honestly a politician who’s been around for decades cannot be judged on a very well rehearsed testimony. His political track record, his deeds, the measures approved over the years tell us a very different story. Is he not the same man who sat on a government that canceled incentives to renewable energy in Spain? Is he not the same man who allowed developers to get away with disfiguring the Spanish coastline? Or the man who supported drilling in the Canaries? And the list is long».

Angelo Caserta, Birdlife Europe director, concludes:« How credible is Canete in his new role? Our opinion is that his long, established, political track record must be accounted for. Before the issue of conflict of interest, that by the way hasn’t been cleared entirely, his history undermines severely his credibility as a suitable candidate to fight climate change. We therefore must conclude with yet another appeal to Juncker to reconsider structure, mandates and composition of his Commission as suggested in the Green 10 open letter».

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