

EU Liaison Unit



The EU Liaison Unit is the part of IUCN's European Programme that represents IUCN to the EU institutions; influences EU policy in line with IUCN policy recommendations; and keeps IUCN and its members informed of EU policy developments and funding opportunities. It's based in IUCN's Regional Office for Europe (ROfE), in Brussels.

For more information

e-mail: europa@iucn.org

Learn more about the European Programme by downloading our new brochure at

<http://www.iucneurope.org>



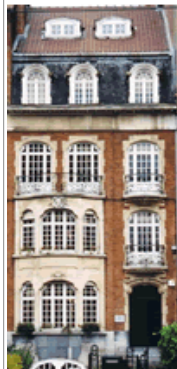
Halt the loss of biodiversity

ROfE is comprised of four IUCN offices located in Brussels, Warsaw, Belgrade and Moscow.

WELCOME!

Welcome to the first update from the EU Liaison Unit, of IUCN's Regional Office for Europe in Brussels. We'll now be sending out email updates every 2 months to keep our members informed of our work.

INTRODUCING THE EU LIAISON UNIT TEAM



[Jean Claude Jacques](#), seconded to IUCN from the French Ministry of the Environment is the Head of the Unit as well as the Senior Advisor on EU development co-operation policy. [Janice Weatherley](#), seconded to IUCN from A Rocha, focuses on EU nature conservation policy and works with the European Habitats Forum (EHF). [Anouska Plasmeijer](#), an intern from Wageningen University in the Netherlands, assists the unit by following relevant policy debates in the European Parliament and keeping IUCN's members updated on EU funding opportunities. In July, we were sorry to say goodbye to **Doeke Eisma**, who left his role as Senior Advisor on liaison with the European Parliament, but we are glad to still be working with him as he continues in his role as Chair of the IUCN Netherlands Committee.

In late spring the Unit was very pleased to welcome two new staff. In May [Sebastian Winkler](#) was appointed as Head of the Countdown 2010 Secretariat, and also brings expertise as a Senior Advisor on some EU policy issues such as sustainable development. In June [Erik van Zadelhoff](#), seconded to IUCN and the IUCN Dutch National Committee from the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), was appointed to work on EU Overseas Territories, together with the IUCN National Committees for France, UK and the Netherlands, and will also provide support on development co-operation issues and the ecological footprint of Europe.

To read more about the EU Liaison Unit, visit the website at: www.iucneurope.org

EU DEVELOPMENT POLICY

• European Parliament Hearing

On the 13th July, the European Parliament organised a hearing on EU development policy and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in which Achim Steiner, the Director General of IUCN, was invited as a speaker in a panel of experts. Please view the full story at: [EP hearing](#). The EU's contribution to achieving the MDG's, is available online at: [MDG report](#).

• EU Development Policy Declaration

The 2000 Declaration of the European Council on the EU's development policy is currently being revised and is expected to be adopted by mid November as a joint



The head office, located in Brussels, is a meeting point where the IUCN Programme Office for Central Europe in Warsaw, the IUCN Programme Office for the Commonwealth of Independent States in Moscow and the IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe in Belgrade can disseminate information and strategies. Together as ROfE we strive to meet our goals for a sustainable Europe by utilising local expertise and the strength of the global IUCN network.

Let us know if you found this update useful by e-mailing: europa@iucn.org

declaration by the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission. It is currently in the form of a Commission Communication, and can be viewed at: [Development Declaration](#)



- **Future EU Development Aid for the Environment**

Following a request by IUCN and environmental NGOs, DG Development held a consultation with environmental organisations on the 23rd August, regarding a new communication on a thematic funding programme for: 'Environment and sustainable management of natural resources including energy'. A draft communication is expected by the end of September. It follows an earlier Communication concerning the EU's future development funding 'External Actions through Thematic Programmes under the Future Financial Perspectives 2007-2013', which can be viewed at: [External Actions Communication](#)

For further information on our development policy work please contact: jean-claude.jacques@iucn.org

EU ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

- **EU Biodiversity Communication**

DG Environment is behind on its schedule to produce a Communication on the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which was expected to go forward for adoption this year, but it now looks as though this won't be ready until 2006. IUCN has been requesting the European Commission to give greater priority to this process.

- **Natura 2000**



The Habitats Committee has agreed a monitoring framework for Member States to assess whether species and habitats protected in the Habitats Directive are in favourable conservation status. This will involve coming up with an agreed 'favourable reference value' for each species and habitat type listed in the annexes of the Directive. More detailed guidance regarding this monitoring is expected to be provided in the Habitats Committee Scientific working group meeting on the 21st September, and IUCN ROfE is working with NGO partners in the European Habitats Forum, to provide input to this process.

The biogeographic seminar concerning the designation of Natura 2000 sites in the Pannonian region will take place on the 26-27th September in Sarród in Hungary. NGO input and representation at this seminar is being organised by CEEWEB on behalf of the European Habitats Forum, see the website at: [EHF](#)

- **EU Thematic Strategies**

DG Environment is expected to put forward its proposed Thematic Strategies for adoption by the end of 2005, on the following themes: air; waste prevention and recycling; sustainable use of natural resources; marine; pesticides; soil and urban. IUCN ROfE, together with the European Sustainable Use Specialist Group, has been providing input into the consultation on the draft Sustainable Use of Natural Resources Strategy, Sustainable Use Strategy.

For further information on any area of IUCN ROfE's work with DG Environment, please contact: janice.weatherley@iucn.org

EU REGIONAL POLICY AND FUNDING

DG Regional Policy is inviting comments until the 30th September on the draft strategic guidelines which provides the framework for EU funding from Regional development Funds (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion fund, from 2007-2013. IUCN is responding to this consultation and recommending better integration of funding opportunities for environmental projects, and that environmental considerations are fully taken into account when new EU infrastructure projects are funded. We would like to encourage our members to also take part in this consultation,

which is available online at: [Regional Funds Consultation](#)

EU RESEARCH FUNDING

The European Commission has published a proposal for the 7th Framework Programme, which details how it plans to spend its research funding between 2007 and 2013. The environment (including climate change) is included as one of its nine themes. This proposal is now going forward for consideration by the European Parliament and European Council, before its adoption in 2006 and can be viewed at: [Research Funding Proposal](#)

[Moscow](#).....

.....[Warsaw](#).....[Brussels](#).....[Belgrade](#)