



European Parliament 2014-2019

Create a new Europe for the Planet

Dear Candidate for the European Parliament,

In the next 5 years Members of the European Parliament will deal with a series of crucial European policies that should lead us on a more sustainable path towards 2020. Europe's 28 Member States need to reduce their ecological footprint to respect the resource limits of our planet, and become a more innovative and efficient economy able to guarantee job security and prosperity for future generations.

We only have one planet...

If everyone in the world consumed natural resources and generated greenhouse gas emissions at the rate of the average European, we would need 2,8 planets to maintain our way of life. Climate change, deforestation, water shortages and the loss of numerous species are already starting to affect us all across the world and need a firm response.

...and people want to protect it.

A recent survey shows that 95% of EU citizens feel that protecting the environment is important; and 81% of them believe European environmental legislation is necessary to protect the environment. Yet, some Member States are threatening to scale back environmental advances made over the last 30 years, which is precisely the wrong way to respond to the economic and financial crises. As a Candidate for the European Parliament you need to listen to the voices of your citizens.

Your Voting List

WWF is convinced that to secure a more sustainable and innovative future for Europe in the next 5 years, the European Parliament needs to fully support policies that:

- + Tackle climate change
- + Shift to a resource-efficient economy
- + Halt the loss of nature
- + Encourage more sustainable and healthy consumption
- + Secure clean and healthy waters
- + Protect the environment for human well-being globally
- + Stop illegal timber and wildlife trades
- + Ensure sustainable agriculture
- + Recover fish stocks.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE CHALLENGE?

80% of environmental law is decided at EU level. The European Parliament has often played a key role in improving these laws. The recent reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and the EU ban on illegal timber trade are evidence of MEPs' power to support ambitious legislation for the European Union.

As Member of the next European Parliament you can support EU policies that:

TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE



- Ensure all existing 2020 EU climate and energy targets are met and strengthened.
- Support a legally binding package of three targets by 2030 aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55%, increasing renewable energy to 45% and cut energy use by 40%.

5 million jobs can be generated by meeting climate and energy targets by 2020.

SHIFT TO A RESOURCE-EFFICIENT ECONOMY

- Phase-out environmentally harmful subsidies for e.g. fossil fuels and unsustainable agricultural practices.
- Encourage public and private investments to support a long term low-carbon economy and maintain our natural capital.

3 x more subsidies were spent in 2011 in Europe for polluting energies than for renewables in the electricity sector.

HALT THE LOSS OF NATURE



- Support the full and effective implementation of existing legislation such as the Birds and Habitats Directives to meet the 2020 EU biodiversity targets.
- Double biodiversity-related foreign aid to avert global biodiversity loss by 2020 as committed by Member States.

14.6 million jobs are currently provided by biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe.

ENCOURAGE MORE SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY CONSUMPTION

- Ensure Europe reduces its footprint abroad and guarantees sustainable food consumption in Europe by supporting and strengthening the new 'sustainable food' policy initiative of the European Commission.

1000kcal/day - the average European is eating too much: over 1000Kcal more than the daily recommended level and 70% more protein than is necessary as part of a daily diet.

SECURE CLEAN AND HEALTHY WATERS



- Ensure Europe's water policy is correctly implemented and strengthened during the review of the Water Framework Directive in 2018.
- Ensure Member States' marine ecosystems reach good environmental status by 2020 as set out by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

€37.3 billion - annual benefit if all European water bodies reached good ecological status by 2015.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT FOR HUMAN WELL-BEING GLOBALLY

- Ensure the EU meets its responsibility towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Champion environmental sustainability in the post 2015 Sustainable Development Framework.

The world's poorest people are hardest hit by climate change and the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services on which their livelihoods depend.

STOP ILLEGAL TIMBER AND WILDLIFE TRADES



- Ensure the EU Timber Regulation is properly enforced and that for its 2015 review the product scope is extended to all wood-related products relevant for the EU market.
- Brand illegal wildlife trade as a crime and ensure proper enforcement.

USD 10-15 billion and USD 7.8-10 billion per year - the value of international illegal timber and wildlife trades respectively.

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- Ensure all EU environmental requirements are fully integrated into Europe's agricultural policy, including the EU biodiversity strategy, the Water Framework and Pesticides Directives.

92% of EU freshwaters (rivers, lakes and aquifers) are significantly affected by pollution, over-abstraction and habitat change due to agricultural activities.

RECOVER FISH STOCKS



- Ensure Member States fully implement strong and effective fishing laws and halt illegal fishing to ensure the long-term sustainable management of fish stocks.

USD 10-23.5 billion - annual cost of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing globally. This also causes major loss of income to coastal countries and communities.

THE EU AND THE ENVIRONMENT

80%

of all environmental policies are decided by the EU

95%

of Europeans believe protecting the environment is important to them personally



€450 billion

are lost every year due to biodiversity destruction

5 million

jobs can be generated by meeting the EU climate and energy targets by 2020

A WWF detailed manifesto is available on the “EU Elections” section of www.wwf.eu



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

www.wwf.eu

Your contact in Brussels:

Tycho Vandermaesen

Public Affairs Officer

WWF European Policy Office

tvandermaesen@wwf.eu

+32 2 743 88 08/+32 498 72 56 41