



How can people and the economy benefit from nature? Stories from citizens

With this conference, we would like to inform you, inspire you and provide you with arguments for the upcoming discussions in the European Parliament that will or should involve issues related to the natural environment. Why? Because for many challenges our society faces today, such as air pollution, climate change, land use changes, droughts, and economic crisis, the solution is – nature. EU citizens recognize its value, come and listen to their stories!

Nature is the solution to many of the challenges facing society today whether it be air pollution, climate change, land use changes, droughts, or economic crisis. With this conference, we would like to inspire you with stories from EU citizens that already recognize nature's value. Come and listen to their stories!

Date, place: 7 June 2017, 29 Rue Jacques de Lalaing, Brussels

Provisional agenda

14:00–14:30 Welcome speeches by the host and the organizers: Member of the European Parliament Mr. Benedek Javor, Mr. Pavel Poc, Ms. Sirpa Pietikäinen; Ágnes Zólyomi General Secretary, CEEweb for Biodiversity; Stefan Versweyveld, President, Eurosite.

14:30– 14:50 How can nature address today's social and economic challenges in the EU?

14:50–15:10 How can innovative solutions from nature boost our economy? Presentation of success stories from the EU.

15:10–15:30 Where are services from nature already creating flourishing societies and economies? Cases from the field.

15:30– 16:00 Q&A session, brief discussion.

16:00–17:00 Citizens' stories: CEEweb for Biodiversity's Friends of Natura 2000 and the producers of Eurosite's Natura 2000 campaign.

16:30–17:00 Q&A session, brief discussion.

17:00–17:15 Closing session and messages for the future.

17:15–19:00 Tasting nature - degustation of local products from protected Natura 2000 areas and demonstration of the most cherished ecosystem services (winners of the [“What is your favorite gift from nature?”](#) contest). In the meantime: mini-concert by Katy Carr, Friend of Natura 2000 (TBC).



This event is funded by the European Union. The information and views expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

CEEweb for Biodiversity is a network of non-governmental organizations in the Central and Eastern European region. Our mission is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development.

Eurosite is the network for Europe's natural site managers bringing together non-governmental and governmental organisations, and individuals committed to our vision: a Europe where nature is cared for, protected, restored, and valued by all.

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.