



CEEweb for Biodiversity

**Széher út 40.
1021 Budapest, Hungary
Phone: +36 1 398 0135 Fax:
+36 1 398 0136
office@ceeweb.org
www.ceeweb.org**

Budapest, 24/11/2016

Dear Member of European Parliament,

Show your support for Natura 2000 – ask for the results of the fitness check!

Did you know that Natura 2000 is the largest nature conservation area **in the world** (it covers almost one fifth of the EU territory) and that it protects around **1,000 important habitats and species**? Moreover, it provides **multiple benefits** to all economy sectors, to citizens' health and well-being, and to the preservation of biodiversity.

More than a half a million of European citizens showed their support to laws that protect nature in Europe, by taking part in a public consultation last year. This is the highest number of citizens participating in a public consultation **ever in the history of the EU!** The citizens' support does not stop there – as of today, 44 individuals from 12 countries joined our informal group Friends of Natura 2000, clearly expressing their support to the Directives and acknowledging the benefits of this conservation area for versatile sectors they belong to.

Moreover, the fitness check [evaluation study](#) showed that the directives **are fit for purpose**: they serve the economy, society and biodiversity.

The Birds and Habitats Directives, the basis of Natura 2000, are currently under the **fitness check** by the European Commission (EC). First Vice President Frans Timmermans promised the results will be published in June, and then postponed its publishing for the fall.

In mid-October, the results were not published either. That is when President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz warned the EC President Jean Claude-Juncker (in a private correspondence seen by The Guardian) that **inaction over a stalled review of the EU's nature directives is jeopardising EU biodiversity targets**.

It is the second half of November now and the results of the fitness check are **still not published**.

Therefore, we are asking you to **urge President Juncker and Vice-President Timmermans to finally release the outcomes of the fitness check of Natura 2000 directives!** We are also inviting you to back up Commissioner Vella with his proposal **to not make further revisions and changes** of the directives, but to focus on their better implementation instead.

You may read about Natura 2000 stories in our [fact sheet](#) presenting examples of successful nature preservation projects in the Central and Eastern European region that are at the same time **powerful drivers of socio-economic growth**.

We would appreciate if you would engage in a conversation about Natura 2000 with us on [Twitter](#) - we will be sending you tweets with calls for action while looking forward to your replies.

Please, show your support for safeguarding European biodiversity!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read '20 Agnes'.

Agnes Zolyomi,

Secretary General, CEEweb for Biodiversity

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.