



CEEweb for Biodiversity

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President Juncker, Vice Presidents, Commissioners,

We are convinced that well-implemented Birds and Habitats Directives benefit to all sectors of the economy, citizens' health and well-being and sustaining biodiversity. We believe that the Directives and their annexes are fit for purpose and should not be changed now. Therefore, we would like to ask you for full support for keeping the Directives intact.

The Birds and Habitats Directives are **fit for purpose** and have proven to work where properly implemented.

The benefits derived from the whole network sum up to at least **200-300 billion Euros** each year. Natura 2000 benefits **local economy** e.g. site in Romania, Comana wetlands provides **21 new jobs**. Project for farmers in Romania brought **€2.5 million annual benefits, increasing the incomes** of 2300 farming families. It also contributes to **human safety** e.g. rehabilitation of the river Danube in 4 countries, **ensured flood protection** and **saved €500** per hectare per year. The social benefits can be expressed by the approximately **1.2–2.2 million visitors** to Natura 2000 sites per day, which creates around **6 million full-time jobs**. Lake Hévíz in Hungary has **healing effects**, which are primarily linked to its sulphur content and sulphur bacteria living in the water, are used for the treatment of rheumatic and locomotor diseases.

Our efforts should be focused on **implementation of the Directives** in all Member States and integrating it into other complementary policies.

Our message is echoed by **over half a million European citizens** who participated in EU consultation defending Nature Directives. Moreover, **many governments signed a letter** calling for not changing the Directives.

95% of citizens consider that protecting the environment is important to them personally. However, they think that not enough is being done by their national governments (70%) and European Union (56%). Over three-quarters of respondents (77%) support European environmental legislation as a necessary tool for protecting the environment in their country. (Eurobarometer 2014 Attitudes of European Citizens towards the Environment. Report.), let's follow their voice!

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.



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We appreciate your support along the process of the fitness check so far, and we would like to ask to continue your efforts for benefits of all.

We urge you to consider the voice of Europeans and give your fullest support to keep Birds and Habitats Directives unchanged!

If you would have any further questions, please contact us.

20 Agnes

Sincerely yours,

Agnes Zolyomi

General Secretary

CEEweb for Biodiversity

For 20 years, CEEweb - representing 50 organisations - is actively supporting the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives. We advocate for **improving implementation and management of Natura 2000**, on European, national and regional level.

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