

**Belgian Presidency of the European Union (July-December 2010) and
Hungarian Presidency of the European Union (January-June 2010)**

Last updated in January 2011

Latest Developments

In December, the Belgian Presidency held the closing event for the Year of Biodiversity "Better understanding and communicating the socio-economic value of biodiversity – The future and ecological advantages for all - Biodiversity and social responsibility".

In anticipation of the 2011/2020 UN Decade of Biodiversity, a number of major ideas were generated at the Conference including:

- An in-depth study of biodiversity with an approach that is both integrated and sector specific,
- The recognition of the direct influence of climate change on biodiversity and the necessity of mutually supportive action in both domains and
- Actions halting biodiversity loss should be implemented at national and regional level.

[Article of the Belgian Presidency on Close of the International Year of Biodiversity Conference](#)

On 20 December, EU Environment Ministers adopted the conclusions of the Environment Council. They called for a 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP) that is sufficiently ambitious and concrete to take over from the 6th programme which expires at the end of 2012. However, the European Commission considers this decision premature and prefers carrying out a detailed assessment of the results of the 6th EAP before taking a stance.

Among its priorities, the Council cited climate change, biodiversity, effective and sustainable use of resources, the urban environment, prevention and the reduction of environmental pollution, improved quality of life and human health. The importance of promoting eco-innovation especially via norms likely to promote speedier market acceptance, was also emphasised.

[Article on December Environment Council](#)

During the Environment Council, Member State delegations also adopted conclusions on the Convention of Biological Diversity which took place in Nagoya, Japan. The Council welcomed the outcome of the Convention and urged for the speedy implementation of the measures agreed. The conclusions also highlight the importance of cooperating with the business sector in halting biodiversity loss.

[December Environment Council Conclusions](#)

Hungary which assumed the rotating Council Presidency in January 2011 communicated the priorities it aims to pursue throughout its 6 month term. Hungary will place particular focus on the following issues:

- Energy security and energy efficiency,
- Regional and cohesion policy,
- The Eastern Partnership,
- The European strategy on Roma integration and
- Completion of accession negotiations with Croatia

The Hungarian presidency has also indicated that their environmental priorities will include looking at integrated water management, adopting the post 2010 Biodiversity strategy and discussing resource efficiency.

[Article on Hungarian presidency priorities](#)

[Article on environmental priorities](#)

Impact for golf management

- Biodiversity
- Water

Background

Last updated in October 2010:

On 8 September, ahead of the Summit on the Convention of Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan (18-29 October), the Belgian Environment Minister and Environment Council President-in-Office Joke Schauvliege invited European decision-makers, NGOs, scientists and other European players to a two-day conference to set out their expectations for the Summit. The result of their discussions was the "Message from Ghent" which calls for:

- Integrating the biodiversity approach into all policies at every level (international, European and national);
- Taking into account the impact of biodiversity on economic systems and climate change;
- Cooperating with all parties concerned, especially the private sector to counter biodiversity loss;
- Allocating more financial resources to combat biodiversity loss;
- Improving and consolidating research into biodiversity loss in order to make good policy choices and



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- Investing more in making the public at large more familiar with the consequences of biodiversity loss

[Message from Ghent for Biodiversity post-2010](#)

On 19 November, the Belgian presidency is hosting a closing event to the Year on Biodiversity in Brussels. The event will aim to present the Belgian public with the new undertakings which will be made in Nagoya. The main message of the event is to highlight that biodiversity is far more than nature conservation and that it is a part of our daily life.

[Belgian Presidency closing event on Biodiversity](#)

Links

Link to December Environment Council press release:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/118652.pdf

Link to the December Environment Council Biodiversity Diversity Convention conclusions:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st17/st17150.en10.pdf>

Link to the Belgian Presidency press release on Biodiversity Summit in Nagoya:

<http://www.eutrio.be/pressrelease/biodiversity-summit-nagoya-drop-business-usual-mindset>

Link to the Hungarian Presidency website:

<http://www.eu2011.hu/priorities-hungarian-presidency>