Basic information

2001/2189(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Biodiversity, action plans: conservation of natural resources, agriculture, fishing and development **Subject** 3.10 Agricultural policy and economies 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity 5.05 Economic growth	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	ISLER BÉGUIN Marie Anne (V/ALE)	26/06/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	REDONDO JIMÉNEZ Encarnación (PPE-DE)	11/10/2001
PECH Fisheries	MAAT Albert Jan (PPE-DE)	01/10/2001
DEVE Development and Cooperation	SANDBÆK Ulla Margrethe (EDD)	11/10/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Environment	2439	2002-06-25
Environment	2378	2001-10-29
Development	2383	2001-11-08
Fisheries	2344	2001-04-25
Fisheries	2359	2001-06-18

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Environment	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/03/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0162	Summary
25/04/2001	Debate in Council		
18/06/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
22/10/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/10/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
08/11/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
26/02/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
26/02/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0063/2002	
12/03/2002	Debate in Parliament		
14/03/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0121/2002	Summary
14/03/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/06/2002	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
27/02/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2189(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/5/15246

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0063/2002	26/02/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0121/2002 OJ C 047 27.02.2003, p. 0419-0575 E	14/03/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0162	27/03/2001	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0201/2001 OJ C 107 03.05.2002, p. 0073	15/11/2001	

Biodiversity, action plans: conservation of natural resources, agriculture, fishing and development

2001/2189(COS) - 29/10/2001

The Council adopted conclusions, without further discussion, on the Commission's Communication on Bio-diversity Action Plans, which was adopted in March 2001. These sectoral plans concern the conservation of natural resources, agriculture, fisheries, economic aid and development. To this effect, the conclusions have already been adopted by the Agriculture Council (19 June 2001) and the Fisheries Council (18 June 2001). The Development Council of 8 November 2001 should adopt the conclusions with regard to economic co-operation and development aid. These plans are intended to help meet the Community's obligations with regard to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The conclusions concentrate on two main areas: firstly, the introductory part of the Communication itself; secondly, the Action Plan on the conservation of natural resources.

Biodiversity, action plans: conservation of natural resources, agriculture, fishing and development

2001/2189(COS) - 14/03/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution drafted by Marie Anne ISLER BEGUIN (Greens, France) on biodiversity. (Please refer to the document dated 26/02/02). The Plan is welcomed as a first step, but the measures announced are insufficient and should be complemented in the reforms of the common agricultural policy, the common fisheries policy and the Structural Funds regulations and by developing additional action plans for other key sectors such as forests in order to halt biodiversity loss in the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. The preservation of biodiversity requires a functional ecological network. Measures have to go beyond protecting a few isolated areas amidst an impoverished environment and should cover the whole territory. Public support is very important. Parliament recommends that a number of cutting edge projects for preserving biodiversity be selected every year to serve as flagships. At least one flagship project should be chosen in Eastern Europe. It is regrettable that Member States commitment to defending biological diversity has scarcely moved beyond the realm of rhetoric. Member States should bring their legislation into line with their good intentions, by allocating substantial human and budgetary resources to preserving biodiversity. NGOs play a fundamental role. The Commission should recognise them as fully fledged partners and players, with regard both to defending biodiversity and informing the public.

Biodiversity, action plans: conservation of natural resources, agriculture, fishing and development

2001/2189(COS) - 27/03/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present Biodiversity Action Plans in the areas of Conservation of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Fisheries and Development and Economic Co-operation. CONTENT : the aim of these action plans is to stop losses in wildlife, ecosystems, varieties of crops, domestic animals and fish. The plans define concrete actions and measures and specify measurable targets to ensure a reversal of the current trend. The plans stem from the European Community Biodiversity Strategy adopted in 1998 where the Commission promised to spell out precisely how it would achieve the objectives of the strategy, and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted in Rio in 1992. This Communication presents four specific "sectoral" Bioversity Action Plans on Conservation of Natural Resources; Agriculture; Fisheries; Economic and Development Co-operation. More specifically, the Biodiversity Action Plan on Conservation of Natural Resources demonstrates the Commission's determination to full implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives and to provide support for the conservation and sustainable use of areas designated under these Directives. Even more importantly, it spells out how much it intends to use general environment instruments, such as the water framework directive, the strategy for integrated coastal zone management and environment impact assessment, to help preserve biodiversity across the whole of the Union. The plan also indicates specific environmental initiatives for monitoring and assessing th overall effects on biodiversity from integration efforts in other sectors (i.e. agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry). As for the Action Plan on Fisheries, it identifies coherent measures aiming to preserve or rehabilitate biodiversity where it is under threat dueto fisheries and aquaculture activities. The measures in this short to medium term action plan have been identified at three levels: the conservation and sustainable use of fish stocks; - the protection of non-target species, habitats and ecosystems from fishing activities; - preventing aquaculture having an impact on different ecosystems. For the first two levels the required measures include a reduction in fisheries activity, the application of technical measures as well as strengthening of research and monitoring. The 2002 Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) review provides an excellent opportunity to introduce new or strenthen existing measures. The Action Plan on Economic and Development Co-operation focuses on poverty eradication as biodiversity and development are interlinked. The major part and the most threatened areas of global biodiversity lie in the forests, wetlands and coral reefs of developing countries which all too often are being destroyed in a self-defeating dash for short-

term development. The Action Plan points out the need for improved links with EU Member States and international development cooperation agencies, programmes and institutions in the Member States and at international level (World Bank and the Global Environment Facility). The action plan lists "guiding principles" that need to be followed and sets out the actions to be taken in three inter-linked contexts: 1) in intensive production systems (agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, tree plantations, etc), with the attention to their life-support functions and services, maintenance of genetic diversity and caution regarding alien invasive species and living modified organisims; 2) in production sytems non-domesticated species (forestry, wildlife, fisheries) where the focus should be on maintaining an array of ecosystems and habitats in productive landscapes; 3) in protected areas, where stronger links are needed between conservation action and sustainable development strategies. The Plan emphasises the importance of improving the use of Strategic Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Assessments and focuses on support for building up capacity in this field. Lastly, successful implementation of the Biodiversity and its Action Plans depends, to a large extent, on the effects of relevant measures at Member State level. It is therefore essential to enhance the complementarity between the Community and its Member States biodiversity strategies and action plans. The Commission therefore envisages the establishment of a Biodiversity Expert Committee.

Biodiversity, action plans: conservation of natural resources, agriculture, fishing and development

2001/2189(COS) - 08/11/2001

The Council adopted conclusion inviting the Commission and the Member States to implement the Biodiversity Action Plan for Economic and Development cooperation. The Council welcomes the Commission's detailed proposal for priority actions: - to ensure the coherence between the Community development cooperation policy and all other relevant policies, such as trade, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, in order to achieve the objectives of the Action Plan and to contribute to the global target of poverty reduction; - to strengthen the support to safeguard the rights of local and indigenous communities and to ensure the fair and equitable share of the benefits arising from the use of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices; - to support integration efforts in partner countries and to make governments and civil society, including the private sector, NGOs and local authorities, more environmentally aware and by strenghtening their management capacities; - the Commission is called upon to strengthen the dialogue between the Member States, multilateral donors and institutions, in particular the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The Council urges the Commission to allocate appropriate human resources in Brussels, to ensure effective implementation of policies.

Biodiversity, action plans: conservation of natural resources, agriculture, fishing and development

2001/2189(COS) - 25/06/2002

The Council adopted conclusions encouraging biodiversity conservation. Recalling the objective of halting biodiversity loss by 2010, the Council reaffirmed that integration of environmental and, in particular, biodiversity considerations into Community sectoral policies and the promotion of sustainable development played a crucial role in the conservation and sustainable use of European biological diversity. Two dimensions should be taken into account to reverse the current trend: 1) With regard to the internal dimension (Natura 2000 network), the Council noted the many difficulties which had been encountered in implementing the different stages of the ‘Habitats’ Directive and encouraged all Member States and the Commission to resolve the outstanding difficulties: - to urgently finish the selection of Sites of Community Importance and adopt the lists of other bio-geographic regions; - to designate Special Protection Areas for birds, as an essential pillar of the network; - to encourage the participation of all stakeholders in the future development of Natura 2000, paying special attention to the rural community; - to adopt measures aimed at raising public awareness of the purposes and aims of the Natura 2000 network and increasing public debate on this issue; - to carry out studies addressing the economic valuation and benefits of biodiversity and, in particular, the Natura 2000 network to encourage both private sector involvement in biodiversity conservation and positive debate on the role of Natura 2000 as an instrument for sustainable development; - to apply the results of scientific research in order to keep under review and, when necessary, adapt the Annexes to the ‘Habitats’ and ‘Birds’ Directives; - to implement, as soon as possible, the provisions of the Directive concerning the management of the network and to address the issue of financing, including an appropriate framework for Community cofinancing; - presentation by the Commission of options for an adequate and effective Community financing framework as an input into the future Community financial perspectives; - development of further guidance and common criteria for the application of compensatory measures which should be included as part of any plan or project having a significant adverse effect on a Natura 2000 site; - establishment of effective instruments at the appropriate administrative level to provide for protection of sites and allow for the adoption and full implementation of appropriate management measures; - establishment of an appropriate monitoring process, based on existing or planned mechanisms, to ensure that the management of sites was achieving the conservation objectives set by the Directive. 2) At international level, the Council welcomed the outcome of the 6th Conference of the Parties to the CDB and emphasised that the Convention on Biological Diversity was the principal international legal instrument for the coordination, consolidation and strengthening of efforts undertaken through the various regional, sub-regional and international biodiversity-related agreements and programmes. The Council stressed the importance of moving forward the agreements reached in The Hague, in particular by committing to the effective implementation of: - the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity; - the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilisation; - the Guiding Principles for the Implementation of Article 8(h) on Invasive Alien Species; - the Strategic Plan for the Convention. The Commission and Member States were urged to incorporate the relevant aspects of the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity, the Bonn Guidelines and the Guiding Principles on Invasive Alien Species, as well as other relevant decisions of CoP 6, when implementing their respective policies, programmes, strategies and action plans.