



13 May 2024

Dear Minister,

We invite you to join with us to approve the EU Nature Restoration Law at the upcoming Environment Council meeting on 17th June.

Such a ratification would live up to the commitment we all made to be a global leader in nature restoration and to adhere to the ambition set out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) which was adopted by the European Union and Member States in December 2022. Failure to do so would mean we will have to go to the United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Cali, Colombia in October later this year and say we are resiling from our international promises to protect our lands and seas.

The importance of the Nature Restoration Law is reflected in the unprecedented level of engagement by European citizens, stakeholders, and the scientific community in the negotiations between the European institutions. After a period of intense debate and negotiation across multiple presidencies, the European Council and Parliament were able to reach a provisional political agreement in November 2023. This was possible due to political compromise, new assurances for stakeholders and industry, and a shared faith in the democratic institutions which underpin our Union. This provisional political agreement was adopted by the Parliament in February 2024.

The ongoing absence of a qualified majority for the carefully negotiated provisional agreement on the Nature Restoration Law is very worrying. Such backtracking on previously agreed compromises, the result of long months of negotiation, jeopardises our democratic institutions and calls into question the EU policy-making process. As EU Member States and Ministers, it is our responsibility to be constructive and to work towards joint solutions, in the interest of European citizens. As a Council, we also need to act as a reliable and trustworthy co-legislator in a spirit of sincere cooperation between the European institutions.

Europe is the fastest warming continent and is facing unprecedented impacts from the intertwined nature and climate crises. Restoring ecosystems is essential to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, and to safeguard European food security. Our failure as EU leaders to act now would fundamentally undermine public faith in our political leadership at home and internationally.

We must act urgently and decisively to conclude the political process. We hope you will join with us in calling on all colleagues in the Environment Council to conclude its adoption on 17th June.

Yours sincerely,

Eamon Ryan T.D.,
Minister for Environment, Climate and
Communications, Ireland

Steffi Lemke,
Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany

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