

To: The Chair and members of the Environment Council

Subject: Call to support a strong and timely Nature Restoration Law

14.12.2022

Dear Council chair and members,

In follow-up to our previous engagements for an ambitious Nature Restoration Law, we hereby write to you ahead of the Environment Council meeting on 20 December 2022 where EU Environment Ministers will discuss the European Commission's proposal for a Nature Restoration Law.

We call upon the members of the Environmental Council to express (1) their dedicated support for the Nature Restoration Law and (2) their commitment to a timely process in the Environment Council. The aim should be to agree upon a general approach as quickly as possible without undermining the level of ambition that is needed considering the ongoing climate and biodiversity crises and its impact on people and sectors while ensuring sustainable access to resources based on the compatibility of nature protection and responsible raw materials extraction of which the industry has numerous examples. Scientists, businesses, and civil society across Europe have all been demanding urgent actions.

The Nature Restoration Law proposal offers a key opportunity to bring nature back to Europe, benefiting biodiversity, climate, and people. In the context of long-standing legal obligations deriving from international law, the outcomes of the UNFCCC COP27 and the CBD COP15 negotiations are once again making clear that we need to tackle biodiversity decline and climate change together for the well-being of our society. Nature restoration is an inherent part of the solution in the Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 2). It is our best insurance policy for climate adaptation through increased resilience to droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events. Consequently, it also contributes to long-term food security.

Building on a long-standing collaboration with BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, the associations support a European Nature Restoration Law as a milestone to reverse the tide of biodiversity loss and climate change at the scale needed. Representing a very large part of the European non-energy extractive industry, the signing business associations can hugely contribute to achieve the nature restoration objectives, having already implemented restoration plans for many extraction sites. In essence, nature restoration is unarguably part of the extraction business. To be able to unleash the full restoration potential and contribution, we would like to see some improvements of the legal proposal; we are available to discuss this further with the Environmental Council. We strongly favour an approach which allows for further involvement of local stakeholders when it comes to implementing the future nature restoration provisions.

We would welcome a further exchange on this important file in view of supporting and improving the Nature Restoration Law proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact us in reply to this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Dirk Fincke
Secretary General



Tristan Suffys
Secretary General



Ariel Brunner
Deputy Director

