

PRESS RELEASE

Council conclusions on EU Biodiversity Strategy need to follow with targeted actions and investment

Brussels, 17 December 2015 – The agriculture sector has not made major progress in delivering on the EU's biodiversity commitments to 2020. This is a key verdict of the EU Environmental Ministers' Council Conclusions - adopted yesterday - on the European Commission's mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020. To futureproof the agri-food sector's overall sustainability IFOAM EU is calling on the EU Institutions and Member States to take clear and decisive actions to increase agriculture's environmental performance and action on climate change.

Marco Schlüter, IFOAM EU Director, said: "IFOAM EU welcomes the fact that Member States clearly state the key role the Common Agricultural Policy can play in meeting the Union's biodiversity objectives and our long-term food security. However business as usual cannot continue and recognition must be followed by concrete actions. A legal review of the Bird and Habitats Directives, for example, could drastically compromise the EU's ability to meet its targets for the Biodiversity Strategy 2020. If Member States are serious about biodiversity there needs to be a more ambitious and smarter implementation of CAP instruments."

Stephen Meredith, IFOAM EU Deputy Policy Manager, added: "There is great need for strong political backing of solutions that enable us to conserve biodiversity, protect the environment and feed the planet. Nevertheless, we must start work on transforming the next CAP now if we want it to deliver on these goals. For example, agro-ecological practices and organic farming systems are shown to create the best conditions for good biodiversity management as well as support for rural areas and food security and, therefore, they must be central to the new CAP strategy."

Background

[IFOAM EU Input to Evidence Gathering for the Fitness Check of the EU Nature Directives](#) (April 2015)
[Feeding the people: Agroecology for nourishing the world and transforming the agri-food system](#) (2015)
[European Commission 2015 Report on Mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020](#)

For more information please contact:

Stephen Meredith, Deputy Policy Manager, +32 (0)2 280 11 51, stephen.meredith@ifoam-eu.org
Laura Ullmann, Communications Manager, +32 (0)2 808 7991 / +32 (0) 486 88 52 12,
laura.ullmann@ifoam-eu.org
Or visit www.ifoam-eu.org