



19.4.2010

0024/2010

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on the protection of fragile ecosystems and endangered species

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Lapse date: 19.7.2010

0024/2010

Written declaration on the protection of fragile ecosystems and endangered species

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas 2010 has been declared the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity,
 - B. whereas in 2002 global leaders agreed to reduce biodiversity loss by 2010 but it is now generally accepted that this target has not been achieved,
 - C. whereas tropical rainforests and other forests are acknowledged as playing a fundamental role in regulating the world's climate systems,
 - D. whereas the abundance of large and small vertebrates is rapidly declining in forests, particularly in the tropics, where over-hunting and human encroachment has left many forests structurally intact but potentially incapable of sustaining their biodiversity,
 - E. whereas the exploitation of marine and other ecosystems is contributing to depletion of many of the world's most iconic species which now face extinction,
 - F. whereas the European Union can internationally have a decisive say over political and economic issues affecting fragile ecosystems and endangered species,
1. Urges the Commission and Member States to intensify the EU's commitment to ensuring that the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity includes concrete measures to protect the world's threatened ecosystems and endangered species;
 2. Requests urgent progress towards a system for measuring and acknowledging the true economic and social value of biodiversity and ecosystems which reflects their vulnerability, capital stock, the benefits to communities that depend on them and the true cost of their loss;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.