



2019/2824(RSP)

11.10.2019

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Questions for Oral Answer B9-0000/2019 and B9-0000/2019

pursuant to Rule 136(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on the 15th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15)
(2019/2824(RSP))

Pascal Canfin

Chairman - Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Agnès Evren

on behalf of the PPE Group

César Luena

on behalf of the S&D Group

María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos

on behalf of the Renew Group

Ville Niinistö

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Alexandr Vondra

on behalf of the ECR Group

Silvia Modig

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**European Parliament resolution on the 15th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15)
(2019/2824(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the mid-term review of the EU’s Biodiversity Strategy and its resolution of 2 February 2016 on the mid-term review,
 - having regard to its resolution of 15 November 2017 on an Action Plan for nature, people and the economy,
 - having regard to its resolution of 25 October 2018 on the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP14),
 - having regard to the Commission report of 20 May 2015 entitled ‘The State of Nature in the European Union: Report on the status of and trends for habitat types and species covered by the Birds and Habitats Directives for the 2007-2012 period as required under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and Article 12 of the Birds Directive’ (COM(2015)0219),
 - having regard to the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services report of May 2019,
 - having regard to the Metz Biodiversity Charter of 6 May 2019,
 - having regard to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
 - having regard to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special reports on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems, and on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, and the special IPCC report entitled ‘Global Warming of 1.5°C’, its fifth assessment report (AR5) and its synthesis report of September 2018,
 - having regard to the questions to the Commission and to the Council on the 15th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) (O-0000/2019 – B8-xxxx/2018 and O-0000/2019 – B8-xxxx/2019),
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety,
 - having regard to Rules 136(5) and 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the mission statement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is to take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that

by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication;

- B. whereas the 2050 Vision adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is “Living in harmony with nature” where “by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”;
- C. whereas the 2050 Vision adopted under the CBD is supported by five overall goals that also frame the 2020 Aichi biodiversity targets: (a) Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society; (b) Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use; (c) Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; (d) Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services; and (e) Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building;
- D. whereas the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and help stop global biodiversity loss by 2020;

General remarks

1. Notes with concern that as indicated in the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services report, nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world now likely; expresses its deep concern after the publication of the IPCC report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate, on the decline of marine mammals and fisheries as well as on the dramatic disappearance of coral reefs;
2. Expresses its concern that the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets will not be met with the current trajectory of biodiversity loss, and reiterates its calls on all Parties to step up their efforts; urges the Commission and Member States to commit to immediate, substantial and additional efforts on biodiversity conservation and restoration so as to meet the EU targets;
3. Recalls that biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are key for achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and strengthen EU’s resilience capacities toward climate change; recalls the importance of preserving biodiversity and nature based solutions for climate change mitigation; asks therefore for more coherence between the CBD and UNFCCC; calls on the Commission to better integrate biodiversity into its climate policies and ensure that EU climate funding is also used to protect and restore natural ecosystems as a way of achieving climate mitigation and adaptation;
4. Welcomes, in this regard, the commitments, made by Ursula von der Leyen in the political guidelines for the next European Commission 2019-2024 and in the mission letter to the Commissioner for Environment and Oceans, to present a Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 as part of the European Green Deal, and her intention for the EU to lead the world at the 2020 Conference of the Parties to the CBD, as it did at the 2015 Paris Climate Conference;

5. Stresses that the protection of global biodiversity is an essential challenge and thus a strategic EU interest that should receive the highest political attention; calls on the Commission and Member States to actively engage, particularly through their external instruments, with third countries to promote and strengthen biodiversity conservation and restoration measures and governance, in particular in all multilateral agreements;
6. Stresses the need for a comprehensive governance regime addressing the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services; calls on the EU and the Member States to remain strongly committed to further strengthening the CBD and to take a leading role in the preparation for the post-2020 framework, in particular in the run up to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to commit on a biodiversity equivalent of the 1.5 °C target of the Paris Climate Agreement and to transparently set out their visions and priorities for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
7. Recalls that biodiversity and ecosystem preservation is inherently synergistic and fundamental to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals; stresses the need and calls on the Commission and Member States to implement effective biodiversity mainstreaming and improved environmental policy coherence in all internal and external policies of the EU;
8. Believes it to be critical to address key drivers of biodiversity loss with a long-term strategic approach and to urgently identify and safeguard the most critical and strategic areas and high integrity ecosystems based on the sensitivity of an area, the presence of endangered species, knowledge gaps and/or effective management, and the presence of common species that are fundamental to ecological processes, and to limit losses of biodiversity and negative impacts on indigenous and local communities' territories and livelihoods;

Implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

9. Welcomes the decision taken at the COP14 in Egypt, which urges parties to, *inter alia*, significantly accelerate their efforts to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to consider undertaking national assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services; considers of the utmost importance to step up the efforts on the implementation of the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, focus on the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity targets and to work on an ambitious post 2020 strategic plan and implementation mechanism, with regards to a 2050 scenario which takes into account new challenges in the field of biodiversity in line with the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals;
10. Notes with concern that in the EU, according to assessments¹ of the conservation status of species and habitat types of conservation interest, only 7% of marine species and 9% of marine habitat types show a 'favourable conservation status' and that 27% of species assessments and 66% of habitat types assessments show an 'unfavourable conservation status'; stresses furthermore, that according to the same assessments, 48% of marine

¹ The Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Europe and Central Asia https://www.ipbes.net/system/tdf/downloads/spm_2b_eca_digital_20180622.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=28318

animal and plant species with known population trends have been steadily declining in the last decade, increasing the extinction risk of monitored species;

Post-2020 global biodiversity framework

11. Welcomes the progress made at COP14 on a comprehensive and participatory process to develop a post-2020 global biodiversity framework; supports the Metz Biodiversity Charter adopted by the G7;
12. Underlines the need to increase ambition and functioning for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; calls on the Commission and Member States to actively pursue the development of clear performance indicators, tracking instruments and peer review/reporting mechanisms to improve the transparency and accountability for Parties and the overall effectiveness of the next Biodiversity Strategy Plan;
13. Highlights that an international framework in the form of a binding agreement is needed to protect global biodiversity, to stop its current decline and to restore all aspects of biodiversity; believes that such a framework should be based on specific, measurable including quantifiable, ambitious, realistic and time-bound targets and firm commitments, comprising of Nationally Determined Contributions and other appropriate instruments, financial commitments and improved capacity building assurances, as well as a 5-yearly monitoring and review mechanism, with an emphasis on an upward trajectory of ambition; highlights the need for a harmonised collection and treatment of comparable and consistent data and indicators for a good monitoring process;
14. Highlights the importance of minimising time lags that may arise between the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its translation into national biodiversity targets to avoid delays in taking concrete actions to stem biodiversity loss;

Economic considerations and financing

15. Welcomes the agreement reached at COP14 by 196 governments to scale up investments in nature and people towards 2020 and beyond; underlines that economic growth can facilitate sustainable development only if it is decoupled from the degradation of biodiversity and nature's capacity to contribute to people;
16. Highlights the necessity of appropriate financing for biodiversity; underlines that biodiversity proofing in the next Multiannual Financial Framework and mainstreaming biodiversity across policy areas will have a significant and positive effect on reaching the 2050 Vision; calls on the Commission and the Council to phase out harmful subsidies;
17. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote the establishment of new international financial mechanisms for biodiversity conservation linked to the CBD; calls on businesses and financial organisations to make and share strong commitments and contributions to biodiversity, including by biodiversity-proofing their activities, and highlights the importance of leveraging private financing initiatives in this regard; regrets the inconsistency of data set on finance flows for biodiversity that come from domestic and international public and private sources, that puts at risk the tracking and

reporting systems and negatively affects any potential reform;

18. Stresses the importance of increasing investments to achieve the Paris Agreement commitments in order to reduce impacts of climate change on biodiversity;
19. Welcomes the decision of the EIB Group to align all its financing activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement and to delivering at least 50% of EIB finance for climate action; calls on the Commission to engage with Member States and the financial sector to align their activities with the Paris Agreement and consider the protection of biodiversity in financial transactions and investments at EU level and beyond;

Forestry and agriculture and soils

20. Underlines that agricultural activities, healthy soils, and the preservation of biodiversity are closely linked; emphasises that sustainable agriculture and forestry contribute greatly to the variety of species, habitats and ecosystems, and reduces the effects of climate change;
21. Notes however the negative impact of intensive agriculture on biodiversity; calls on Parties to undertake strong commitments towards sustainable agriculture and forestry, including requirements for the sustainable use of plant protection products and strategies to ensure the protection of soil and habitats; calls on the Commission, Member States and regional governments to increase support to the agriculture and forestry sectors in the transition to sustainable practices;
22. Points out that, according to the World Population Prospects of June 2019, the world's population is expected to increase by 2 billion persons in the next 30 years, increasing the impacts of land use on biodiversity and carbon sequestration; calls on the Commission to urgently use the mitigation and adaptation potential of restoring forests, wetlands, peatlands, grasslands and coastal ecosystems and integrate nature conservation in all relevant EU policies and programs;

Urban areas

23. Notes that pollution, urban expansion, soil sealing and the destruction of habitats are other major causes of biodiversity destruction; recall that the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services shows that the surface of urban areas has doubled since 1992; calls for a better assessment of the role of urban areas and cities in the preservation of biodiversity and a better implication of cities and local authorities in the definition of policies for the protection of biodiversity;

EU protected areas

24. Calls for an in-depth analysis of all EU protected areas on the need for improvements and/or extension of these areas; stresses that in the light of the recent IPCC report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate a comprehensive assessment of EU marine protected areas is needed;

Innovation, research and education

25. Recalls the importance of innovation, research and development in order to achieve the objectives of the 2050 Vision; calls on the Commission and the Council to increase the budget allocation for Horizon Europe to 120 billion, to benefit in particular the cluster on natural resources; calls on the Parties to focus in particular on the links between biodiversity preservation and benefits to human health and economic well-being, and to coordinate data collection measures;
26. Calls on the Commission to support further research into the effects of land use change, including deforestation and bioenergy production, on GHG emissions and take the results into account in future policy making;
27. Stresses the importance of education to raise awareness on biodiversity;

Capacity-building, public awareness and involvement of all actors

28. Stresses that capacity building and awareness-raising are key for a successful implementation; therefore welcomes the COP14 decision which invites parties, other governments, and donors in a position to do so, to provide financial resources for capacity building, technical assistance, and technology transfer;
29. Calls on the Parties to promote public awareness and multi-stakeholder-involvement to ensure tailor-made solutions with local communities and indigenous people to foster the sustainable use of lands for more biodiversity so that regional differences in landscapes and habitats are fully respected;
30. Welcomes the intention to actively pursue a multi-stakeholder approach which is fundamental to value, protect, conserve, sustainably use and restore biodiversity and underlines that improved engagement with and between governance levels and sectors will create opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity objectives into other policies; believes it to be critical to involve business and financial organisations and, in this regard, welcomes the Commission's efforts to engage the private sector in the preservation of biodiversity especially under the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform;
31. Insists that public awareness and therefore access to comprehensive information are vital for consumers to make informed decisions; calls on the Commission and Member States to improve the traceability and control of products through their value chains thereby increasing transparency also for consumers;

o

o o

32. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.