

M A N I F E S T O

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019



# European Parliament Intergroup

*Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development*

*People know that nature does not care about any frontiers. They understand that climate change is bigger than national boundaries. And they firmly believe that sustainable development is not just for Europe, but for the whole of our planet. They know that these problems require an integrated approach that unites the house and searches for consolidated solutions. That is why I have always supported this Intergroup. Your ambitions are big and they cut across party-lines. Best of all, you always look for that integrated approach. [...] That is the sort of thinking we need to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. [...] Keep up the good work in order to deliver what Europeans need.*

Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

*The Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development has proved to be a platform for interdisciplinary discussions and exchange. This will be a key asset to coherent policy making and to stem the complex and urgent challenges that global sustainability will require.*

Humberto Delgado Rosa, DG Environment

*The Intergroup is a trustful and professional platform and has since 1994 provided important insight and information for the MEPs on Sustainable Development. IUCN remains closely involved since our joint establishment 25 years ago and looks forward to a great collaboration in the next legislature.*

Luc Bas, Director IUCN European Regional Office

*The Intergroup allowed to stimulate discussions on the role of forests in reaching EU societal challenges, in a balanced and constructive way. The working group on sustainable forest management has been a valuable tool to increase the visibility of the EU forest sector in the EU policy debate.*

Fanny-Pomme Langue, Secretary General of the Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF)  
Piotr Borkowski, Executive Director at European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR)

*UN Environment and the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development have successfully worked together for more than 20 years, addressing global environmental challenges. This Intergroup has been in particular a great platform to bridge the gap between science and policy, helping advance sustainable solutions to some of the greatest challenges of our times.*

Thierry Lucas, Acting Head, UN Environment Brussels Office

# EP Intergroup Climate Change, Biodiversity & Sustainable Development

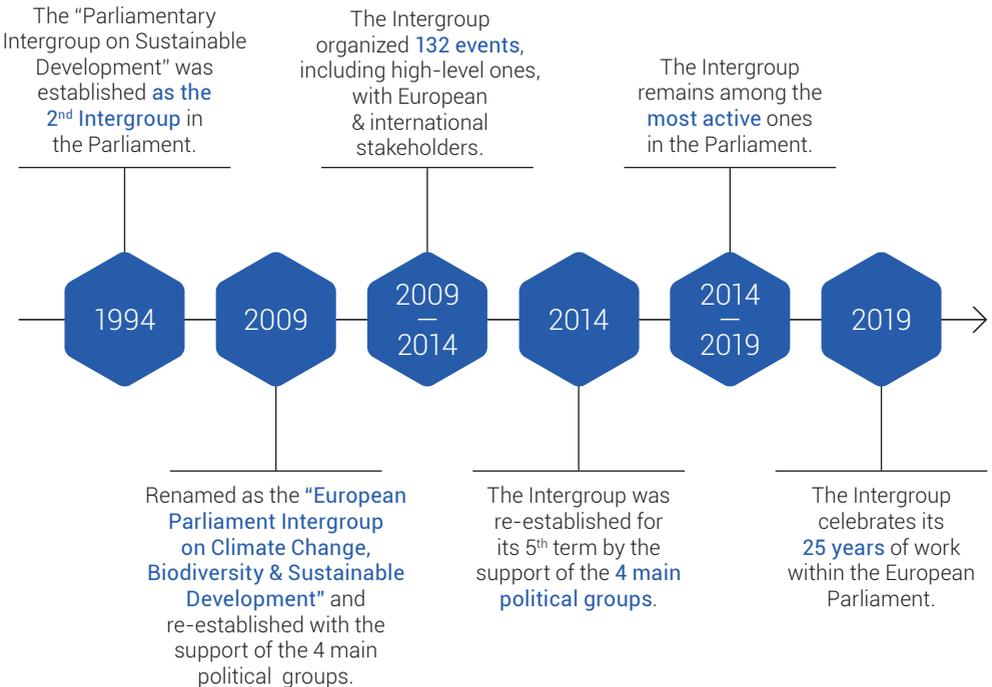
CELEBRATING

25

YEARS OF SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE  
WITH POLICY-MAKERS, BY PROVIDING A  
SCIENCE–POLICY–STAKEHOLDERS–SOCIETY INTERFACE

# H I S T O R Y

After **25 years** of successful work, the Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development constitutes one of the longest standing and respected Intergroups in the European Parliament. Since its establishment in 1994, it has brought together Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from all political groups and parliamentary committees and Member States with the objective of **finding sustainable solutions to some of the greatest challenges of our times.**



# V I S I O N

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Working **with people, for people and nature**, to advance innovative solutions for a sustainable, fair and inclusive society, building on a resource-efficient, circular economy, climate neutrality and nature protection.

# M I S S I O N

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According to a 2018 [Eurobarometer survey](#), 75% of EU citizens expressed support for increased EU action towards the environment. In order to contribute to this objective, the Intergroup provides a forum for discussion, aiming at **sharing cross-sectoral experiences**, bringing expertise and knowledge from different disciplinary areas on ongoing legislative initiatives, to support policy-makers in the achievement of a sustainable, competitive society, building on a resource efficient circular economy, climate neutrality and protection of nature.

# V A L U E S

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# LOOKING AHEAD

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS - OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



In 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core, aiming at “transforming our world”. Through its pledge to **leave no one behind**, the 2030 Agenda focuses on inclusiveness and shared prosperity for all nations, people and all parts of society. This universality provides a unique opportunity to address global challenges.

The SDGs help anchor our work in the global context and provide a relevant working context. Specifically, they serve to cover all strategic areas related to the Intergroup’s

objectives. The Intergroup’s policy priorities that follow, are all connected to the SDGs and will contribute to their achievement. Therefore, our goal is also to provide a forum for discussion on **how to best implement the SDGs and bring added value for European citizens**.

Two important international processes are under way: the implementation of the **Paris Agreement** and the definition of the **post-2020 biodiversity targets**. Both will feed into the SDGs and guide the work of the Intergroup in the future.

# 2019-2024 POLICY PRIORITIES



# CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

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**MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE** • Urgent action is needed to achieve the Paris Agreement targets, aimed at combating climate change, accelerating and intensifying actions, as well as investments needed for a sustainable low-carbon future. Climate change is largely disruptive for our planet's ecosystems and human life, and can have dramatic impacts on livelihoods, incomes and production processes. As a result, the EU has come up with a vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate resilient Europe by 2050. Investing into realistic technological solutions, empowering citizens, and aligning action in key areas such as industrial policy, finance, agriculture, bio-economy and research, while ensuring food security, social fairness for a just transition, are therefore crucial.

**BOOSTING RESEARCH & INNOVATION** • In order to boost sustainable development within Europe, the role of research and innovation is of key importance. As a result, there needs to be a re-orientation of investments towards more sustainable technologies and businesses, ranging from adaptive forest management techniques to energy efficiency and innovative products and processes to respond to both urgent and global problems.

**SAFEGUARDING BIODIVERSITY** • Biodiversity is the basis of life on Earth, our life support system and insurance policy. It is also under constant threat, risking not just continued loss of species', genetic diversity and ecosystems, but also erosion of human and

social wellbeing, and prosperity. Preserving our landscapes, species richness but also our food, air, water, energy and raw materials is a necessity for our long-term wellbeing. Reducing the pressures from urban sprawl, pollution, invasive species and climate change, and promoting environmentally-friendly agricultural practices will require innovative and sustainable solutions and a continued commitment by all actors involved. Soon we will reach the deadline for the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 as well as the 2010-2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. So, the next two years are going to be critical for defining the new post-2020 biodiversity framework at both EU and global level. The adoption of new targets, expected to happen in 2020 at the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15), and the development of a post-2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy will be a necessary step for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**ADDRESSING SUSTAINABLE FINANCE** • With reference to climate action, the financial sector has a key role to play through a more sustainable growth. Urgent action and a climate-conscious investment strategy are needed to achieve the Paris Agreement targets by 2030. In Europe, approximately €180 billion additional investments per year are required for the transition to a low-carbon, more resource-efficient, sustainable economy and a financial system that supports sustainable growth.

### PLASTICS STRATEGY

Action on marine litter and the Plastics' Strategy within the Circular Economy Package were high on the agenda of the Intergroup. While discussions were initiated at a conference entitled "Marine Plastics Need European Action" with European Commissioner Karmenu Vella, the Intergroup's further events addressed bio-degradable plastics, the role of Extended Producer Responsibility, as well as the effect of marine litter on fisheries & oceans, fostering the dialogue between EU institutions, NGOs and the fisheries' community.

### BATTERIES

Together with Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission, the Intergroup created in 2018 its new working group 'Friends of European Batteries', to guide the work in the Parliament on sustainable batteries' production and its value chain, closely linked to the work within the European Battery Alliance.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

The follow-up of the UN Climate Change Conference COP21, the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the EU's 2050 decarbonization strategy, as well as the Renewable Energy Directive recast were at the centre of the Intergroup's work. Topics addressed included climate change in the Polar regions, the role of forests in the climate change debate, as well as tackling emissions of imported goods and deforestation and agri-environment climate measures within the Common Agricultural Policy.

### BIODIVERSITY & AGRICULTURE

The working group on biodiversity and ecosystem services was the most active one during this legislative term, encouraging discussions on the new post-2020 biodiversity targets and the EU Biodiversity Strategy while highlighting the need to address climate change and biodiversity together. Further conferences presented best practices of land and ecosystem restoration, addressed the value of biodiversity in the agri-food chain, the European Organic Label and action against food waste. International developments within the Convention on International Trade, of Endangered Species on the fight against illegal wildlife trade as well as the role of local communities in the sustainable use of natural resources, also played a key role.

### RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The Intergroup has regularly presented the results of EU-funded projects to policy-makers and stakeholders, to provide MEPs with profound research for science-based decisions. 15 conferences were organized in the European Parliament with a specific research focus, discussing the results of Horizon 2020 and LIFE projects, as well as celebrating the successes of the Partnership for European Environmental Research, and addressing the assets of the Copernicus Marine Service.

### WATER

During this legislative term, the Intergroup encouraged the dialogue amongst decision-makers and stakeholders on sustainable water management, especially on the revision of the Drinking Water Directive, the contribution of water to circular economy and investments in the water sector. Further debates focused on the potential of water re-use in agriculture, as well as the link between water and health, addressing pharmaceuticals in the environment in the context of the revision of the Water Framework Directive.

### FORESTRY

Fostering policy coherence on the multifunctional role of forests was an important focus of the Intergroup during 2014-2019, when addressing the review of the EU Forest Strategy, the role of forests in the future Common Agricultural Policy, as well as encouraging the dialogue on the impacts of forestry on EU Climate and Energy policies to jointly find solutions for sustainable forest management.

### OCEAN GOVERNANCE & FISHERIES

Fostering the dialogue for the sustainable use of fisheries' resources between fisheries bodies and the conservation community, as well as linking the discussions with United Nations processes, finding solutions jointly with UN Environment, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has been at the centre of the Intergroup's work. The Intergroup addressed the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, specifically addressing the EU's landing obligation and the EU Fisheries Control System. Furthermore, the CBD Sustainable Ocean Initiative, the effects of marine litter on fisheries, various aspects of marine and coastal biodiversity, as well as measures to combat transnational organized crime in the fishing industry and the future of fisheries in the European Outermost regions were discussed.

### CIRCULAR (BIO-)ECONOMY

As Europe is setting course for a resource-efficient, circular and sustainable economy, the Intergroup promoted the strong link between circular economy, climate change, bioeconomy and food security as well as the EU agenda for research and innovation; moreover urged for the revision of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy. Further debates addressed re-manufacturing and re-conditioning, packaging, recycling, bio-waste, as well as sustainable buildings within the circular economy.

## HIGHLIGHTS 2014 - 2019

**Fostering cross-sectoral cooperation** between different EU policy areas, linking fisheries and conservation, agriculture with water management, as well as climate change with forestry.

**107 events** organised between 2014-2019, including high-level conferences on both EU and international processes.

**549 MEPs** supporting the Intergroup.

### APICULTURE & BEE HEALTH

Since 2012, the Intergroup is a key co-organizer of the European Week of Bees and Pollination, a must-attend event that takes place every year in the Parliament, bringing together all stakeholders of the sector. The last editions initiated action by the Commission on the EU Pollinators Initiative and could successfully bridge the gaps between farmers and the beekeeping community.

### SDGs

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Europe and joining efforts to reach the targets of different goals, for instance SDG 14, 6 and 8 have been discussed at different occasions. The Intergroup also highlighted the link between poverty and environment, ensuring that "no-one is left behind".





# SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS (AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES)

In order to render European food systems sustainable, safe and nutritious, as well as to tackle global food insecurity, the role of sustainable agriculture and fisheries is pivotal, as our societies have to provide food and livelihoods to Europe's population, while preserving land and resources for future generations. Within the EU, main priorities would be achieving quality food and farming, access to quality food, and sustainable farming practices that respect biodiversity, water quality and climate change. Food and nutrition security can be achieved

via innovative solutions and ambitious and environmentally-sound Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies for EU citizens, rendering sustainable food systems able to provide solutions to global challenges, such as rural poverty, food waste, and malnutrition. This requires bringing together all relevant policies related to our food chain, our environment and our shared responsibility in tackling climate change, and increasing removals of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, where the role of agriculture and fisheries is key.

## POLICY PRIORITIES



### RESEARCH & INNOVATION

- **Research and innovation** to render agriculture and food systems more sustainable and resilient, while remaining competitive and a source of employment
- Investing in new breeding techniques, integrated pest management, agroecology and organic farming



### CLIMATE CHANGE

- Ensuring food security and adequate nutrition, with a particular focus on the impact of **climate change** and conflicts, as well as on the interlinkages with international migration patterns
- Investing in digitalization of agriculture to assist climate change mitigation and adaptation practices and environmental protection



### BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEMS

- Safeguarding **biodiversity** through sustainable agricultural and fisheries practices
  - Foster agricultural practices that protect nature, especially water and soil
- Foster the role of young farmers and support generational renewal to ensure viable rural areas and fight against rural exodus
  - Addressing the impact of trade agreements with third countries on European agricultural and fishing sectors, including the impact on vulnerable regions such as the European Outermost regions of France, Spain and Portugal

## KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





# WATER MANAGEMENT

The protection of our water resources is fundamental for human health, social and economic development, as well as our planet's ecosystems. Proper water management includes qualitative and quantitative aspects relating to the provision

of healthy and safe drinking water, the proper treatment of wastewater, resilience to extreme weather conditions and climate change and the protection of water resources from pollutants through control-at-source measures.

## POLICY PRIORITIES



### RESEARCH & INNOVATION

- **Research and innovation**, especially on water and circular economy, adaptation to climate change and emerging pollutants in water resources to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



### CLIMATE CHANGE

- Ensuring that **climate change** policies provide universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water
- Making use of integrated water management principles, already embedded in EU-law.
- Promoting nutrient recovery from waste-water and the use of reclaimed water in agriculture
- Implementation of the source control principle to tackle pollutants at an early stage, so as to facilitate recycling activities in the waste-water sector



### BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEMS

- Minimizing the release of pollutants to water bodies through effective control-at-source measures
- Reducing the nutrient load released into the **environment**.
- Improving water use efficiency by water users (agriculture, industry, energy, households) so as to ensure aquatic life.
- The implementation of river basin management plans that take into account the inter-connection between the hydrological and ecological systems

## KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





# OCEAN GOVERNANCE

Oceans and seas cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface, regulate our climate, and supply 50% of the oxygen we breathe. They provide ecosystem services that are essential to sustainable ocean development, including food security and sustainable

livelihoods. However, climate change, unsustainable exploitation of resources, pollution, as well as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) endanger marine life and people whose life critically depends on them.

## POLICY PRIORITIES



### RESEARCH & INNOVATION

- Supporting marine and maritime research and innovation to ensure a sustainable Blue Economy, aiming at supporting growth and job creation
- Promoting the need for more marine and maritime research and therefore better data



### CLIMATE CHANGE

- Promoting the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems and resources, including living and mineral resources, addressing impacts from **climate change** and other threats



### BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEMS

- Promoting effective fisheries' management and conservation under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), including sustainable aquaculture
- Speeding up the implementation to achieve Aichi **Biodiversity** Targets 6 and 11 by 2020, and Sustainable Development Goal 14 "to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources", including actions against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU)
- Protecting oceans from the threats of land-based marine pollution, in particular marine litters, in line with the implementation of UNEA resolutions
- Supporting strengthening regional ocean governance through partnerships with competent international and regional bodies

## KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





# SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Forests represent a vital potential for environment and biodiversity, human beings and rural development. Sustainable and active forest management practices contribute to climate change mitigation through enhancing CO<sub>2</sub> storage, CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, and fossil fuel substitution. Sustainable forestry also renders forests more resilient towards climate change.

In addition, Sustainable Forest Management practices contribute to biodiversity conservation and to support livelihoods. Overall, Sustainable Forest Management plays a key role in achieving the Paris Agreement goals and to the EU strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions' reduction, as well as Sustainable Development Goals.

## POLICY PRIORITIES



### RESEARCH & INNOVATION

- Enhancing the **research and innovation** role towards the achievement of adaptive forest management and highlighting the link to the circular bioeconomy
- Update the EU Forest Strategy post-2020, improve its implementation and promotion to third countries



### CLIMATE CHANGE

- Support the role of sustainable and multifunctional forest management on the path towards meeting **EU climate and energy objectives**, as well as Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals
- Ensure responsible EU forestry and biomass use for multiple purposes.
- Promote research and innovation in order to enhance Sustainable Forest Management, and increase mobilisation of biomass for further development of bioeconomy
- Address the needs for financing tools for the forest sector to strengthen its contribution to climate change mitigation and improve forests resilience to climate change



### BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEMS

- Strengthen the role and support Sustainable Forest Management in the context of rural development policy within the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- Enhance recognition of Sustainable Forest Management practices in the in the post-2020 EU Policy Framework on **Biodiversity**
- Ensure the continuation of the EU Forest Strategy

## KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





# CIRCULAR ECONOMY & THE BIOECONOMY

By avoiding unnecessary waste, recycling and re-using a larger amount of our natural resources, our environment is respected and protected. As a result, a paradigm shift in consumer behavior occurs, alongside more funding towards research and development of sustainable business models within the circular economy. Such developments offer an enormous potential for tackling global challenges such as resource

efficiency and climate change. Moreover, a sustainable European bioeconomy is necessary to build a carbon neutral future in line with the climate objectives of the Paris Agreement. In addition, deploying a sustainable and circular bioeconomy will boost the competitiveness of the bioeconomy sectors and support the creation of new value chains across Europe, while enhancing the overall status of our natural resources.

## POLICY PRIORITIES



### RESEARCH & INNOVATION

- Enhancing **research and innovation's** role towards re-shaping European economy towards lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, increased resource efficiency and closed-loop material cycles, less resource waste, and the creation of a green economy and green jobs
- Boosting the substitution of fossil-based materials with sustainably grown and sourced renewable, biodegradable and compostable alternatives, when these alternatives are more sustainable



### CLIMATE CHANGE

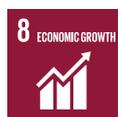
- Supporting synergies between climate & circular economy policies, to mitigate **climate change**
- Adoption of clear targets & support for waste prevention (i.e. calculation methodology & tools)
- Promoting the Extended Producer Responsibility schemes in the field of waste management
- Encouraging the development of remanufacturing and reconditioning activities in Europe
- Supporting the transition of small stakeholders to a circular economy, including through the availability of technical and financial support
- Developing the capacities of public authorities on resource efficiency, at local and regional levels
- Implementation of the Plastics Strategy and Single-Use Plastics legislation
- Implementing the updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy and ensuring policy coherence



### BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEMS

- Placing **ecosystem services** in the development of a European bio-based circular economy
- Avoiding the release of pollutants in the air, soil and water
- Ensure sustainable use of biofuels, taking the whole life cycle impacts into account

## KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





# CLEAN ENERGY & TRANSPORT

Secure, sustainable, and affordable energy is key for the future of Europe. While we are facing rising energy demand, volatile prices, and supply disruptions, it is crucial for Europe's energy sector to also reduce its environmental impact. Directly linked

with the Clean Energy Package is clean mobility's crucial role, as only by addressing the decarbonization of transport will the EU be in a position to meet its climate goals.

## POLICY PRIORITIES



### RESEARCH & INNOVATION

- Ensuring EU **research** and investment in energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy



### CLIMATE CHANGE

- Promoting secure, affordable and **climate-friendly** energy for EU citizens and businesses
- Provide an enabling legislative framework to encourage feeding in renewable energy from a wide range of stakeholders
- Support and promote energy efficiency in all sectors
- Investing in efficient, safe, secure and environmentally friendly transport and mobility
- Promoting e-mobility and recycling of vehicles at the end of their life
- Supporting sustainable battery manufacturing, in light of the transition to a sustainable economic model
- Encouraging the development of all relevant alternative mobility solutions, such as fuel cell and e-mobility
- Tackling energy poverty

## KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



*The EP Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development guided by an inclusive advisory group is an active, longstanding and solution-oriented forum of discussion and knowledge sharing. As such it is a valuable partner in our global discussions on issues related to food and nutrition security, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries, with the Sustainable Development Goals at its heart.*

Rodrigo de Lapuerta, Director of the FAO Liaison Office with the European Union and Belgium

*The work of the Intergroup has been key to promote the results of the H2020 projects and to inject them into the policy process. The Intergroup contributes to bridge the gap between the research groups working on the ground, and the representatives of the European citizens*

Gaëlle Le-Bouler, Project Adviser, EASME

*The Intergroup is very active, professional and instrumental in raising awareness about the challenges that Europe is facing in the area of the environment. It has a key role in disseminating knowledge and act as a platform for exchange of good practices.*

Aurélie Godefroy, Deputy Head of Unit, DG International Cooperation and Development

*Our wellbeing is based on biodiversity. The food you eat relies on biodiversity. But now it is endangered, and with it our and our planet's and ocean's wellbeing. The work of the Intergroup in the European Parliament has contributed to step up our efforts to conserve and restore the biodiversity to pre-industrial levels so that we leave a healthy planet to our great-grand-children.*

Sigi Gruber, Head of Unit DG Research & Innovation

*Over the last 25 years, the Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development has demonstrated the need for an open dialogue with all stakeholders. Acting as a bridge between policy-makers, business and the civil society, it plays a vital role in bringing actors together, disseminating knowledge and best practices on complex challenges, which require a collective mobilization, a holistic approach and joint action.*

Nicolas BEAUMONT, Senior VP Sustainable Development and Mobility Michelin

*The Intergroup has become the go-to place for getting new insights, opinions and feedback on developments in the rapidly changing Blue Economy.*

Ian Shepherd, Senior Expert, DG MARE

*The Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development has been a valuable forum for important exchanges between European stakeholders committed to the protection of biodiversity, climate and the promotion of sustainable development. As an industry, we strongly believe in the impact of cross-sectoral dialogue and seeking common solutions. The Intergroup has an important role to play in facilitating this dialogue.*

Jean-Philippe Azoulay, Director General, ECPA

*The Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development is an important partner for the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). As local and regional representatives, we know very well the impact on the ground of EU policies in these sectors. We remain committed to host events of the Intergroup and to promote exchanges of views and of best practices with its members.*

Cor Lamers, Chair of the Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy of the European Committee of the Regions

# M A N I F E S T O

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This Manifesto has been drafted by the Secretariat of the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, in close collaboration with its Advisory Group members.

The multi-stakeholder Advisory Group, comprised of key stakeholders from United Nations' agencies, environmental organizations, the private sector and the scientific community, advises the Secretariat of the Intergroup, in order to ensure a balanced approach.

## European Parliament Intergroup *Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development*

### SECRETARIAT

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