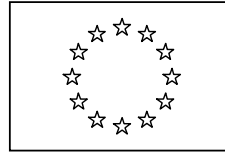


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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity
413, Saint Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
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Brussels / Lisboa, 8 November 2007

Subject: EU submission in reply to Notification 2007-104 – Inputs to the revision of the Strategic Plan of the Convention beyond 2010

Dear Dr. Djoghlaif,

In reply to notification 2007-104, Portugal and the European Commission, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, would like to transmit the following views as regards document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/INF.6.

As regards the **process for revising the Strategic Plan**, the EU broadly agrees with proposals as referred to in §§36 and 37 of document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/INF.6. However, the EU strongly believes that the review of the strategic plan should be based upon a thorough assessment of the progress made towards achieving the existing Strategic Plan and the 2010 target, as well as a number of scenarios for the future. This is essentially the task of GBO 3. So we would not support a separate assessment process. This means that GBO 3 should be ready rather early before COP 10, so that the revision of the Strategic Plan could be built upon GBO 3.

The revision should indeed be based on the review of the progress made towards goals 2 and 3 of the strategic plan. The revision of the Strategic Plan should also be based on an analysis of the achievements of goals 1 and 4.

The EU would like to reiterate that CBD Parties and COP 9 should focus their attention on further implementing the CBD Strategic Plan and Programmes of Work and making therewith progress towards achieving the 2010 target. What we need until 2010 are essentially two things: first, the 'unprecedented effort' called for by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to enhance implementation. Second, a thorough evaluation of progress made in achieving the 2010 target using targets and indicators. COP 9 should essentially decide upon the process of revising the strategic plan between COP 9 and COP 10.

However, the EU has some **preliminary views as regards the elements of UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/INF.6 which draw upon the content.**

The EU agrees that we should aim for a concise, yet sound and strategic document.

The EU considers that the new Strategic Plan should be concrete and action-oriented in order to support implementation of the Convention, including capacity-building, improvements of instruments and communication and public awareness-raising.

One of the most important added value of the existing Strategic Plan was the inclusion of the target to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, which has been essential in placing biodiversity on the top of the political agenda, at national, regional and international level and at conceptualising priority actions as well as monitoring progress made in implementing relevant policies. It is therefore most important that, while building upon the existing framework, a post-2010 Strategic Plan includes new headline targets, more ambitious than the 2010 target, such as to halt the loss of biodiversity. In order to be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timebound), targets would probably need to be set with a longer perspective than eight years. In addition to long term targets, short term targets could be motivated if they help maintain the necessary political interest, promote concrete actions and implementation and guide the process towards the fulfilment of the ultimate targets. The CBD framework of goals and indicators to measure progress towards the 2010 target should be updated and made an important element of the new Strategic Plan. Given the need to define SMART targets, lessons learned from the 2010 target should be thoroughly evaluated.

We fully agree with §34b of document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/INF.6, that any post-2010 plan and framework should build upon the existing plan and framework, and not unnecessarily reinvent the wheel, inter alia considering the relatively short timeframe since 2002. However, the EU believes that the discussions on the new strategic plan should consider the relevant findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

Comparing for example the matters arising from the review of goals 2 and 3 of the strategic plan (paras 12-19 of document UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/Inf/6) with the existing goals and objectives of the strategic plan, we note that the goals and targets of the current strategic plan are still fully relevant and do not necessarily need to be changed. One important aspect which is however missing is the issue of national targets. These are key to the implementation of the Strategic Plan. We would therefore support the suggestion that the revised Strategic Plan should provide for Parties to develop national outcome-oriented and if possible quantitative targets, making use of the CBD framework, and to regularly report on progress towards these targets. The EU therefore fully agrees with para 34e.

As regards the conclusions in paras 34c, d and 35, the CBD has already dealt with some important threats to biodiversity, such as invasive species, habitat loss, etc. We wonder what the call for a full operationalisation of Article 7(c) and 8(l) of the Convention implies as well as the consideration of the other topics mentioned in para 35. The decision of adding these items as specific topics in a new MYPOW should be based on a thorough analysis on how they have already been addressed by the Convention.

On the proposal to develop a specific Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the EU would suggest this question be debated by the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at COP-MOP 4.

Sincerely yours,

[signed]
Maria Elisa Oliveira

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[signed]
Hugo-Maria Schally

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