

Draft Programme (version 23th of November 2006)

(We notify that not all persons mentioned in the draft programme have confirmed their co-operation.)

**High Level Conference “European Regions As Champions For Biodiversity 2010”
Europe meets Brabant, Brabant meets Europe**
Thursday 15 February

Morning session	
High level segment – setting the political agenda	
8.30 hrs	Registration and Coffee & Tea
9.15 hrs	Start of Conference Chairman: Mr Drs. W.T. van Gelder, Queens Commissioner in Zeeland, Member of the EU Committee of the Regions and Rapporteur of the Biodiversity Opinion of this Committee.
9.20 hrs	Welcome and opening words by Ms. Annemarie Moons, host of the conference, Regional Minister for the Environment, Nature and Water, Province of Noord-Brabant, The Netherlands.
9.30 hrs	Introductions to the challenges 1. Regions as champions for 2010 Biodiversity Target – how to make it real?, by Mr. G. Stahl, Secretary-General of the EU Committee of the Regions 2. How can regions help to further the 2010 Biodiversity Commitment, by Mr Stravos Dimas, Commissioner of the Environment of the Commission of the European Union; 3. The challenge of combining the EU 2010 Lisbon and Gothenburg targets, Mrs Hanja Maij-Weggen, Queens Commissioner of Noord-Brabant, and president of the Noord-Brabant’s Council for Innovation and the Council for Sustainable Development.
10.30 hrs	Coffee and tea break (possibilities to visit the Conference Poster session)
10.50 hrs	<u>Interactive part – discussions and views</u> <i>The 2010 Communicating Biodiversity commitment in the reality of regions</i> The discussion will be provoked by Sebastian Winkler, Head of the Countdown 2010 Secretariat and representatives of youth and education centers Discussion oriented introduction to theme: Biodiversity? Please speak my language!, by Sir Brian Unwin, President ECNC and President of the European Task Force for Banking, Business and Biodiversity Discussion issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What on earth is biodiversity?” – participants give their views! • How to communicate “biodiversity 2010” commitments and increase public awareness • How to synchronize European biodiversity targets and regional biodiversity targets – communications between levels of government; • Would a dedicated network of regions for biodiversity 2010 help? • Should the EU Committee of the regions develop a Biodiversity Programme.
12.00 hrs	Multi-media performance: “Biodiversity in our minds” – introduction by youth
12.30 hrs	Lunch (and possibilities to visit Conference Poster session)
Afternoon session	
Theme: <i>Region’s role in furthering “Biodiversity 2010” - finding synergies and avoiding conflicts with the Lissabon Agenda</i>	
Chairperson/facilitator: (regional Minister, Italy)	
14.00 hrs	Introductions to the theme 1. Rural development and biodiversity 2010 – take your chance!, by Mr Fischler,

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	<p>Austria, former Commissioner for Agriculture of the European Commission;</p> <p>2. How regions could ensure commitment of land users and the public to support the European 2010 Biodiversity target, by mr Mark Thomasin-Foster, President of the European Landowners Organisation - ELO;</p> <p>3. How local authorities could assist regions in balancing biodiversity with economic development and reaching the public, by Ger van den Oetelaar, Deputy Mayor Boxtel.</p>
15.00 hrs	<p>Interactive exchange of experiences and views</p> <p>Interventions by representatives of regions and other stakeholders on views and best practice examples.</p>
16.00 hrs	Coffee & Tea break
16.25 hrs (till 18.00 hrs)	<p>End session of high level segment - Forum discussion with audience</p> <p>Chairperson: Ms. Annemarie Moons, Regional Minister for the Environment, Nature and Water, Province of Noord-Brabant</p> <p>Theme: Reflecting consensus into action</p> <p>Forum members (representatives of 4 regions and Mr Thomasin-Foster):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to go beyond words? And why should regions join the 2010 commitment? - Towards a regional action network for biodiversity 2010? <p>Reflections on the day by representatives of youth</p> <p>Conclusions of the day</p> <p>Signing event of regions joining the Countdown 2010</p>
18.15 hrs	Departure to the location Provincial Council Building by bus
18.30 hrs	Appetizer at the Provincial Council Building
19.00 hrs	<p>Conference dinner with Brabant's regional slow food (Provincial Council Building)</p> <p>Host: Queens Commissioner Mrs Hanja Maij-Weggen</p>

Friday 16 February

Practicing the Biodiversity 2010 commitments

Theme of the day – **learning from each other and experiences in making things work**

8.30 hrs	Registration and Coffee & Tea
9.00 hrs	Opening and summary of results conference day 1. Followed by brief introduction to the parallel workshops by chairman of the day (to be decided) ... and: a surprise element
9.45 hrs	Four parallel workshops Workshop theme I: <i>Creating awareness and involvement from stakeholders in the 2010 biodiversity commitment</i> Facilitator: (To be confirmed) Brief maximum 10 minutes introductions on the theme and best practices: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ambassadors for Countdown 2010, by Mr. Jan Stevens, Head Biodiversity of the Limburg region of Belgium, by Mr. Jan Stevens2. Involving people in biodiversity conservation in urban conglomerates, representative of Region Iles de France3. Countdown 2010 inspiring landscape regeneration and butterfly conservation joining forces at local and regional levels, by Dr. Barry Prater of Butterfly Conservation Exchange of views and best practices by representatives of regions and other stakeholders Workshop Theme II: <i>Measuring progress in regions on Biodiversity 2010</i> Facilitator: Ms Ivonne Higuero, United Nations Environment Programme, Geneva Brief maximum 10 minutes introductions on the theme and best practices: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. SEBI 2010 and regions – how to measure regional progress towards Biodiversity 2010?, Mr Gordon McInnes, Deputy Director of the European Environment Agency;2. Measuring biodiversity 2010 progress in regions – case to be decided;3. Measuring biodiversity 2010 progress in cities – the case Zagreb, by Mrs Valerija Kelemen-Pepeonik, Zagreb, Croatia in corporation with Ms Natasja Hulst, ECNC Exchange of views and best practices by representatives of regions and other stakeholders Workshop theme III: <i>Towards a dedicated network of European regions on biodiversity 2010</i> Facilitator: Mr. Menko Wiersema, representative of the Province of Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands Brief maximum 10 minutes introductions on the theme and best practices <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Existing networks of regions working on biodiversity – by Peter von Meijenfeldt, Manager <i>B&E</i> Partnership2. International Council of Local and Regional Environment Initiatives and Countdown

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	<p>2010 – by Mrs Monika Zimmermann, Director International Training Centre, ICLEI</p> <p>3. Linking landscapes and biodiversity, by Mr Ricardo Priore, First Director of the European Network of local and regional authorities for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (ENELC)</p> <p>Exchange of views by representatives of regions and other stakeholders</p> <p>Workshop theme IV: <i>Developing Interregional “Biodiversity 2010 and beyond” projects</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Mr Warren Priest, Regional Biodiversity Coordinator for the East Midlands Regional Assembly, United Kingdom</p> <p>Brief maximum 10 minutes introductions on possibilities and ideas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perspectives of EU Interreg Programmes, by Michel Lamblin, representative of the Interreg Secretariat; 2. Existing example of Interregional cooperation on landscapes and biodiversity, by Mr. Rob Maessen, Project leader LIFESCAPE - YOUR LANDSCAPE, the Province of Noord-Brabant 3. Proposals and ideas from the floor (please notify the conference organizers in advance if possible)
11.45 hrs	Reporting results of break out sessions
12.30 hrs	Lunch
Afternoon session	
Theme: Europe meets Brabant, Brabant meets Europe	
Facilitators: Mr. Frank Petter, Mayor of Woudrichem and Mrs Marieke Moorman, Councilor for the Environment of Tilburg, The Netherlands	
13.30 hrs	<p>Virtual excursions through Noord-Brabant and Europe</p> <p>You will experience a wonderful virtual excursion through the Province of Noord-Brabant, with links to some other regions in Europe. Youth groups will take you by the hand and show you the conservation of biodiversity through their eyes. Do not expect to just sit and listen. Expect to be surprised, again ...</p>
14.00 hrs	<p>Local action for biodiversity – let’s make it work, together!</p> <p>Mayors and councilors of local authorities in Noord-Brabant will discuss with participants possibilities of Local actions, including local biodiversity actions plan and Countdown campaigns</p>
16.00 hrs	Coffee & Tea break
16.20 hrs	<p>Concluding session of conference</p> <p>Chair: (To be decided)</p> <p>Key note: Moving the 2010 agenda forward from Europe to regions and regions to Europe, by Ms Evelyne Huytebroeck, Environment Minister of the Brussels region</p> <p>Adoption of the Conference conclusions</p> <p>Key note closing speech of the conference, Biodiversity 2010 and regions - how to go from here?, by the Netherlands’ Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality -</p> <p>Farewell words and closing of the conference, by Ms. Annemarie Moons, Regional Minister for Environment, Nature and Water, Province of Noord-Brabant</p>
17.30 hrs	Reception , hosted by the Province of Noord-Brabant, the Province of Zeeland and the Province of Zuid-Holland