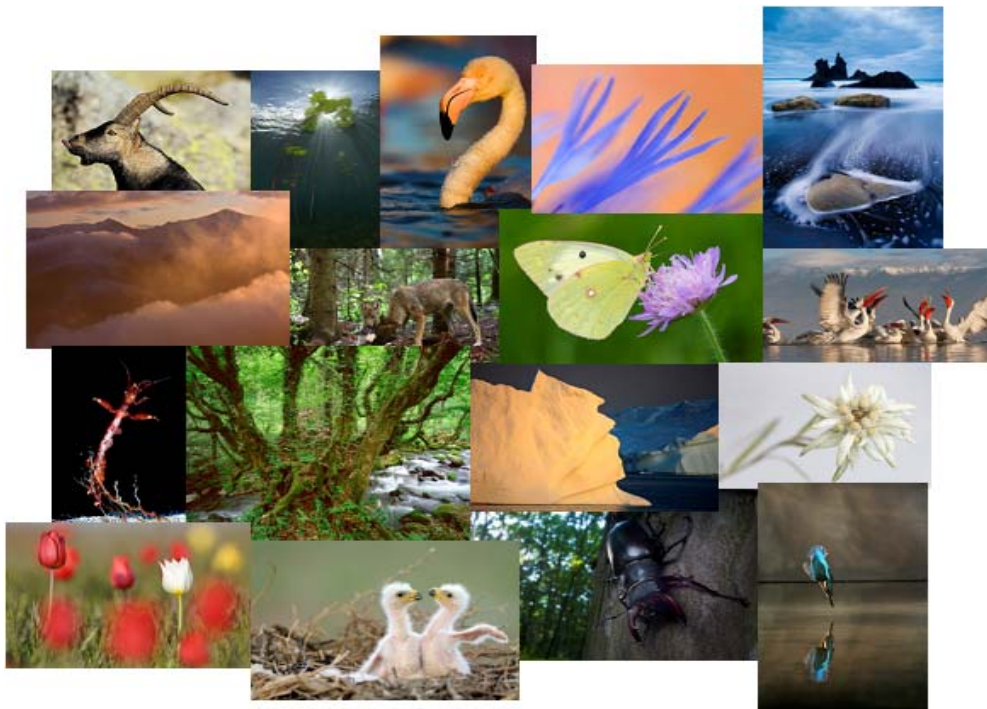




Biodiversity in Europe



Invitation

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

The Minister of Justice,
for Integration and Europe of the State of Hessen, Germany

Jörg-Uwe Hahn

The Vice-President in charge of Agriculture and Food Industry
of the Aquitaine Regional Council, France

Béatrice Gendreau

The Minister for Environment
and Sustainable Development of Emilia-Romagna, Italy

Lino Zanichelli

With the friendly support of the ALDE Group in the Committee of the Regions

take pleasure in inviting you to the event

**“How can European regions contribute
to halting the loss of biodiversity”**

on **Thursday, 10 December 2009, at 6.30 p.m.**

at the Committee of the Regions
Rue Belliard 99-101, 1040 Brussels
Room JDE 52

The discussion will be followed by a reception.

R.S.V.P. before 7th December 2009

Simultaneous Interpretation into English, German, Spanish, Italian and French is provided

**This is a personal invitation and therefore not transferable.
Please present this invitation at the entrance.**

Agenda:

Welcome and introduction

Nicola Beer

Secretary for European Affairs of the State of Hessen
and Member of the ALDE Group in the Committee of the Regions

The International Year on Biodiversity 2010

Thierry Lucas

Secretariat of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The status quo of Biodiversity in European Regions

Challenges and Risks

Emilia-Romagna: **Lino Zanichelli**

Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Hessen: **Dr. Werner Schütz**

Head of Department Biodiversity and Protection of Species

Aquitaine: **Béatrice Gendreau**

Vice-President of the Region, in charge of Agriculture and Food Industry

Short Break

Panel discussion: The incoming year 2010 and what is necessary to do in Europe:

Miguel Castroviejo (tbc)

Head of Unit Environment, Permanent Representation of Spain

François Wakenhut

European Commission, DG Environment, Head of Unit Biodiversity

Esther de Lange

Member of European Parliament and Rapporteur on Biodiversity

Sebastian Winkler

Head, Countdown 2010 Secretariat & Senior European Policy Advisor
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Nicola Beer

Secretary of State for European Affairs, Hessen
and Member of the ALDE Group in the Committee of the Regions

Frank Hoffmeister

Moderator, European Commission Legal Service

The discussion will be followed by a reception.

Biodiversity supports a number of natural ecosystem processes and services. Some ecosystem services that benefit society are air quality, climate (both global CO₂ sequestration and local), water purification, pollination, and prevention of erosion.

The European Council established in Gothenburg in 2001 the target of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 within the EU as well as the EU's commitment to the global target to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. Meanwhile it becomes evident that the EU is unlikely to meet this target of halting biodiversity decline. This is extremely worrying both for the important intrinsic value of nature and biodiversity, but also because it results in a decline in ecosystem functions that are also essential in providing a health environment and food security.

Therefore the three partner regions Aquitaine, Emilia-Romagna and Hessen will focus on the special role of European regions to halting the decline of biodiversity. On the basis of a report of recent condition in the regions the future challenges will be discussed from different point of views.

The United Nations have proclaimed the year 2010 as the "International Year on Biodiversity"! Therefore our regions want to point to the importance of biodiversity in natural and cultivated areas in Europe.

Conference funded by the ALDE – Group in the Committee of Regions

