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## POLICY CHALLENGES AND BUDGETARY MEANS OF THE ENLARGED UNION 2007-2013

### Report by Reimer Böge MEP

### 'Green 9' briefing for the Temporary Committee on 26 April

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#### Summary

The outcome of discussions on the EU's financial perspective 2007-2013 will have a major impact on Europe's citizens, economy and environment. The limited European budget must make an effective contribution to the attainment of the EU's environmental, health and sustainable development objectives.

#### The Rapporteur's draft report

The 'Green 9' group of environmental NGOs welcomes Mr Böge's report, particularly in two vital areas:

- **Ringfencing EUR 21 billion for Natura 2000 in the Financial Perspective 2007-2013 (para. 18).**

The Commission estimates that EUR 6.1 billion per year is required to finance the Natura 2000 network of EU-protected wildlife sites. The EU should co-finance the management of the network from the major spending programmes, as proposed by the Rapporteur.

- **Increasing rural development funds (para. 17).**

The budget of Pillar 2 of the CAP (rural development) should be increased, using money from CAP market expenditure (Pillar 1), in order to meet the large number of demands placed on this programme – in particular the implementation of Natura 2000 in rural areas, the improvement of farmland biodiversity via agri-environmental schemes, implementation of the Water Framework Directive, silvo-environment measures and the sustainable production of renewable energy sources from agriculture & forestry. In this respect, we would welcome a further amendment to clarify that the Commission's proposal for the rural development budget (0.10 % of EU GNI) should be considered the absolute minimum, rather than 0.05%.

**The Green 9 asks MEPs on the Temporary Committee to support the Rapporteur's report on the above-mentioned points, and to highlight these as priority issues in negotiations with the Council together with the points below.**

## Further amendments to the report

NGOs also ask Committee members to support further amendments to the report on the following points:

- 1. Adequate financial resources are identified and guaranteed from EU funding lines supporting the implementation of legally binding environmental policies and measures and environmental considerations are fully integrated into all EU policies in line with Article 6 of the Treaty.**
- 2. A dedicated fund for global environmental issues should be established under Heading 4.**

The European Union must provide adequate support to tackling globally important environmental issues such as climate change, and biodiversity loss through a separate budget which draws funding from across all the relevant instruments under Heading 4 (external actions). This amount will be in the region of EUR 250 million per year, or EUR 1.5 billion in total.

- 3. Transfer of funding from Heading 2 CAP market expenditure to Heading 4 development, to cover the costs of the adjustment aid packages to ACPs and LDCs in the framework of the subsidies reform on sugar production.**
- 4. Conditions on funding of trans-European transport networks.**
  - a) Any spending on the trans-European transport networks should be preceded by a thorough, independent cost-benefit analysis, which should include an assessment of the socio economic benefits/services provided by ecological systems affected by TEN-T projects.**
  - b) The respect of EU Environmental legislation needs to be a clearly stated condition for EU funding of TEN-T plans and projects, including in Candidate and Neighbouring countries.**

As the Commission is proposing to quadruple spending on the trans-European transport networks (TEN-T) after 2007, it is vital that the TEN-T priority projects are fully assessed from an economic, environmental and social point-of-view before funds are allocated. The condition to respect EU environmental legislation should be stated in all documents for the External relations bilateral negotiations, including Neighbourhood policy action plans.

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