

Mr Martin Schulz  
President of the European Parliament  
European Parliament  
Bâtiment Paul-Henri Spaak 09B011  
60 rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Brussels

Brussels, 14 November 2012

Dear President Schulz,

The 22-23 November European Council is a crucial Summit for ensuring that the next MFF will mobilize investments for a sustainable and prosperous economy –and help lead Europe out of the current crisis. The Green 10, a group of leading environmental NGOs active at EU level, are campaigning for future EU funds to bring more environmental benefits and public goods, deliver on jobs and economic opportunities, provide for health and well-being, and cut harmful subsidies and achieve EU 2020 targets.

Ahead of these crucial negotiations, we wish to draw your attention to and discuss five key issues that could substantially increase the chances of the next MFF delivering on Europe 2020 priorities:

**1. Climate action: Ensure that 20% of the next MFF supports climate action**

This political commitment, supported by the Parliament, is a minimum that citizens expect to incentivise an innovative low carbon economy that will help Europe to achieve near decarbonisation by 2050, create new quality jobs and bring the EU on a sustainable way out of the crisis.

**2. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): Ensure the delivery of public benefits**

Increasing the long term sustainability of the farming sector is essential for preserving environmental public goods and for job creation in rural areas - achieved through mandatory greening for direct payments and a strong Rural Development pillar. We consider that half of total CAP funds should be allocated to Rural Development of which at least 50% should be earmarked for the environment. In addition, a minimum 30% of direct payments should support a greening package of meaningful agricultural practices at the farm level linked to the basic payments.

**3. Cohesion policy: Put sustainability at the heart of regional development investments**

Sustainable development was left out from the Cohesion policy objectives in the Council proposal. In order to deliver on Europe 2020 objectives, Cohesion policy should aim at reducing, not increasing, energy and resource consumption in order to create sustainable and secure jobs and economic opportunities.

**4. Ensure that LIFE (Environment and Climate fund) receives 1% of the next MFF**

The Parliament asks for strengthening LIFE. We recommend a modest 1% of the MFF for this successful fund in all Member States, to strongly contribute to achieving the EU target to halt biodiversity loss by 2020 through innovative environmental projects.

## 5. External dimension: Maintain the Commission's proposed allocation

The Commission's proposal for increased funding for external dimension is a bare minimum, as underlined by the Parliament. It should be maintained and not cut, in order for Europe to deliver its international development, climate and biodiversity commitments.

We are highly concerned that the discussion so far in Council remains focussed mainly on amounts, forgetting commitments on the quality of spending – a missed opportunity to ensure that EU spending delivers more in time of crisis. This risk is particularly high with the CAP where EP and Council negotiators are planning to await the outcome of the debate on overall amounts before providing any clarity on the question what the money will actually deliver. We believe this would be an unacceptable way of taking decisions which would strip the future CAP of its legitimacy.

**For the benefits of European citizens and the transition towards a sustainable economy we urge you to bring quality along with quantity of spending to the table during the upcoming European Summit.**

Yours sincerely,



Genon K. Jensen,  
Executive Director, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)  
On behalf of the Green 10 Directors

### Green 10 EU Directors:

Angelo Caserta, Regional Director of the European Division – BirdLife International  
Wendel Trio, Director – Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe  
Anelia Stefanova, Director – CEE Bankwatch Network  
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