

*Joint letter*

## Put nature at the centre of Europe's budget 2028–2034

15 December 2025

Dear Members of the European Council,

As you gather in Brussels on 18–19 December to discuss the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028–2034, we urge you to put nature back at the centre of Europe's future. Our economy, our security, and our well-being depend on it.

The European Commission itself has [recognised](#) that two-thirds of the EU economy relies on nature. Yet, in its current budget proposal, nature conservation and restoration are left without ringfenced and dedicated public funding. This contradiction, combined with ongoing deregulation and threats to green policies, risks undermining the very foundation of a liveable future for all Europeans.

We must also acknowledge the shortcomings of the current budget. The European Commission [admits](#) that it will likely not fulfil its spending obligations, and only (!) [one per cent](#) of the Recovery and Resilience Facility funds was spent on nature despite being one of the objectives of the Facility.

Furthermore, the absence of biodiversity spending obligations, the dilution of the LIFE programme across different headings and the renationalisation of parts of the budget through National and Regional Partnership Plans threaten to create serious imbalances among Member States in implementing environmental legislation.

### **We therefore call on you to make the responsible choice:**

- **Maintain LIFE as a strengthened, standalone programme with increased funding.** [LIFE has proven](#) to be one of the EU's most successful and efficient programmes, and is relied upon by many regions and local authorities for biodiversity conservation.
- **Support an increased climate and [biodiversity spending target](#), with a specific biodiversity spending target of at least ten per cent.** Without clear spending obligations, biodiversity will continue to compete with other priorities and lose out.
- **Embed the objectives of the Nature Restoration Regulation in National and Regional Partnership Plans.** This includes financing the subsequent National Restoration Plans to ensure proper implementation.

- **Strictly enforce the ‘do no significant harm’ principle across all budget lines, without exemptions.** Harmful subsidies must be redirected to activities that tackle nature loss.

Europe cannot afford to neglect its nature: we all depend on it. This is why, through [reforms](#), ringfencing and biodiversity mainstreaming, sufficient funds for nature protection and restoration should be secured in the next EU budget. By funding nature properly in the MFF 2028–2034, you will safeguard prosperity, resilience, and security for all European citizens, and generations to come.

We thank you for your consideration and are pleased to discuss with you how biodiversity can be adequately financed in the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

Sincerely,

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EuroNatur

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