



2014 Italian Presidency
of the Council
of the European Union



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Milano - Brussels, 16 July 2014

To EU Ministers of Environment

Subject: Invitation to a high-level meeting to prepare the 12th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP12) – 9 September 2014, Brussels.

Following the historical agreement reached in Nagoya in 2010 and the good outcome of the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Hyderabad in 2012, in which the EU and its Member States played a constructive and key role, we now need to show that we are equally committed to ensure a successful outcome of the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CBD COP12, Pyeong Chang, Korea, 6-17 October 2014) and the full implementation of agreed COP decisions.

The EU experience of previous Conferences of the Parties has shown that it is crucial to reach an understanding of critical issues ahead of the conference so as to be well prepared for the negotiations, effectively defend our positions and to be able to achieve a positive outcome in support of global biodiversity objectives.

We recently adopted conclusions that put us on the right track to engage constructively in negotiations in Pyeong Chang. However, also from past experience we know that we will need to fine tune our EU positions following the COP preparatory meetings which took place last month in Montreal, and in light of the forthcoming informal discussions amongst Parties at the international workshop on financing for biodiversity in Ittigen in August.

Resource mobilization (international transfers, domestic expenditure, non-financial resources) will in particular require further ministerial steer, given that negotiations on this topic will have a decisive impact on the overall success of the Conference. We will also need to agree positions on other important issues, including the marine environment, biodiversity safeguards for REDD+ activities, and synergies with other processes – such as the SDG target setting – to be addressed in the high level segment in Korea.

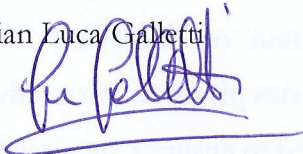
In this context, we have the pleasure to invite you to a high-level meeting on 9 September 2014 in Brussels.

An agenda and a short issues paper will be sent to you closer to the meeting, but we would kindly ask you to already pencil the date in your agenda.

We look forward to welcoming you in Brussels on 9 September.

Yours sincerely,

Gian Luca Galleari



Janez Potočnik

