

To: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen
CC: Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans
CC: Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius

Subject: Serious concerns on push back against European Green Deal including the EU Nature Restoration Law

5 June 2023

Dear Ms. von der Leyen,

With this letter, we want to express our deepest concerns about the substantial attempts of particularly conservative groups putting a block against the European Commission's Green Deal including its flagships the Nature Restoration Law and Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation on the grounds of misleading arguments. The recent votes in the European Parliament's AGRI and PECH Committees to fully reject the Nature Restoration Law proposal and the polarising positioning in the negotiations send out the very wrong signal that we can keep doing our business-as-usual at the expense of promises made to Europe's citizens and global partners to tackle the ongoing environmental and socio-economic crises.

Europe is facing unprecedented impacts from the intertwined collapse of our climate and ecosystems, including those needed to produce food. The steep decline of pollinator populations and the catastrophic droughts and floods in Europe are just a few examples. Nature and rural livelihoods are often the first victims in line, with the scientific evidence forecasting even worse scenarios piling-up. The costs of inaction are high. Yet, the future is in our own hands to bring nature back to Europe as a key solution to turn the tide. Nature restoration is undoubtedly one of our best insurance policies and long-term investments.

Which future do decision makers in Europe and Member States want to choose: a resilient outlook in which both people and nature thrive, or the road to a doomed horizon? Concerned [citizens](#), [civil-society organisations](#), [scientists](#) and [progressive businesses](#) are increasingly calling for urgent actions. We ask you to listen to these voices and to not get trapped in confusing disinformation and polarising narratives, only aimed at keeping harmful practices ongoing. The rejection of the Nature Restoration Law would fully undermine Europe's Green Deal and its commitments to global climate and biodiversity agreements.

We therefore strongly call upon you as European Leader to uphold your responsibilities for the European Nature Restoration Law, be vocal on your support and use your role to guide conservative politicians to support a robust legal test, without undermining the level of ambition that is needed in light of the ongoing climate and biodiversity crises and their impact on people and sectors. This will ensure your legacy on advancing the European Green Deal as a once in a lifetime opportunity to shift Europe's pathway from continuous environmental deterioration to a positive future-proof narrative of regeneration.

We are at your disposal to reply to any questions or needs you may have on facts and arguments, based on science and support from large parts of society.

Yours sincerely,



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Regional Director BirdLife Europe and Central Asia



Anais Berthier
Head of ClientEarth Brussels Office



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