



## **Press Release**

To be released immediately

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# Local and regional coalition demands immediate adoption of EU Nature Restoration Law

In an urgent appeal to heads of state and environment ministers, a coalition of European cities, regions, environmental authorities, and partners of the Urban Agenda Partnership on Greening Cities has called for the immediate adoption of the EU Nature Restoration Law.

Ahead of Monday's (17 June) European Council vote on the adoption of the proposed law, the coalition has sent the Council an [open letter](#) expressing their grave concern over the ongoing delay in enacting this legislation, warning of serious consequences for nature in Europe and across the world.

In the letter, the coalition states that the world faces a triple crisis of biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change. Over 70% of Europeans live in urban areas, where these crises severely impact ecosystems that are essential for health and wellbeing. Deeply concerning statistics include:

- Wildlife populations have plummeted by nearly 70% since 1970.
- Europe has warmed twice as fast as the global average since the 1980s.
- Cities can be up to 10-15°C hotter than rural areas, contributing to significant mortality rates from extreme temperatures.
- One-third of Europeans experience water stress annually, and 97% are exposed to harmful levels of fine particulate matter.

The coalition makes it clear that the proposed EU Nature Restoration Law is vital for safeguarding urban green spaces and adapting cities to climate change. Urban areas are home to diverse plant and animal species, with many including Natura 2000 sites within city boundaries.

However, land-use change remains the largest driver of biodiversity loss. By establishing a legal framework for restoration, says the coalition, the Law would support cities in creating resilient, sustainable environments. It would also facilitate collaboration across government levels and stakeholders, promoting mental and physical health for citizens.

The coalition states that continued delay in adopting the Law, despite a provisional political agreement reached last November, undermines the integrity of the EU. It jeopardises



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future inter-institutional negotiations and Europe's commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework.

**-- ENDS --**

1. The signatories of the open letter are: ACR+ (Association of Cities and Regions for Sustainable Resource Management), CCRE-CEMR (The Council of European Municipalities and Regions), Climate Alliance, Energy Cities, Eurocities, Fedarene, ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability Europe), Polis (Cities and Regions for Transport Innovation) and Utrecht (as a partner to the Urban Agenda Partnership on Greening Cities).
2. Read the [open letter](#) sent to the European Council by the coalition of European cities, regions, environmental authorities, and partners of the Urban Agenda Partnership for Greening Cities.

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*The Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management (ACR+) is an international network of cities and regions sharing the aim of promoting sustainable resource management and accelerating the transition towards a circular economy on their territories and beyond. The network, gathering around 90 members, is open to other key players in the field of material resource management such as NGOs, academic institutions, consultancies or private organisations. Members' needs and priorities define the network's activities, which include facilitating the exchange of experiences between members, sharing technical and policy information and livening up the network. To strengthen the knowledge and capacities of the network and push for innovation in the field of material resource management, ACR+ is also involved in several projects at European level and in the Mediterranean region, in cooperation with its members.*

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