

## European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy

### RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

#### AMSTERDAM DECLARATION

The participants of this meeting

**recognising** that the Lisbon Council Conclusions:

- set the ambition for Europe “to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion;”
- list objectives that can only be achieved if the transformation of the European economy results in a system that is sustainable;

**and** that the Göteborg Council Conclusions:

- set the ambition for Europe to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010;

**and** that the Environment Council:

- welcomed the Message from Malahide and the Killarney Recommendations on key elements of biodiversity research

**emphasise** that:

- actions are not sustainable if they place social cohesion or economic welfare at risk through irreversible loss of biological diversity or a deterioration of the natural environment;
- to assess the sustainability of an action, in most cases research is needed to understand its impact on biodiversity and the provision of goods and services from ecosystems;

**stress**:

- the need for EU and Member State funding bodies to immediately target research funding to fill gaps in current knowledge that impede efforts to slow or halt the loss of biodiversity;

**add that**:

- research into biodiversity will generate knowledge with considerable and long-lasting benefits. Among these are:
  - improved capacity to make economies sustainable,
  - better adaptation to and mitigation of climate change,
  - new discoveries in expected and unexpected areas such as medicine and pharmaceuticals, nutrition, engineering and bionics,
  - better control of disease in humans, animals and plants,
  - a cleaner water supply and enhanced flood control,
  - detoxification of the air, water and soils,
  - greater aesthetic, cultural and spiritual benefits;

and **conclude** that

- Community-wide biodiversity research is vital for Europe to achieve the Lisbon objectives;
- it is essential that biodiversity research be included as a theme in the 7th Framework

Programme, and in the funding activities of the Member States, and its funding greatly increased.