



Karmenu Vella
Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
European Commission
Directorate-General for Environment
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, 3 September 2018

Concerns: European commitment to report 2030 Agenda in 2019

Dear Commissioner Vella,

Three years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and 9 months ahead of the next European Parliament elections, we call on the European Commission to report as a whole on its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to the 2019 UN High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF). We understand that a decision will be taken during the first week of September. With this letter, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and our EU-wide campaign [Make Europe Sustainable for All](#), BirdLife Europe and the WWF European Policy Office urge you as the Commissioner for the Environment to actively support and contribute to the realisation of such a report and for it to be prepared in a participatory way.

A comprehensive European report on the implementation of the SDGs presented at the HLPF would allow the EU to :

- demonstrate its leadership with regard to sustainable development,
- invest in multilateralism in a time where international collaboration and multilateral governance are put into question,
- set an example of inclusive and participatory governance to the rest of the world, by engaging actively with EU civil society and other stakeholders,
- demonstrate its understanding that this is a universal agenda, where everyone has to do their part, not only in developing countries or through development cooperation but also domestically within developed countries, thereby inspiring other global players to step up their efforts,
- highlight what it has done so far and still aims to do, showing that it takes its own UN priorities seriously (gender, climate, human rights, circular economy, etc.),
- raise awareness within the EU on what the SDGs are and what the EU is doing to reach them,
- show the EU's added value to European citizens in the run up to the EP elections,
- leave a legacy behind,
- increase attention for sustainable development at a time of EU long-term budget negotiations and EP elections,
- encourage the next EU leadership to take sustainable development seriously.

We urge you to ensure that the EU's report does not only cover the SDGs in the external dimension but in all European policies and programmes, internal and external, and that environmental challenges take centre stage in the report. This will also allow you to present European solutions and the policies that have been adopted in order to address environmental challenges.

European Environmental Bureau

Europe's largest network of
environmental citizens' organisations

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Although the European Union holds a unique position within the United Nations, paragraph 80 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages regional organisations such as the European Union to conduct inclusive regional processes for follow-up and review and to contribute to follow-up and review at the global level, including at the HLPF. We therefore urge the Commission to communicate the decision to report as a whole on its contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the 2019 HLPF to the President of ECOSOC and request a space in an official session of the HLPF to present this.

We remain at your disposal for any further questions.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Wates
Secretary General
European Environmental Bureau



Dr Andrea Kohl
Acting Director
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