

14 June 2024

To:

H.E. Mr. Donald Tusk Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

**Subject: Support the EU Nature Restoration Law, for a healthy, thriving future for ecosystems and citizens**

Dear Prime Minister Tusk,

We hope this finds you well. We write to you to ask you to approve the EU Nature Restoration Law at the Environmental Council meeting on 17th of June.

Ratifying the Nature Restoration Law is essential to answer the calls of citizens, scientists and a wide variety of stakeholders, which have shown an unprecedented level of support to adopt the law. This was again confirmed by a recent citizens' poll: more than 72% of Polish respondents support the law<sup>1</sup>. There is a wide scientific consensus: scientists have urged repeatedly that the law is of vital importance to reverse the collapse of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems, to tackle the climate crisis, which is causing extreme droughts and floods across Europe, and to safeguard food security<sup>2</sup>. European companies have called for a swift adoption of the law<sup>3</sup>.

In view of upholding the credibility of EU decision making, the ratification of the law is of essential importance. An agreement was reached between the European Council and the Parliament in November 2023, after a long period of intense negotiations, in which compromises were made. To abandon an agreed compromise would fundamentally question the reliability and sincerity of the Council as a co-legislator, and the ability of policy-makers to prioritise the public interest.

Restoring nature is, both in terms of mitigation as adaptation, a prerequisite to better protect citizens and food production systems from extreme weather events. Healthy ecosystems are essential to reverse the sharp declines in insects, birds and other species, which are key in increasing resilience of food production systems, for example through natural pest control and pollination services. Scientists stress that the cost-efficiency of nature restoration is well known, and that *'the biggest risks for food security stem from climate change and the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as pollination and pest control'*<sup>2</sup>.

Nature restoration is also a cornerstone of human health. Restoring freshwater ecosystems is essential for water safety and clean drinking water. Enhanced biodiversity plays an important role in both mental and physical health, and in building resilience from extreme weather effects. Increase of green spaces and tree canopy enhances air quality and reduces heat stress, with large impacts on mental and physical health<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [Citizens' perceptions on nature and biodiversity in the EU - Survey Results, Appeal from over 1 million EU citizens to adopt Nature Restoration Law](#)

<sup>2</sup> [6000 Scientists support the NRL, Open Letter - Expression of Concern by Scientists: the rollback of EU environmental legislation and policies jeopardises the future of EU citizens](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Businesses urge Belgian Presidency to deliver on Nature Restoration Law](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Why is Nature Restoration critical to improving human health and well-being?, Time to treat the climate and nature crisis as one indivisible global health emergency](#)

The Nature Restoration Law is an opportunity EU legislators can not afford to miss. Its ratification is essential to answer the urgent calls of EU citizens and a wide variety of stakeholders, to manifest that policy-makers engage in science-based decision making in the public interest and to uphold the trust of EU citizens in EU democratic decision making processes.

Thank you very much for your time.

Yours sincerely,



**GREENPEACE**