



Belgian Federal Council for Sustainable Development

Summary of the Advice on the implementation in Belgium of the Convention on Biological Diversity

- **Own initiative advice**
- **Prepared by the *Biodiversity and forest* working group**
- **Endorsed by the General Assembly of February 23, 1999**

The Council has addressed five recommendations to the federal government.

1. It is necessary to **establish political consistency** as concerns the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) so that all of each department's policies take into account the effects on biodiversity. The Council recommends making the federal Ministry of the Environment responsible for this co-ordination.
2. A **national co-ordinating group** should be created and provided with the resources necessary to encourage the various levels of authority and the sectors concerned to assume their responsibilities. The Council also calls for the implementation of a Belgian national programme for biodiversity, as required by the Convention, and hopes that the strategy for protection of biodiversity will be included in the first federal Plan for Sustainable Development.
3. **All federal departments** must be made aware of their role in the implementation of the CBD. A prior assessment of the possible consequences of political decisions on biodiversity must be conducted.
4. A **scientific foundation** for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity must be developed. The recommendations of the Fourth Conference of the Parties (Bratislava, 4-15 May 1998) concerning priority areas of action must be applied. The links between the federal departments for scientific, technical and cultural affairs and the National Biodiversity Focal Point must be strengthened.
5. The Council stresses the importance of provision of **information, creation of awareness and education of specific target groups**.