

Felice Cappelluti

Towards CBD-COP 12

RM@RM - informal EU experts meeting on Biodiversity Resource Mobilisation

Rome 7 July

Good morning to everybody and welcome in Rome.

Before starting the meeting, I will spend just a few words to introduce this two-days program that is expected to be intense and rich.

First of all may I introduce myself, I'm Felice Cappelluti, I'm the officer of the Ministry of the Environment in charge for international biodiversity and - for the term of Italian Presidency of the Council - I've been also asked to chair the Working Group for International Environmental Issues at the Council of the European Union.

Working Group which is called to prepare the common position of the European Union and its Member States for the many international events in the biodiversity agenda.

In fact, during this semester, the international community has to face a challenging international biodiversity agenda that will require a strong collaboration among States and Stakeholders.

Two major global biodiversity related conventions will hold their Conferences of the Parties during this semester (i.e. the CBD - Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species); other important events will also be convened, and, moreover, it will enter the final stage the process to define the new global goals for development post 2015 – that we hope sustainable.

But the most important event is surely the COP12 of the Convention of Biological Diversity that will be in South Korea in next October.

I want to recall the fundamental milestone for biodiversity protection represented by the Aichi Targets adoption during COP10 held in Nagoya in 2010.

And now we are at a turning point, just in the middle of the roadmap planned to achieve those targets, we have the duty to take concrete and effective actions.

Sticking on the Aichi targets related to Resource mobilization – that is the issue for which we are convened today – I want to recall the two relevant Targets: target 20 and target 3.

The achievement of Aichi Target 20 calls for a global commitment to adopt clear targets for resource mobilization, both at national and international level, to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity in public and private decision-making processes and its integration into policy and development planning.

On the other hand, in order to achieve Aichi Target 3, all Parties to the Convention must start a fiscal reform process, aimed at the elimination of biodiversity harmful incentives and subsidies.

It is now only a few months until the start of CBD COP12 and, as emerged from the debate recently held at WGRI-5, the themes of biodiversity resource mobilization, targets adoption and reporting will be among the most difficult and sensitive issues, which may lead to a clash between developed countries and developing countries.

Therefore, since we want to build together a strong position of the European Union, without undermining the valuable results achieved during the previous COP held in Hyderabad, that allows us to move forward in biodiversity protection, we have decided to organize this informal Expert Meeting, also taking into account the excellent and worthwhile work done by this expert group during its previous meetings in Paris, London and Bruxelles.

The preparation of the EU position will be the work of the second day of the meeting, restricted to European Commission and Member States experts, who will work together preparing the draft Position Paper setting out the position that we are going to uphold at COP12 on items 18 and 19. Issues to be defined will be various and the outcomes of this work will influence the trend of negotiations in PyeongChang.

But we want to take this occasion also to make progress in the technical and methodological aspects related to the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, starting from the results of Quito 2 and Montreal WGRI-5.

And this is the program of today.

We will deal with different themes: innovative financial mechanisms, biodiversity harmful incentives and subsidies, Rio Markers, private sector involvement. Intention of the workshop in its first day is connecting CBD subjects with existing international environmental accounting and statistical processes.

In this regard, I really want to thank the distinguished international experts who will intervene today, for making themselves available and putting at our disposal their valuable skills to help us in.

I wish you a collaborative and fruitful work, and I am sure your efforts will give a great contribution to the best results of the important international appointments on biodiversity in the next months and years.

Finally I want to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their hospitality and Aldo Ravazzi who has been the real “engine” of this initiative.