



European Council 15-16 June 2006

## Open Letter to the EU Heads of State and Government

FROM: Green 10, 9 June 2006



### Concerning: Call for Adoption by European Council of new Sustainable Development Strategy



This year's revision of the Sustainable Development Strategy presents a unique opportunity to establish sustainable development as the guiding principle for all EU policy development. The need could not be greater: since the adoption of the existing Strategy at the Gothenburg Summit in 2001, there has been further erosion of natural capital, degradation of ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, as well as increases in greenhouse gas emissions and climate-related disasters. In addition, the Union has faced increasing public doubt over its legitimacy.



For the sake of current and future generations, the EU's patterns of development must be set on a more sustainable path. This is not only vital for the global environment and people's health, but also for economic and social development. The natural environment provides a wide range of ecosystem services that are indispensable for our quality of life, such as air purification, climate regulation and raw materials, many thousands of people are employed in nature-protection related activities throughout the Union and the lives of many millions throughout the world are impacted by our actions and policies. At the same time effective environmental policies offer a competitive advantage with growing business opportunities for eco-innovative products and services.



Friends of the Earth Europe

We therefore call on Heads of State and Government and the European Commission to ensure that the European Council - as the highest EU decision-making body, responsible for the strategic political direction of the Union – explicitly adopts the Sustainable Development Strategy in full at the Summit on 15 and 16 June. This is essential to give the Strategy the political priority that it deserves and to ensure that the Lisbon strategy is seen in the wider context of sustainable development, as recommended by the European Council in March 2005.



GREENPEACE

Adopting a strong Sustainable Development Strategy at the Summit in June, preferably including concrete targets and actions on green public procurement and on improving resource efficiency, would demonstrate to citizens that Europe's leaders are serious about taking decisive action to tackle the long-term environmental, economic and social challenges facing the European Union. It will also help to reassure European citizens that the EU is relevant to their lives and their concerns about quality of life issues now and for future generations.



Yours faithfully,



John Hontelez, Secretary General, **European Environmental Bureau**  
Clairie Papazoglou, Head of EU Policy, **BirdLife International**  
Magda Stoczkiewicz, Policy Coordinator, **CEE Bankwatch Network**  
Matthias Duwe, Acting Director, **Climate Action Network Europe**  
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