

The EU would like to thank SCBD and speakers of this morning for their pro-active and constructive contribution to reaching our mission and vision. The EU would like to emphasise 4 initiatives that will contribute to the effective implementation, monitoring and assessment of the strategic plan in Europe:

1. In 2011, shortly after COP10, the EU adopted a Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 with 6 targets closely related to the Aichi Targets, a governance system – so-called 'common implementation framework' - to ensure its implementation and a set of biodiversity indicators to monitor progress towards EU targets interconnected to the global indicators; all this information is available online on the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (<http://biodiversity.europa.eu/>); In addition online tools interconnecting national, regional and global targets and indicators, are being developed to facilitate assessment of progress and make this information accessible to all (this tool will be presented at a CBD\_EU side-event at lunch time).
2. In 2012, an ambitious initiative on mapping and assessment of the state of ecosystems and of their services (MAES) has been launched, that also includes the economic valuation of ecosystem services and their integration into accounting systems; this initiative that will provide a first delivery in 2014 will contribute to more joined up policy-making and highlight the interconnection between biodiversity, ecosystem condition and the provision of ecosystem services, which are indispensable for ensuring long-term human well-being;
3. This year, the 7<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme was adopted that addresses the need to "improve the knowledge and evidence base for environment policy"; different initiatives have already been launched to reinforce the scientific underpinning of environmental policy and in particular the setting-up of an EU mechanism to reinforce science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services with the support of Horizon 2020, the EU framework research programme from 2014-2020;
4. All these initiatives will inform the mid-term review of EU Biodiversity Strategy foreseen in 2015 that will involve all services of the Commission, Member States and stakeholders.

**In short, I would like to summarise EU action with an African proverb "If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go further, go together"**