

31 July 2017

**Submission by the EU and its Member States to CBD Notification 2017-054
on the invitation to provide relevant information and views related to the proposals for
new and emerging issues**

The European Union (EU) and its Member States are pleased to contribute, in accordance with the procedures set out in Decision IX/29, to Notification No. 2017-054 concerning the submissions received by the CBD Secretariat in response to the initial Notification No. 2017-014.

We recognise the importance and relevance of the issues addressed by the four submissions.

However, in line with our reply to the initial notification No. 2017-014, we do not wish to add these issues to the agenda of a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The issues raised by the Peruvian Society of Environmental Law (Jurisdiction Shopping and Selection of non-Genetic-Material Media for Transmission) and the Center for Drug Discovery and Conservation (regional legislative and regulatory frameworks for governing bioprospecting and implementation) are sufficiently covered by existing agenda items. The issue proposed by Mr Abubakar (marine dust from the Sahara desert nourishing the Amazon rainforest) is a natural phenomenon, the potential policy implications are not clear and other fora seem to be more suitable for addressing any such policy implications.

Whereas the issue raised by Iraq (environmental and social consequences of forced migration) reflects the interrelationships between migration, security and biodiversity, all of which are among EU key priorities, it is not an issue where the CBD can bring much added value.

Generally, in our view, the CBD processes should concentrate on key priorities where the CBD can bring greatest value added to other processes and overloading of the SBSTTA agenda should be avoided.

As regards the four questions concerning reviewing the process of identification of new and emerging issues set out in section II of Decision IX/29, the EU and its Member States have the following views:

- a) The criteria in paragraph 12 of Decision IX/29 are meant as guidance and not necessarily all criteria need to be met for an issue to qualify as a new and emerging issue;
 - b) An issue could also qualify under paragraph 12 of Decision IX/29 if it focuses on opportunities to advance the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, also in the absence of (clear) potential negative consequences;
 - c) and d): there is no need for adjustments or additions to the criteria in paragraph 12 of decision IX/29.
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