



## Green living

*“It is clear that continuing failure to meet goals on biodiversity loss will be truly catastrophic and we can’t keep deluding ourselves that we are doing enough”*

**Janez Potočnik on Green Week 2010, mainstreaming environmental policy and developing a sustainable economy**

### GREEN WEEK

#### **Biodiversity: Our lifeline**

Heidi Sørensen, Jacqueline McGlade, Sandrine Bélière and Edward McMillan-Scott

**Plus:** An ecosystems approach, food security, sustainable forestry, green economies, marine life



#### **Electronic waste**

Karl-Heinz Florenz, Jill Evans and Achim Steiner

#### **Eastern partnership**

Bruno Dethomas, Evgeni Kirilov, Milan Cabrnich, Jacek Protasiewicz and Alexander Graf Lambsdorff

#### **Ambient assisted living**

Technology and healthcare



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Viviane Reding will do her utmost to protect the values on which the EU was founded

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Milan Cabrnach looks at how parliament's cooperation committees can strengthen the Eastern partnership

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The EU must stand firm on democracy and human rights as it develops relations with its eastern neighbours, writes Jacek Protasiewicz

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Increasing the pace of reform in Belarus is vital for both its citizens and the EU, says Alexander Graf Lambsdorff

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A recent study highlights the growing need to deal with eWaste in developing countries, as Achim Steiner explains

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The restriction of hazardous substances directive has been a great success, says Jill Evans, but the EU must not rest on its laurels

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Struan Stevenson calls on MEPs to rethink plans to outlaw Europe's most commonly used rat and mice poisons

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Tackling the challenges of modern healthcare provision came under the spotlight at a recent Parliament Magazine event. Brian Johnson was there

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### GREEN WEEK

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Europe must do more to tackle biodiversity loss if it is to have any chance of developing a low carbon economy and stimulating green growth, writes Janez Potočnik

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International negotiations will be key to halting biodiversity loss, says Heidi Sørensen

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Jacqueline McGlade wants to see biodiversity placed at the heart of agriculture, transport and development policies

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As the Gulf of Mexico oil spill hits the headlines, Sandrine Bélier is calling on Europe to act now to preserve biodiversity

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Europe must rise to the challenge of protecting the planet's biodiversity without compromising food security, says Alan Belward

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Europe must do all it can to promote sustainable forestry, say Barbora Buckova and Ana Rocha

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Environmental NGOs are calling on the EU to act now to protect biodiversity and develop an inclusive, smart, and sustainable economy

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Salvatore Gabola explains why protecting the world's natural resources makes good business sense

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The link between agricultural biodiversity, ecosystems and food security is crucial to feeding the world's population, writes Emile Frison

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Edward McMillan-Scott explains how eating less meat can help protect Europe's precious biodiversity

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Ocean noise can be deadly for marine life, and the need for regulation must not fall on deaf ears, writes Adrian Hiel

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Peter Torkley calls on the EU to do more to recognise the economic value of protecting the earth's natural resources

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Healthy, resilient forests are key to maintaining biodiversity, argues Philipp Freiherr von und zu Guttenberg

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An urgent overhaul of the common fisheries policy is needed to effectively manage the marine environment, argues Monica Verbeek

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Europe's maritime protection policies must sustain fish populations and protect biodiversity, says Thomas Kirk Sørensen

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Politicians and NGOs came together to debate biodiversity at the Council of Europe. Anne-Marie Chavanon describes the day's events

# Broadening horizons

**Evgeni Kirilov** says EU policy for the South Caucasus must be bold in order to achieve its objectives

**T**he South Caucasus is not only a region in the immediate neighbourhood of the EU (Romania and Bulgaria have a sea border with it), but a region of great strategic importance in political, economic and security terms. Therefore the EU's main objective there should be to participate actively in its stabilisation and to encourage the development of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia towards stability and democracy, to establish good neighbourly relations and integration into the EU's policies.

The European parliament strongly supports all the initiatives which increase the EU's presence in the region, and in particular the most recent one – the eastern partnership. Among other things, it offers a valuable framework for increased regional cooperation, the introduction of visa-free travel to the EU and the conclusion of comprehensive free trade agreements.

Certainly, this is a two way process that requires effort and dedication from both sides. It is in the vital interest of the three countries to continue their efforts towards further democratisation. Good governance, political pluralism, the rule of law and respect for human rights are of paramount importance for determining their future relations with the EU. Therefore, the EU should continue providing financial and technical assistance to them in order to promote these principles and processes within the framework of political conditionality.

The region's strategic geopolitical location, its increasing importance as an energy, transport and communications corridor connecting the Caspian region and Central Asia with Europe, and the growing EU preoccupation with energy security suggest a more active EU participation in the energy projects of the region, including the completion of the Nabucco pipeline project.

However, these ambitious EU policies can hardly be achieved when there is a big shadow over the region – the unresolved conflicts in Georgia and Nagorno Karabakh. They are also a serious impediment for democratisation, political stability and socioeconomic development.

Unfortunately, it was owing to the 2008 war in Georgia that the EU realised it needs to play a more active role in the region as far as conflict prevention and conflict management are concerned. The deadlock situation due to these conflicts and



**A column of Russian military vehicles is seen leaving a checkpoint around Igoeti, on the highway to Gori, Georgia, in August 2008. The Russian-Georgia war two years ago led the EU to adopt a more proactive approach in the region**

the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty justify an increasingly proactive EU policy.

This is particularly valid for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, where the EU has been practically absent. Simply stating support for the work of the Minsk group at this stage is not enough if the EU takes seriously its new, more active role in foreign policy. The EU is the international mediator that is accepted by both sides and whose presence does not raise controversies. There is a need for the EU to lead the international efforts for rehabilitation and reconstruction in this conflict area by initiating reconciliation projects, people-to-people programmes and by sending a mission in the region once a political solution is found.

The conflicts in the region demand a special effort also with regards to the situation of the hundreds of thousands of displaced people, which has serious humanitarian consequences.

The EU has the means and the experience to contribute to the creation of a more tolerant atmosphere in the South Caucasus. It should also draw from its own historical experience and show to the people from the region that they can live together in peace and prosperity and that they can restore the good relations and trust that historically existed. One of the main tasks for the EU is to try to persuade the leaders and the people of the region to support the peaceful initiatives, not the threats, not the tensions. ★



**Evgeni Kirilov is rapporteur on the need for an EU strategy for the South Caucasus**