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***Political Development – Agriculture and Rural Development – Education – Environment – Regional Policy – Research – Tourism – European Events***

## Environment

### **Many of Europe's most vulnerable species and habitats under threat**

The Commission published a report on the conservation status of over 1150 species and 200 habitat types protected under EU law. Only a small proportion of these vulnerable habitats and species have achieved good conservation status and Member States will need to strengthen their efforts if this situation is to improve. The report, which covers 2001-2006 and is the most comprehensive survey of EU biodiversity ever undertaken, provides an invaluable reference point for measuring future trends. Grasslands, wetlands and coastal habitats face the greatest threats, mainly due to the decline of traditional patterns of agriculture, tourist development and climate change. The picture is not uniformly gloomy, however, and some larger, emblematic species such as the wolf, Eurasian lynx, beaver and otter are beginning to re-colonize parts of their traditional range. Many Member States invested heavily to carry out the detailed monitoring, and despite a number of gaps, the reporting has been a great success.

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## Research

### **The ocean of tomorrow – a new call from DG Research**

A new call for projects, was published the 30th of July, as the first Commission initiative to implement the European Strategy for Marine and Maritime research: €34 million dedicated to multidisciplinary research projects, to reconcile maritime activities with the preservation of seas and oceans. The objective of this call for proposals is to help us understand how arctic and marine ecosystems respond to a combination of natural and human-induced factors. This should provide a scientific basis for sustainable management measures, supporting policies and possible related technologies. The ocean of tomorrow" call shows how the EU's funding programme for research (FP7) can address global issues in an interdisciplinary way. The projects selected will be funded by several funding themes:

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Theme 2 - Food, Agriculture, Fisheries, and Biotechnology (€9 million), Theme 5 - Energy (€6 million), Theme 6 - Environment (€10.5 million), Theme 7 - Transport (€7.5 million) and Theme 8 - Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (€1 million).

The call is split into three topics:

- The first topic (€11 million) addresses the far reaching consequences of changing climatic conditions in the Arctic, both economically and environmentally;
- The second topic (€12,5 million) focuses on the human and natural impacts on marine life and their subsequent impact on economic sectors such as transport, fisheries or tourism; and
- The third topic (€10,5 million) deals with the potential impact of sub-seabed Carbon storage on marine ecosystems.

The application deadline for the call is 14 January 2010 and projects selected will be announced by Autumn 2010.

An **information event** will take place on the **16th of September in Brussels**, at the Charlemagne Conference Centre - Rue de la Loi, 170

[More info](#)