PRESS RELEASE

European Parliament calls on the EU to take responsibility for emissions from forests and agriculture but stops short of direct action

**[Brussels, 10 October 2012] –FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**– NGOs are pleased by the European Parliament’s Environment Committee decision today to include agriculture, grasslands and wetlands in the EU’s accounting rules for land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF). It was a missed opportunity for concrete actions, however, as they diluted the requirements for LULUCF Action Plans, as proposed by the European Commission.

“CAN Europe is happy to see Parliament moving to improve upon the weak LULUCF rules agreed in Durban last year, by making accounting mandatory for all sectors, including agriculture, ” **said Ulriikka Aarnio, CAN Europe Senior Policy Officer.**“The LULUCF rules agreed in Durban completely fail to account for what the atmosphere sees. It’s a pity Parliament did not use this opportunity to go further and push Member States to take action to reduce emissions from these sectors.”

Accounting for emissions and credits from agriculture is voluntary for developed countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Once finalised, largely because of their inclusion of mandatory agriculture accounting requirements, the harmonised EU LULUCF rules will represent an improvement over the poor rules agreed under the UN climate agreements.

“Today, the Parliament has shown leadership on climate change by calling for the EU to be responsible for all its emissions, not just picking and choosing the ones that give the most credits,” **concluded John Lanchbery, Principal Climate Change Adviser at RSPB-Birdlife.**

A link to an NGO briefing on LULUCF can be found here: [http://www.caneurope.org/resources/archive/doc\_download/2093-media-briefing-forests](https://webmail.ywt.org.uk/owa/redir.aspx?C=mrBD9i9IR0mNJ6OFDQGhYX1vVlLoe88IMVHq-1kchti_UjDKrxaSDX_rJsXULKatV8FuWDFOESI.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.caneurope.org%2fresources%2farchive%2fdoc_download%2f2093-media-briefing-forests)

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**Climate Action Network (CAN)** Europe is Europe's largest coalition working on climate and energy issues. With over 150 member organisations in 27 European countries, CAN Europe works to prevent dangerous climate change and promote sustainable energy and environment policy in Europe.

**BirdLife Europe** is a Partnership of 45 national conservation organisations and a leader in bird conservation. BirdLife Europe’s unique local to global approach enables it to deliver high impact and long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.