

Eisenach Resolution

The following resolution, to be referred to as "Eisenach Resolution", was adopted by the participants of the 10th Pan-European Green Belt Conference, which took place in Eisenach, Germany, on 16-18 October 2018.

The European Green Belt Association and the participants of the 10th Pan-European Green Belt Conference are

CONCERNED by the ongoing loss of biodiversity and the increase of habitat fragmentation in Europe;

AWARE about the important function of ecological networks consisting of large and connected habitats for supporting ecosystem services and the survival of threatened species;

AWARE about the outstanding contribution of the European Green Belt to the conservation of European biodiversity and the deployment of Green Infrastructure due to its length of about 12,500 km, the relatively low level of disturbance, the high level of connectivity, the pan-European dimension, the large share of protected areas, and the variety of habitat types in eight biogeographical regions;

AWARE about the responsibility to secure the European Green Belt as memorial landscape and living symbol for the overcoming of the Cold War for future generations;

AWARE that 18 out of 24 countries along the European Green Belt signed the Joint Declaration of Intent on the European Green Belt and two further countries sent letters of support acknowledging the importance of the European Green Belt;

AWARE of the well-established and long-lasting transboundary cooperation within the European Green Belt Initiative and the European Green Belt Association, a unique example of cooperation amongst EU and non-EU countries as well as between Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations from all 24 countries of the European Green Belt;

SUPPORTIVE to the EU Strategy on Green Infrastructure¹ of the European Union which aims to ensure that the protection, restoration, creation and enhancement of Green Infrastructure become an integral part of spatial planning and territorial development;;

HAVING REGARD TO the Action Plan for Nature, People, and the Economy² calling for a strategic framework for further supporting the deployment of EU-level Green Infrastructure, with a view to developing Green Infrastructure at European level, that contributes to the goals of the Nature Directives, including through improving spatial and functional connectivity of Natura 2000 sites so as to enhance the delivery of essential ecosystem services throughout the EU territory;

¹ Communication from the Commission "Green Infrastructure (GI) – Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital", COM/2013/0249 final

² http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/brochures/Action_plan_brochure_en.pdf

ALERTED that the land-use pressure on the European Green Belt is increasing significantly;

ENCOURAGED by the enormous restoration potential along the European Green Belt as targeted by the EU Biodiversity Strategy³ stressing that “by 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing Green Infrastructure and restoring at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems”;

The European Green Belt Association and the participants of the 10th Pan-European Green Belt Conference therefore

SUPPORT the ongoing process of protecting the inner German Green Belt as National Nature Monument;

REQUEST the governments of the countries along the European Green Belt to incorporate their share of the European Green Belt in their national spatial plans as priority area for Green Infrastructure, to improve the ecological quality and connectivity of these areas and to designate the most representative parts of the European Green Belt as protected areas;

REQUEST the governments of the countries along the European Green Belt to deploy the unique synergies of nature, culture and history for securing the European Green Belt as natural and cultural heritage;

REQUEST the governments of the countries along the European Green Belt to support GOs, NGOs, National Focal Points and Regional Coordinators in terms of resources to implement and facilitate the efforts to secure and further develop the European Green Belt as pan-European Green Infrastructure;

REQUEST the governments of the countries along the European Green Belt to acknowledge their share of the European Green Belt as memorial landscape;

REQUEST the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council to support the EU Strategy on Green Infrastructure and to provide significant funding possibilities for measures to protect and develop Green Infrastructure and ecological connectivity in Europe through transnational, functional ecological networks;

CALL ON the European Commission to further pursue the approach of developing TEN-G as an instrument to implement ecological connectivity throughout Europe and to establish appropriate funding mechanisms, especially supporting trans-national and cross-sectoral implementation and governance.

Eisenach, Germany, on 16 October 2018

³ Communication from the Commission “Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020” COM/2011/0244 final