



**Intergovernmental Science-Policy  
Platform on Biodiversity and  
Ecosystem Services**

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**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy  
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services  
Fifth session**

Bonn, Germany, 7–10 March 2017

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Organizational matters: status of the membership of the  
Platform**

**Communication from the Slovak Republic, on behalf of the  
member States of the European Union that are members of the  
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and  
Ecosystem Services, relating to the participation of the  
European Union in the Platform**

**Note by the secretariat**

The annex to the present note sets out a communication received on 21 February 2017 from the Slovak Republic, on behalf of the member States of the European Union that are members of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), relating to the participation of the European Union in IPBES. The annex is reproduced as received, without formal editing.

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\* IPBES/5/1/Rev.1.

## Annex



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Dear Mrs. Larigauderie,

As you know the position of the EU and its Member States is that the EU should be a full member of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). However, during the first four sessions of the IPBES Plenary<sup>1</sup> no agreement could be achieved amongst IPBES members on the issue of REIO membership<sup>2</sup> and the paragraphs related to this issue remain in brackets in the IPBES Rules of Procedure. This situation has limited the scope of the EU to actively engage in and support the work of IPBES.

According to the IPBES Rules of Procedure, notably Rules 2(b) and 5.2 and the related footnotes (while noting the pending issue of REIO membership to the IPBES set out in square brackets in these paragraphs), Slovakia, on behalf of the EU Member States Members of IPBES, would like to suggest that the EU should obtain the status of an 'enhanced observer to the IPBES' similar as to the status the EU has at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 3 on an interim basis. This status would allow for an active engagement and support of the work of IPBES by the EU.

Since 2012 the EU and its Member States have already contributed to IPBES through the mobilisation of experts and through the mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services, and the development of conceptual and methodological guidance, indicators, models and tools which are highly relevant to the work of IPBES. This work has been supported by various EU-funded research projects (e.g. STEP on pollination, OpenNESS, OPERA and OPPLA,

<sup>1</sup> - IPBES-1 held in Bonn, Germany from 21 to 26 January 2013  
- IPBES-2 held in Antalya, Turkey, from 9 to 14 December 2013  
- IPBES-3 held from 12 to 17 January 2015, in Bonn, Germany  
- IPBES-4 held from 22 to 28 February 2016, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

<sup>2</sup> Current status of REIOs membership states that "Participation is open to regional economic integration organizations as observers ad interim".

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ipcc-principles/ipcc-principles-observer-org.pdf>

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ESMERALDA). In addition, there are some potential EU programmes such as the HORIZON 2020 programme which could be mobilised to contribute to the IPBES Trust Fund.

Therefore, Slovakia, on behalf of the EU Member States Members of the IPBES would like to invite the Members of the Platform to consider this issue at their 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting, for example under agenda item 2b (Status of the membership of the Platform). We invite therefore the IPBES Secretariat to make our proposal available to the Plenary for consideration. The Plenary may consider to adopt a decision along the lines of the following text:

"The Plenary,

Decides that, according to the Rules of Procedure, notably Rule 2(b) and 5.2 and the related footnotes, the European Union (EU) has the status of an enhanced observer on an interim basis, while pending issue of REIO membership to the IPBES set out in square brackets in these paragraphs of the Rules of Procedure.

This status encompasses the following elements as regards procedural rights at IPBES Plenary Sessions:

The right to speak in turn; the right to reply; the right to introduce proposals; the ability to provide views regarding, and support the implementation (including financially) of, the IPBES Work Programme. These rights are exclusive. They do not grant the ability to vote or to be elected.

The document has been submitted to the Secretariat electronically to [secretariat@ipbes.net](mailto:secretariat@ipbes.net) and [anne.larigauderie@ipbes.net](mailto:anne.larigauderie@ipbes.net)

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