

**DR. CAROLINE LUCAS**

**Green Party Member of the European Parliament  
for the South East of the UK**

Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

February 14<sup>th</sup> 2005

Dear Margaret,

I am writing about the EU funding made available under Natura 2000.

As I am sure you are aware, EU leaders declared the aim of halting the loss of biodiversity across Europe at the Gothenburg Convention for Sustainable Development in 2001. Funds have been made available for this through a number of initiatives, including the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, that require an element of national co-financing.

I have been contacted by organisations based in my SE constituency who are concerned that this national co-financing may not be forthcoming, effectively limiting their ability to access EU funds. So, I am urging you to ensure that the UK's efforts to tackle loss of biodiversity is not hampered by a lack of governmental funding and to ensure that sufficient funds are secured to co-finance the initiative.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.