

**INVITATION**



**MEP Gaston Franco**

Cordially invites you to the briefing session on

**“Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and  
Ecosystem Services (IPBES)  
Reconnecting science to policy  
Why? What? How?”**

**Tuesday 29th May 2012**

**11:30 – 13:30**

**Room P7C050, European Parliament, Brussels**

***Followed by lunch***

Interpretation EN-FR

The well-being of people in Europe and all over the world depends on goods and services that nature provides. The clothes we wear, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, as well as fuels, medicines and countless others, come to us, free of charge, from our planet’s ecosystems and biodiversity that supports them.

However, this natural heritage is showing an alarming decline and the world needs a stronger link between government policy and scientific facts regarding the state of the world’s ecosystems and natural resources. In a recent report, UNEP together with the top scientists from around the world identified 21 environmental issues for the 21<sup>st</sup> century with reconnecting science to policy ranking the top three. By adopting a resolution on an EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, the European Parliament recognized that biodiversity science is the necessary backbone for policy implementation.

After years of international negotiations, more than 90 governments have just agreed to officially establish the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

IPBES intends to be an independent body aiming to link scientific communities and policy-makers. Established on 21 April 2012 and to be based in Bonn, Germany, it will equal the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for issues directly linked with nature conservation, food security, sustainable development and human well-being. Measuring the latest trends of ecosystem services and biodiversity and identifying policy relevant tools, it will shape the international agenda and set the scene for legitimate and credible knowledge to inform policy making.

Ambitious? Come and learn about this newly launched initiative with a range of views from various key players and discuss solutions IPBES can provide to decision making both at the EU and global levels.

**The agenda is attached.**