Press release | 25.11.2026

Right & far-right vote to weaken nature conservation

Today, the European Parliament voted on further deregulation to EU conservation legislation, including a call, supported by the EPP and the far right, to open the Habitats and Birds Directives. Among other things, the proposals include exemptions from environmental requirements for so-called strategic projects and as well as a weakening of the protection of endangered species. This could lead to data centers, for example, to be classified as projects of overriding public interest and built in nature conservation areas. With their support for this deregulation, the EPP and far-right factions are continuing their campaign against key EU nature conservation laws.

Jutta Paulus, Greens/EFA MEP who negotiated the Nature Restoration Law, comments

“The Christian Democrats have given up on the preservation of the Creation. Anyone who places the construction of data centres or industrial settlements above the preservation of natural protected areas has abandoned the path of sustainability and responsibility for future generations.

“If the EPP has their way, the sound of data centres humming will stand in the place where birds are singing today. It must be absolutely clear that building in nature reserves is not allowed.

“However, the Parliament's planned changes would enable precisely that. They would weaken the protection of endangered birds and other protected species. It would be easier to kill protected species or disrupt their reproduction, as the destruction of nests and eggs will be possible.

“We are fighting for the protection and restoration of our nature. We want a continent where birds sing, instead of exemptions for data centres, tech bosses and their AI corporations.”

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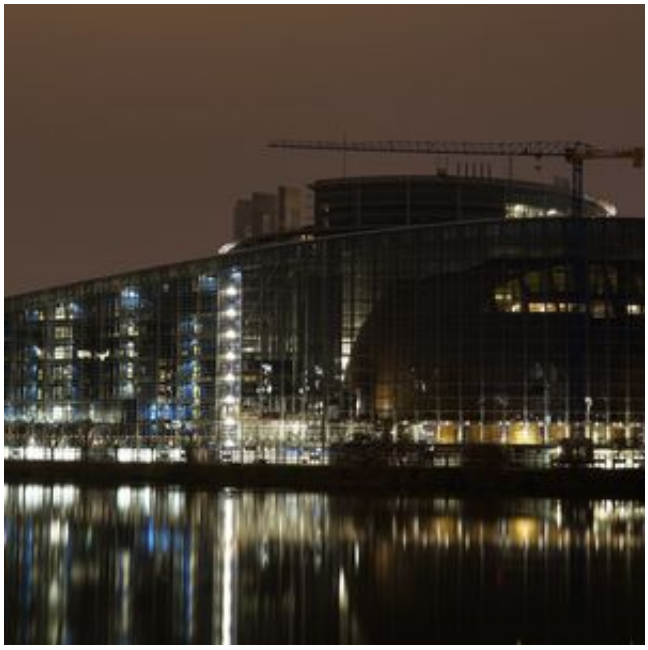

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Responsible MEPs



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