The meeting took place at the initiative of Green 10 to discuss current policy developments and share their assessment of the EGD from an environmental perspective.

Participants: COM: Commissioner Virginijus SIKVEVIČIUS (VS), Elena Montani (CAB VS), (DG ENV.01). Green 10: Transport & Environment; Greenpeace; EEB; Birdlife; Caneurope; Env-health; Bankwatch.

The Commissioner explained that this is a challenging 2nd half of the mandate. Important to meet different stakeholders to discuss environmental files, as discussions are not always facts-based. There may be not enough Council meetings to finalise files in co-decision. He stressed that he is fully committed to deliver on all the announced proposals, including chemicals, soil, food waste, forest.

Green 10 recalled reasons to celebrate (High Seas Treaty, deforestation law). Simultaneously, resistance is on environmental files is on the raise.

On NRL, VS expressed concerns about the number of wrong ideas circulating (food security in Europe, obligation to set land aside, red tape for businesses). Proposal provides flexibility for MS. Much confusion with obligations stemming from other laws and concerns about potential overlap. Need to increase knowledge.

On soil health law, important to seize the momentum, and very critical in the current context of droughts. Green 10 (Birdlife) observed that drought also triggers outdated solutions from the 70’ (dams, megabasses in IT and FR) which create societal divide and lead to environmental damage.

On renewables and environment protection (planning). Commissioner reminds importance of renewables to achieve climate goals. Cooperation is crucial to make the transition happen, fast.

On REACH: Green 10 support splitting the proposal into ordinary legislative procedure and comitology.

On ELD, Green 10 (WWF) underlined need for review to support sector specific acquis. Concern about limited scope, more limited than in the ECD, and high burden of proof. Commissioner recalled the envisaged timeline (results of evaluation to be ready by end 2023).