

# EU Policy Update on Pollinators & Butterflies



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# The EU Green Deal

The 2019 **Green Deal** was a set of policies designed to tackle climate change and the biodiversity crisis. It set out an ambitious long-term vision to 2050

The European Parliament supported the Green Deal, but that support has decreased due to concerns about cost of living, food security, war in Ukraine, etc. After the EU elections in June 2024, we expect:

- ▶ New Parliament will be more populist and right-wing
- ▶ The Green Deal policies will continue but will not be given such a high priority (maybe no new laws)

The **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** is a Green Deal policy that sets the framework for reversing the decline of biodiversity

The EU Biodiversity Platform (EUBP) provides advice to the Commission on implementation of the strategy. BCE is represented on the EUBP by Sue Collins and Aidan Whitfield



# The EU Pollinators Initiative (PI) 2018

The **New Deal for Pollinators** was published in January 2023 as a revision of the PI.

It was endorsed by the European Parliament in November 2023. The action list includes:

- ▶ An EU pollinator Monitoring Scheme (EU PoMS)
- ▶ Red Lists for butterflies, Moths, Bees & hoverflies
- ▶ Identifying Key Pollinator Areas
- ▶ Identifying pollinators typical of protected habitats

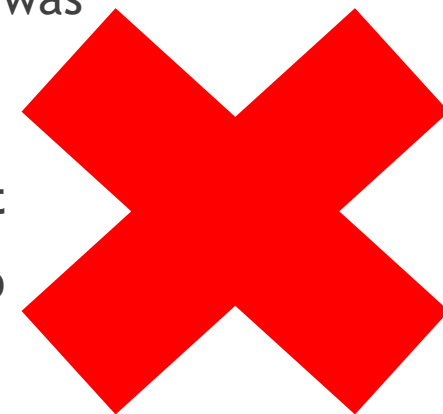
BCE is represented on most of the PI working groups:

- ▶ National Strategies and Plans - Sue Collins
- ▶ Pollinators & Agriculture - Lars Pettersson
- ▶ Monitoring and Indicators - Chris van Swaay
- ▶ Protected Areas - Simona Bonelli
- ▶ Typical Species of Protected Habitats - Dirk Maes
- ▶ Pollinators and Pesticides - (no BCE expertise)



## New legislation on Pesticides

- ▶ In July 2022, the Commission proposed a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides to replace the Sustainable Pesticides Use Directive 2009. The target was to reduce pesticide use by 50% by 2030
- ▶ In November 2023, the Pesticides regulation was rejected by the European Parliament and in February 2024 the Commission abandoned the 50% target
- ▶ June 2024 onwards, will the new EU Parliament and Commission do anything to significantly reduce pesticide use?



## New legislation on Nature Restoration

- ▶ In June 2022, the Commission proposed a new Nature Restoration Law (NRL), a regulation to strengthen the existing Habitats and Birds Directives. One of the early targets was to restore 20% of ecosystems by 2030
- ▶ In November 2023, the NRL regulation was approved by the European Parliament and it is expected to be adopted by May 2024



## Nature Restoration Law, Article 8

Requires Member States to put measures in place to reverse the decline of pollinators by 2030 and achieve an increasing trend after 2030

- ▶ eBMS is the only Europe wide monitoring system for pollinators
- ▶ The SPRING project developed a moth monitoring method. BCE could deliver a moth monitoring scheme by 2025/26, if the EU provided funding

## Nature Restoration Law, Article 9

Requires Member States to put measures in place to enhance biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems

- ▶ They must measure the Common Farmland Bird index
- ▶ The Grassland Butterfly index is one of the other measures they can choose to use



## Nature Restoration Law, Articles 11, 12, 13 & 14

Require Member States to produce detailed **National Restoration Plans** within 24 months, which will be assessed by the Commission

- ▶ The Commission is preparing guidance on what should be included in the plans
- ▶ We have not carried out a power analysis to show how much data is needed in each Member State to calculate their national Grassland Butterfly index

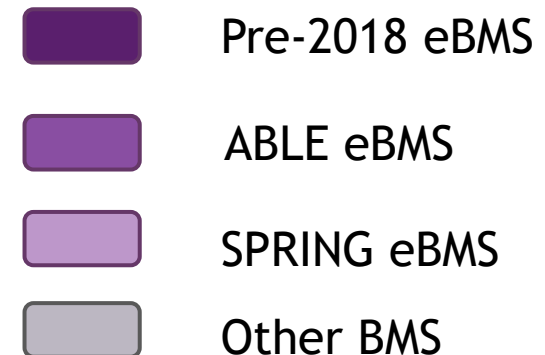
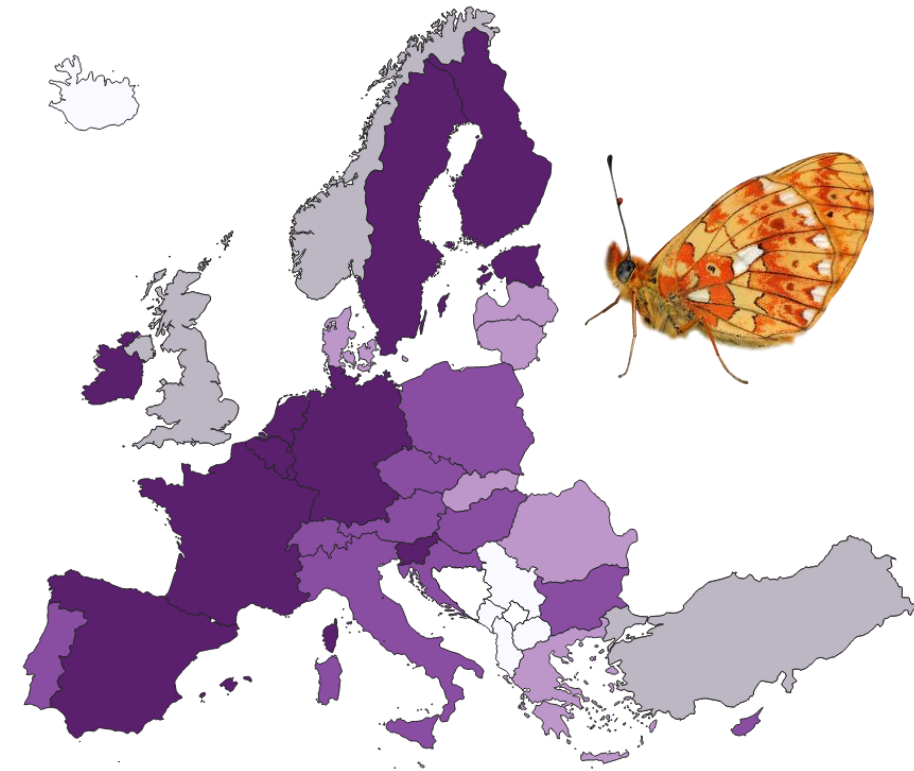


# Future EU funding for eBMS

- ▶ In 2018-2024, BCE and UKCEH used the EU funded ABLE and SPRING projects to establish 16 new eBMS, the Butterfly Count App, eBMS database etc
- ▶ No EU funding after the SPRING project, so:
  - ▶ BCE will use the last of the SPRING money to pay Cristina to support the eBMS network until end of 2024
  - ▶ UKCEH will maintain the Butterfly Count App and database but without any developments/improvements
  - ▶ The national eBMS coordinators will have to rely on national or regional funding to support their work
- ▶ The EU funded EuropaBON project will finish in early 2024. It will report to the Commission on how to organize biodiversity monitoring, including the costs
  - ▶ BCE and the European Bird Census Council have provided EuropaBON with cost estimates for European level coordination of bird and butterfly monitoring
  - ▶ For butterfly monitoring the BCE estimates are: 3.5 staff to maintain the eBMS, 1 staff to support NRL implementation and 1.5 staff to establish a moth monitoring scheme

## Member State funding for eBMS

- ▶ The BMS established before 2018 typically have:
  - ▶ A national coordinator with a permanent job in a university, research institute or museum that supports butterfly monitoring
  - ▶ Monitoring by semi-professionals (such as National Park Wardens) and expert Citizen Science volunteers
  - ▶ Some additional funding from National/Regional Governments, but it is often short-term
- ▶ There is a funding problem for many of the BMS established under ABLE and SPRING because the coordinator does not have a permanent job and the BMS does not have long-term funding from the Member State





# Time for Questions & discussion



## Funding Issues

- ▶ EU funding for BCE and UKCEH
- ▶ EU funding for a Moth Monitoring Scheme (a new project?)
- ▶ Member State funding for their eBMS coordinators.
  - ▶ How many coordinators are needed?
  - ▶ What skills and support are needed?

## Non-Funding Issues

- ▶ Working with Bird Protection NGOs
- ▶ Updates and training on NRL
- ▶ BCE and eBMS coordinators input to Nature Restoration Plans
- ▶ Updates on Red Lists
- ▶ Pollinator Initiative Working Groups

