

Declaration by the Netherlands concerning the cuts in national funding to the Coordination Centre for Effects and a related comment by the Centre

1. Declaration by the Netherlands presented on 17 September 2015

Over the years the work of the Coordination Centre for Effects has successfully contributed to the objectives of the Convention, in particular with regard to the knowledge and understanding of the effects of atmospheric deposition on all types of biodiversity in European natural areas. Results are successfully used in the integrated assessment modelling supporting several Convention protocols. The Netherlands highly appreciates the work carried out by the CCE and provided therefore to a large and relatively high extent the financial means needed. The conclusion we can draw is that a tremendous amount of progress has been achieved. At the same time it is the view of the Netherlands that the level of knowledge reached justifies to scale down our financial contribution to the CCE.

Against this background and taking also into account the general need for budget cutbacks, it is with regret that the Netherlands has to announce that their voluntary contribution for CCE for the years 2016 and 2017 will be significant less and that no contribution is foreseen for 2018 and the years thereafter. Possible budget cut downs were already announced in 2014 and with a view to the adoption of the multi annual work program of CCE, the Netherlands would avoid any misunderstanding about our financial intentions after years of considerable support since the start of the CCE in 1990.

2. Declaration by the RIVM-CCE following the Dutch intervention

Considering the position of the Netherlands, RIVM-CCE cannot provide guarantees that the CCE capacity after April 2016 is sufficient to meet the requirements of the workplan 2016–2017 of the Convention. Therefore the CCE is actively seeking additional funding for the tasks foreseen under the workplan.