



24<sup>th</sup> February 2023/21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

*From: General Secretaries of the ecumenical councils of Sweden, Norway & Finland, and Green church Denmark*

To: [Name and title]

### **Regarding the inclusion of “Ecocide” in the revised environmental crime directive**

Dear [Name] MEP

We, representatives of Nordic ecumenical organisations, wish to express our support for the inclusion of Ecocide into the revised environmental crime directive (2008/99/EC) that is being voted upon this spring, first in the committee of legal affairs and later in plenary session.

The care for creation lies at the heart of the churches’ calling. Caring for creation includes fostering good conditions for life and restricting destructional human behaviour. With law being an effective method for such restriction, legal questions become relevant for us as religious communities.

The immense harm done to nature globally makes it obvious that transboundary exploitation and destruction of the environment is inadequately dealt with in international law. The current revision process presents a huge possibility to reduce this gap, and we encourage you to show both leadership and compassion for safeguarding the nature we are a part of and depending upon.

An Ecocide law is called for by large parts of society, from countless civil actors via the World Council of Churches to financial organisations like the ICGN. This is because such international and European law would help to protect people and nature in countries with insufficient national laws, and create a common global boundary – for the sake of people, nature and just business alike.

Recognizing ecocide as a crime, based upon the definition of the independent expert panel in June 2021, and including it into the Environmental Crime Directive would send a strong signal, both to EU member states and worldwide, marking a milestone for protecting the living world that sustains us.

You are part of this decision through the powerful mandate you received. We ask you, please consider this legacy and opportunity, voting for the inclusion of Ecocide in the revised directive.

With cordial wishes and blessings upon your service for the common good,

Mayvor Wärn-Ranken, GS Finnish Ecumenical Council

Sofia Camnerin, GS Christian Council of Sweden

Erhard Hermansen, GS Christian Council of Norway

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