



## Call for Evidence: Environment and Climate Change Report

### WHAT is the Call for Evidence?

The call for evidence outlines the scope of EU competence for the environment and climate change. Put simply, competence is the EU's power to act. The call for evidence lists the key issues which the report will cover, including climate change (not energy policy – that's covered in another report); water and marine; air quality; industrial pollution; chemicals; GMOs; waste; nature protection and biodiversity; noise, and environmental impact assessments. It also includes a list of questions that we'd like you to complete via our online survey. The questions are designed to make you think about where EU action on environment and climate change helps and hinders the UK, and where you think decisions should be taken (locally, nationally, internationally or at a European level).

### WHAT is the aim?

The report stems from a Coalition commitment to review the balance of competences between the UK and the EU. This report is one of thirty-two subject-based reports which will provide an informed and objective analysis of what EU membership means for the UK. This report aims to deepen public and parliamentary understanding of the nature of our EU membership by examining the EU's effect on climate change and the environment in the UK. Most importantly, the report will be a summary of evidence submitted by a variety of interested parties. However, it won't be producing recommendations or drawing conclusions.

### WHY take part?

We are sending out the call for evidence widely to civil society, trade bodies, business, interest groups, Parliament, the devolved governments and academics. We invite anyone with relevant knowledge, expertise or experience to respond to the questions in our call for evidence. This is an opportunity for people to have their say on an important issue, outside of the political debate over the EU. It might be the only opportunity to share your evidence of the impact of the EU on your sector.

### WHEN respond by?

The call for evidence period will last twelve weeks from **20<sup>th</sup> May to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2013**. Throughout this period we will hold a series of events to inform individuals and organisations about the report, to encourage debate on key issues, but also to collect evidence for the final report. Please contact us for further information on these workshops.

### WHAT next?

Contact us for more information:

[balanceofcompetence.enviro@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:balanceofcompetence.enviro@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Visit our consultation page to read the call for evidence documents and complete the online survey:

[consult.defra.gov.uk/eu/balance\\_of\\_competences](http://consult.defra.gov.uk/eu/balance_of_competences)