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Chair, Global Rewilding Alliance
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3 October 2025

Endorsement for Sebastian Winkler IUCN Regional Councillor for West Europe

Dear IUCN Members,

I have collaborated with Sebastian Winkler for over 25 years, beginning when he was hired as one of IUCN's first environmental economists in the late 1990s.

His track record doubling IUCN's core funding in less than one year, establishing a \$400M endowment, and co-founding the Conservation Finance Alliance shows a talent for pioneering entirely new funding mechanisms that the conservation community desperately needs.

Sebastian and I share a passion for innovative finance that crosses traditional boundaries, and I had the pleasure of collaborating with him on an Earthscan publication looking at the interface of Trade, Aid and Security, coupling private and public finance for the benefit of environmental security.

His boundary-pushing approach, informed by science to influence policy and trigger action on the ground makes him stand out. For instance, while the conservation community largely ignored World Trade Organisation discussions in early 2000, Sebastian engaged as IUCN's Senior Policy Officer for Trade, Climate and Biodiversity and he contributed to the establishment of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, bringing greater transparency and environmental democracy to the WTO. He recognized trade as a powerful vehicle for conservation outcomes, including using WTO dispute mechanisms for environmental protection.

During his leadership in Countdown 2010, Sebastian also demonstrated that transformational conservation requires collaborative initiatives that become agents of change rather than isolated programs. He consistently transforms conservation challenges into innovative solutions delivering lasting impact. His combination of financial acumen, policy expertise, and collaborative vision makes him exactly the Councillor IUCN needs.

I strongly support his candidacy and hope that you will too. IUCN needs leaders like Sebastian.

Sincerely,



Mark Halle