

# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION PACK



# ABOUT THE EEB

Set up in 1974, the EEB is Europe's largest network of environmental NGOs, bringing together around 140 civil society organisations from more than 30 European countries (all EU Member States plus some accession and neighbouring countries), including a growing number of European networks, with a combined membership of an estimated 30 million people.

The EEB stands for environmental justice, participatory democracy and sustainable development.

Our vision is of a world in which:

- All people of present and future generations are able to enjoy a rich, clean and healthy environment, where prosperity and peace are secured for all;
- Responsible societies respect the carrying capacity of the planet and preserve it for future generations, including its rich biodiversity;
- Effective environmental policies and sustainable development have priority over short-term objectives that only serve the current generation or certain sections of society.

We promote the principles of transparency, prevention, precaution, polluters' accountability, global equity and shared but differentiated responsibilities.

For over 40 years, the EEB has been the voice of its members and environmentally concerned citizens, leading the fight for a strong environmental and sustainability policy throughout Europe and beyond.

## What issues does the EEB focus on?

The EEB tackles Europe's most pressing environmental problems by agenda setting, monitoring, advising on and influencing the way the EU deals with these issues. These include issues such as climate change, biodiversity, circular economy, air, water, soil, chemical pollution, as well as policies on industry, energy, agriculture, product design and waste prevention among others. We are also active on overarching issues as sustainable development, good governance, participatory democracy and the rule of law in Europe and beyond.

While the primary focus of the EEB's work is on the EU and its decision-making processes, we work also on wider regional and global processes, at the level of the UN and the OECD, in particular on the Global Agenda for Sustainable Development. Further, with the enlargement of Europe, the EEB has increased its cooperation with Eastern European environmental organisations, helping them use European regulations to strengthen their national environmental policies.

## what makes the EEB unique?

It is the only European umbrella organisation that covers such a large number of environmental policy issues and is at the same time open to membership for all bona fide NGOs active in the field of the environment. This makes the EEB a unique and unifying actor for the European environmental movement and gives it a strong voice in EU and international policy processes.

## Effective media and coalition building

The EEB has a track record of effective coalition building, working with other environmental groups, such as through the Green 10, as well as social and development organisations, trade unions and progressive industries to advocate for environmentally friendly and socially just EU policies. On an international level, we work in collaboration with many networks in the Global South on environmental justice, human rights and sustainable consumption and production. Communication work is an integral part of EEB advocacy with our media networks at the European and grassroots level ensuring an effective complement to direct advocacy and mobilisation.





# HOW WE WORK WITH OUR MEMBERS

## General Assembly



The full membership meets once a year in the configuration of the General Assembly, the highest-level decision-making body, to adopt long-term strategies and annual work programmes and budgets.

## Board and Executive Committee



Consisting of some 30 national members, up to 10 European network representatives and up to three other individuals, the full Board meets three to four times a year to provide oversight and direction in between the meetings of the General Assembly. The Executive Committee, consisting of the President and Vice-Presidents, provides direction in between the Board meetings.

## Working Groups



We have a dedicated Working Group for many of the environmental issues that we cover. Most Working Groups meet once or twice a year to develop EEB policies and strategies and for debates with policy makers and invited experts. The EEB works to promote our members' demands at European and global level. In between meetings, we use mailing lists to facilitate information exchange, discussions, monitoring of policy developments and the organisation of campaign and lobby work.

## Supported by the EEB Team



The EEB Brussels team is comprised of more than 30 staff members working on policy, communications, project management, campaigning, finance and administration.

# OUR MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

The EEB statutes include information on the EEB's objectives, structure and functioning as well as on membership and the membership application procedure. Please consult the [full statutes](#) before submitting your application.

**The EEB has four membership categories: full members, associate members, affiliate members and honorary members.**

The first three categories are for organisations; the fourth, honorary membership, is a status conferred on a small number of individuals on the basis of the moral support they have given or work they have undertaken towards protecting the environment. Only full members have formal decision-making powers; the other three categories enjoy other benefits.

## Summary of membership eligibility criteria

Criteria	Full member	Associate member	Affiliate member
Non-governmental organisation	✓	✓	✗
Legal entity in its own right	✓	✓	✓
Registered in the EU, applicant for EU membership, Eastern Partnership or wholly located in Europe	✓	✗	✗
Major part of its members originate from these countries	✓	✗	✗
Main objective conservation, promotion and study of the environment with the aim of environmental protection	✓	Active in the field of environment protection or related field, not required that environment is the main objective	Active in the field of environment protection or related field, not required that environment is the main objective
Activities on a continuous basis	✓	✗	✗
Independent of any commercial, Industrial, governmental or party political influence or interest	✓	✗	✗
General Assembly (Annual General Meeting – AGM)	Right to speak and vote at meetings of the AGM if all membership fees paid	Can attend meetings of the AGM in an advisory capacity, with no right to vote	Can attend meetings of the AGM in an observer capacity unless the GA decides differently, with no right to vote
Engagement in the work of the EEB	Can engage in all of the EEB's work	Can take part in some of the EEB's work and are entitled to receive certain of its publications	Are entitled to receive certain of the EEB's publications
Can nominate a candidate for honorary membership	✓	✗	✗
Can participate in nominations of Board Members and have its representative stand for election	✓	✗	✗

✓ Means yes/necessary criterion/access

✗ Means no/unnecessary criterion/no access



Based on the criteria, the following system is applied

	Access to EEB Working Groups	Access to EEB information	Right to reimbursement of travel and accomodation costs for attending EEB events*	AGM: Participation/ Decision-making
Full member	✓	✓	✓	✓ / ✓
Associate member	✓	✓	✗	✓ / ✗
Affiliate member	✗ **	Partial ***	✗	Decision taken on case by case basis / ✗

✓ Means yes    ✗ Means no

\* Different rules may apply depending on event budget; sometimes there are not sufficient funds to cover all full members, other times there are sufficient funds to cover both full and associate members, but as a rule, full members will have priority over associate members.

\*\* It may be agreed on a case by case basis that a representative of an affiliate member organisation or even a non-member organisation may participate in a specific working group, where this is deemed to be of mutual benefit. There is however no automatic entitlement by affiliate members to participate in working groups.

\*\*\* Means right to be on a mailing list to receive EEB's publications and certain briefings and other information; though not all strategic or campaigning information or internal documentation.

## National members and European members

Apart from the above membership categories, member organisations are also identified as being national, European or 'other'. National member organisations are those that are primarily active at national level within a given country, whereas European member organisations are those that are primarily active at European level (more precise definitions have

been established by the General Assembly). The distinction becomes relevant (at least for full members) in relation to the Board composition, which as mentioned above has some seats for representatives of national members and others for representatives of European members.

# MEMBERSHIP FEES

Member organisations are liable for an annual membership fee. A schedule of fees is adopted periodically by the General Assembly. The current schedule covers the period from 2017 to 2021 inclusive. The annual membership fee is based on the member organisation's annual turnover. Full members pay 100% of the annual membership fee indicated in the following table; associate and affiliate members pay 50% of the annual membership fee.

Membership fees							
Total amount of annual turnover in €		Category	Annual Membership fee in €s – Full member (Associate and affiliate members pay 50%)				
From	Up to		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
0	100.000	1	273	278	284	290	296
100.001	500.000	2	770	789	809	829	850
500.001	1.000.000	3	1704	1755	1808	1862	1918
1.000.001	2.000.000	4	3590	3716	3846	3980	4120
2.000.001	10.000.000	5	6225	6474	6733	7002	7282
10.000.001		6	8221	8591	8978	9382	9804







## WHAT WE OFFER



### **Close co-operation on the most pressing environmental issues with environmentalists from all over Europe**

The EEB offers close co-operation, networking, information exchange and capacity building on almost all the main environmental issues and the EEB is also increasingly working on sustainable development issues at a global level.



### **Tailor-made information about what is happening at EU level in the field of the environment and tools to help you in your advocacy work back home**

We analyse current EU affairs and keep our members informed about upcoming initiatives. We also provide our members with communication tools such as well-researched publications and statements to help them push for strong EU environmental and sustainability policies at national level.



### **Dedicated Working Groups on the majority of the issues covered by the EEB**

Learn and exchange with colleagues and invited experts from all over Europe. Full and associate members can join as many Working Groups as they want.



### **Contributions towards travel and accommodation costs to attend EEB events**

The EEB has a dedicated budget to cover the costs of travel and accommodation for at least one representative of its full members to participate in the EEB's Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM is usually organised in Brussels or co-organised with an EEB member elsewhere. It is always combined with the EEB Annual Conference that includes high-level speakers and engaging debates on the most pressing environmental issues at the moment. When an EEB Working Group organises a meeting for its members it usually has a dedicated budget to cover travel and accommodation for one representative of a full member per country and, if the budget allows, of more representatives per country. In exceptional cases, where funds permit, the EEB may cover the costs of representatives from associate members to participate in the AGM or Working Group meetings.



### **Visibility and outreach**

We give visibility to our members on our website and the possibility to promote members' activities and partner search via our communication tools (social media, newsletter etc.).

# INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN EEB MEMBER?

## Membership application procedure

Once a potential member has filled out the application form and sent it to the EEB secretariat, we will nominate two scrutineers to review the application. In the case of a national NGO, one of the scrutineers will be the EEB Board Member in the applicant's country. The scrutineers will review the application and make a recommendation to the EEB Board which will then make a recommendation to the General Assembly. The General Assembly decides upon all applications for membership on the basis

of the recommendations from the Board once a year at the EEB's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Organisations interested in membership are encouraged to join one or two of the EEB's Working Groups (see list on our website) for a three-month trial period. Joining a Working Group is the best way to better understand how the EEB works!

## EEB members' responsibilities

### All EEB members are expected to:

- Promote and give visibility to the EEB via their own communication channels (website, social media, publications etc.).
- Appoint an EEB Contact Person responsible for keeping colleagues up to date about EEB activities and opportunities.
- Encourage colleagues to subscribe to the different EEB mailing lists (newsletter, working groups etc.) and help the EEB to keep the mailing lists up to date by informing the EEB secretariat about any changes.
- Respond to requests from the EEB (surveys, calls for action, campaigns etc.).
- Take an active part in the activities of the network. Members with voting rights are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting.
- Pay the annual membership fee and inform the EEB in case of difficulties to pay on time.

## CONTACT

For questions about EEB membership, please contact EEB Membership and Development Manager

Emma Ernsth at  
**emma.ernsth@eeb.org** or tel. **+32 (0)2 790 88 10**



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**EEB**

European  
Environmental  
Bureau

**European Environmental Bureau**

Boulevard de Waterloo 34

B-1000 Brussels, BELGIUM

Tel +32 2 289 1090

eeb@eeb.org | [www.eeb.org](http://www.eeb.org)