

# META



**EEB**  
European  
Environmental  
Bureau

## THE FRONTLINE

10 worldwide environmental battles underway right now

## WATCHING THE WATCHMEN

What happens when people are empowered for the environment?

## THE THREAT FROM WITHIN?

How the slow burn of protections threatens Europe

# A new dawn for Europe?

With the European elections fast approaching, how can we turn this time of change into an opportunity for a brighter future?

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| **EVERYDAY TOXICS**

| **SAVE THE BEERS!**

| **HOPE FOR POST-GROWTH**

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Graphic: Gemma Bowcock

## EDITORIAL

### GEARING UP FOR A YEAR OF CHANGE

It's that time of year again. Every October, the European Commission announces its work programme for the year ahead with a list of the new laws it plans to propose, prioritise – or abandon.

While a number of environmental initiatives have been included in the Commission's 2019 work programme, such as giving priority to the proposed directive aimed at curbing the use of single use plastics and the sustainable finance package, the work programme falls short when it comes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – the world's plan to end poverty and protect the planet which all EU governments signed up to back in 2015. In the three years since then, the Commission has still not come up with a comprehensive strategy for implementing the SDGs in Europe up to 2030, as called for by the Council in June 2017 and more recently by the Commission's Multi-stakeholder Platform on SDG Implementation; regrettably, it only plans to come up with a 'reflection paper' in the time remaining during its mandate. Nor has the Commission submitted a report on the EU's SDG progress to the UN – and it makes no mention in the work programme of any plans to do so next summer during the next round of international SDG performance reviews.

We are now exceeding the safe operating space for humanity on this planet, and there is no sign that economic activity is being decoupled from resource use or pollution at anything like the scale required. And while European economies have been growing, inequality and poverty in Europe have persisted. If over-consumption continues at the expense of the climate, nature and people, then the EU will not meet the global goals by 2030. Civil society groups have repeatedly warned that change will only be possible by putting sustainable development at the heart of all EU policies. The manifestos prepared by the Green 10 and SDG-Watch Europe, in which the EEB has been actively involved, point the way towards a more sustainable future in the run-up to the crucial European Parliament elections next May. Recent public outcry at the proliferation of single-use plastic and planned obsolescence shows that more people than ever before are not content with Europe's throwaway economy that costs them money and depletes our planet's finite resources.

Our politicians therefore have a responsibility to ensure that resource conservation is at the heart of every sector of our economy by championing policies that ensure the things we buy are made to last – and toxic-free so they can be safely repaired and recycled. According to the 7th Environment Action Programme, agreed between the three main EU institutions, the Commission was supposed to publish a 'non-toxic environment' strategy by the end of this year. Sadly, no mention is made of this commitment in the 2019 work programme.

We must hope that the Commission's forthcoming SDG reflection paper will incorporate the ideas emerging from the Multi-stakeholder Platform in its SDG reflection paper. It would make little sense to establish such a platform and then ignore its advice. But if sustainability is to be mainstreamed into all policy areas and not end up in its own silo, those ideas must also be taken up in all the Commission's outputs in the coming year, in particular those that will shape the priorities of the next Commission, such as its inputs to the future of Europe discussions at the Sibiu Summit in May 2019.



**Jeremy Wates**  
Secretary General

# META

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# WHAT NOW FOR EUROPE?



By Ian Carey

**A**S THE GEARS of European politics start to turn towards the election, the future of Europe has never been more up for grabs. We look at moves to redraw the future of Europe on environmental and sustainable lines.

The image of a bored Nigel Farage slunk behind his Union Jack front and centre in the European Parliament is something that followers of the work of institutions will be familiar with.

But as the sorry melodrama of Brexit is inching ever closer to its finale, is the opinion of Europe's arch-contrarian Farage something EU leaders should consider?

## Is less really more?

The unending calls from Eurosceptics to row back protections and reduce the influence of European institutions is a something that has seeped into the lifeblood of the Commission.

Through President Jean-Claude Juncker's priorities and the 'Better Regulation' Agenda the current Commission has clearly tried to do less at European level.

This approach, for better or worse, is clearly a response to Eurosceptic desires to have less 'interference from Brussels'.

Many would see this approach as a failure. There has not been a great change in sentiment amongst those at odds with the European project. It is hard to believe that people like Farage or other nationalist

groups could ever be assuaged by a slowdown in European policy.

A stark example of this attempt to slow down European policymaking came in the form of the European Commission's latest work programme.

The Commission has proposed only fifteen new initiatives for the coming year. Seventeen pending proposals or existing laws have been cut and the Commission will put pressure on Parliament and Council to move forward on 45 priority proposals out of the 286 that are with the legislators at this point.

*"9 out of 10 EU citizens say that protecting the environment is important to them personally"*

This is a major slowdown and has to be seen in the context of the Commission's aim to do less.

Not only does this deregulatory 'less Europe' approach not satisfy Europe's greatest critics; it threatens something far worse. It risks alienating the people who see the value in Europe.

Polling has shown again and again that European citizens not only value protections for our health and environment, they want to see them applied more fairly and for there to be more of them.

Eurobarometer polls show that nine out of ten EU citizens say that protecting the environment is important to them personally. And a recent poll for the European Parliament shows that climate change and environmental protection was the fifth highest priority for voters in the upcoming European election.

So clearly there is a growing mismatch between what citizens want and the agenda of the outgoing Commission.

## Vision to fill the vacuum

When it comes to providing vision for a new Europe there is currently a vacuum. In the build up the European elections next May, NGOs have been providing their own vision for the future of Europe.

The Green 10, a coalition of the largest environmental networks operating in Europe, have put together a joint manifesto. The document outlines a vision for a more just and more democratic Europe that puts the well-being of people and the planet first.

It identifies four key priorities for putting Europe on a more sustainable path. The first is for the EU to make environmental protection and climate action top of the policy agenda. With the recent IPCC report on climate change highlighting the severe impacts of 1.5°C of warming, this could not be more pressing.

The second is to drop the deregulation agenda and provide

better governance. One of the great achievements of the European project has been to develop shared rules and essential protections. The Green 10 want the next generation of EU leaders to get back to regulating in the public interest.

The third is a commitment to uphold the rule of law and strengthen civil society. This points to the ongoing issues around the implementation of European law across the bloc.

The last priority is for the Commission to stand up to special interests and national governments when it comes enforcing the rules. In addition to these priorities the manifesto outlines ten wins for people and the planet.

Another source of hope for those looking to a better future is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With the elections in mind, SDG Watch Europe, a coalition of over 200 civil society organisations, have also put forward a manifesto.

They want to change the narrative from 'more or less' Europe to discuss the 'Europe we want'.

They believe strongly in a European project based on Europe's core ethical values and sustainable development: democracy and transparency, social and environmental justice, human rights, the rule of law, equality, and solidarity.

The SDG Watch's 14-point manifesto outlines a range of pressing issues from the development of the EU budget to the impact of migration. Central to their plans is a desire to put people and sustainability at the centre of European planning.

Over the lifetime of this Commission the foundations of Europe have been rocked. With Brexit, the rise of populism and the intensifying climate crisis, the future has rarely been less certain. Over the coming months the election will help us all turn the page but what lies ahead depends on who we elect and what vision they bring.

Two of our members give their views on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the upcoming European elections.



## Aranzazu Romero, ECODES, Spain

AGENDA 2030 demands joint global action to solve the big social, economic, political and environmental challenges posed by globalisation. It is focused on universal rights and equality – to leave no one behind – and on making all policies coherent with sustainable development.

Spanish civil society has come together as the 'Futuro en Común' platform to set out a long-term political proposal, both with a domestic and an international dimension, with an idea to reinforce public structures, with the support of the governance structures that have been announced by the current government.

Different models of Europe will be put forward at the upcoming European elections. Last summer, 250 non-governmental organisations launched an alternative vision for Europe called the '6th Scenario'. This will be another moment for European civil society to push for this vision. The 6th scenario calls for: the redistribution of wealth to promote economic wellbeing and prosperity for all; social wellbeing through the provision of quality, inclusive and affordable public services; cultural diversity and a caring society; and environmental wellbeing through a healthy natural environment that sustains all life on Earth and protects our soils, waters and air, provides nutritious, healthy food and minimises climate change. This is also the moment to stand up for human rights at our borders. It is our great responsibility to make the Mediterranean cease to be a tomb for thousands of people fleeing from war and hunger.



## Michael Ewing, Irish Environment Network, Ireland

THE SDGs provide a holistic plan and call for action, encompassing all aspects of sustainability: economic, social and environmental. As the SDGs are a universal commitment entered into by 193 member states of the UN, and because each state is answerable to the other 192 for doing its bit to implement the goals, there is the hope that peer pressure and mutual learning will spur all countries on to action.

At present Ireland is failing on several goals. To reverse this sad situation, Ireland needs to: completely rethink its agricultural policy away from beef and dairy (agriculture creates 33% of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions); support farmers to protect biodiversity; establish widespread strategically located marine protected areas; rapidly electrify the transport sector; retrofit over 1 million houses and buildings; increase its overseas aid to the long-promised 0.7% of gross national income (GNI); and change its tax laws to provide justice for less developed countries. This would be a good start.

The upcoming European elections are certainly an opportunity. Public opinion is on the side of protecting the environment, but there are so many forces pushing extreme economic and social agendas that will reduce sustainability. If we are to create the right conditions for the European Parliament to drive the delivery of the SDGs, then the environmental movement needs to work closely with allies in all aspects of civil society to ensure that the global goals become a central part of the conversation in the elections.



Europe has some great protections for the environment but all too often they are ignored.

# WATCHING THE WATCHMEN

Our new project sets out to celebrate the governments doing it right and to call to task those falling short.



BY  
MARIE-AMELIE  
BRUN

## What is Environmental Integration?

The principle of environmental integration requires EU countries to thoroughly assess the environmental risks of private or public projects such as infrastructure construction. It rests upon two evaluation processes which countries and companies must conduct: the EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) and the SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment). The EEB will focus on these two tools to ensure the environment is protected across all member states.

The SEA must be held at the early stages of projects. It involves public participation and information sharing to guarantee transparency and avoid construction with irreversible negative effects.

The EIA is to be conducted in case of individual projects – private or public. The EIA directive lists two types of cases that might require evaluation. In the first list, projects must be subject to an EIA without exception – for example in the case of the construction of waste incineration installations. In the second list, it is left to governments to decide whether an EIA needs to be conducted – for example in case of projects for the restructuring of rural land holdings.

These tools allow a meaningful dialogue between civil society, public authorities and developers and can lead to project plans that are sustainable and take the environment into account.

To help member states implement EU laws the best way possible, the European Commission put in place a process called the Environmental Implementation Review (EIR). The EIR aims to check the implementation of environmental laws and evaluate their relevance in each EU Member State.

To do so, nationally focused reports are published every two years, tackling various areas of environmental protection: agriculture, circular economy, waste management, marine protection, nature protection, water quality and management, air pollution, environmental taxation and effective governance and knowledge.

As part of this project the European Environmental Bureau will help by highlighting good practices in the implementation system, as well as giving solutions where gaps exist. The EEB will use its experience and contacts within civil society all over Europe to highlight empowering stories of environmental protection.

EEB's work will focus specifically on the role of Civil Society in this process. European NGOs have worked hard over the years, fighting for the environment and better protection of citizens. Their work is often linked with implementation issues and depends greatly on the effective application of environmental laws.

**N**owadays, protecting the environment is an international priority. At the European level, laws stand to ensure the protection of our natural heritage. However, there is still a long way to go for these laws to be fully efficient.

For the next two years, the European Environmental Bureau will take part in a process created by the European Commission, aiming to check the implementation of EU environmental laws and evaluate their relevance across Europe.

Loss of species diversity, intensive use of fossil fuels, climate change, and pollution are some of the changes that our generations are witnessing. They are threatening life on Earth as we know it.

Countries of all continents are taking steps to protect the environment, through international commitments and alliances. The laws and actions of the EU have established it as world leader when it comes to environmental policies – even we have historically also led to damaging the environment.

The EU has adopted a great number of laws but despite this, many environmental measures are not being implemented correctly around Europe.

In the European legislative system, once a law is adopted at an EU level each member state must implement it in their national systems.

## Case study: Portugal

In an area south of Lisbon licences previously granted by the Environment Portugal Agency were halted in June by NGOs asking for an EIA to be conducted.

A coalition of NGOs (named PALP) fought successfully against the offshore oil exploration project. While the Environment Portugal Agency claimed that it would not impact the environment, the local Court of Loulé supported the injunction presented by PALP and temporarily stopped the project.

The Portuguese government claims that an EIA will be conducted if sufficient quantities of oil are found. If at least 500 tonnes per day are to be extracted, an EIA must be conducted.

NGOs are now waiting for the next steps of the process.

For more information on our new project, head to [eeb.org/implement-for-life](http://eeb.org/implement-for-life)



## THE DARK SIDE OF EUROPE'S MOST WIDELY USED WHITENER

**“It was like they were giving us orders”: EU officials denounce industry’s push to block regulation of titanium dioxide, a suspected carcinogen**

**T**he chemical industry is spending millions to stop people finding out that one of their most widely used chemicals, titanium dioxide, can potentially cause cancer.

Titanium dioxide adds whiteness and brightness to food and paints alike. It is also used in sunscreens due to its ability to block the absorption of the sun’s ultraviolet light.

But recent reports of unprecedented lobbying from the chemical industry have highlighted a much darker side of the story.

The Titanium Dioxide Manufacturers Association (TDMA) has reportedly launched a €14m “science programme” to counter the classification and labelling of the chemical as a suspected carcinogen, as suggested by several scientific bodies.

The International Agency for Cancer Research (IARC) first classified titanium

dioxide as “possibly carcinogenic” in 2010, after studies showed increased lung cancer in rats that inhaled the substance.

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has recently recommended the introduction of EU-wide warning labels to be placed on products. Products include, for example, sunscreen or paint sprays whose content can be easily inhaled.

The decision is currently being discussed by EU and government officials.

But TDMA and several other lobby groups are trying to instigate dissent between policy-makers, according to an EU diplomat involved in the discussions.

“They had the power to hire good lawyers. We received several letters and it was like they were giving us orders,” the diplomat told the Guardian on condition of anonymity.

TDMA has cited socio-economic consequences such as job losses should products containing titanium dioxide be labelled as potentially carcinogenic.

“In our opinion, titanium dioxide has no intrinsic or extrinsic property to cause cancer,” said TDMA, which has gathered support from several governments despite the scientific evidence suggesting it can cause cancer.

Tatiana Santos, a chemicals expert at the EEB, said:

“Lobbyists are spending millions trying to stop people finding out that something they are breathing may be causing cancer.”

She added: “We won’t allow the industry to intimidate EU governments and put the health of citizens at risk.”

- Mauro Anastasio

EEB's EU Policy Director explains the risks of the "Better Regulation" agenda and the need to reprotect EU citizens and the environment

# The EU's slow burn of regulation risks killing us

By Patrick ten Brink



**Why are we so reluctant to legislate for hazardous substances?** Take chemicals such as the infamous phthalates. They are used to soften plastics but worryingly they have been shown to have impact on reproductive systems.

But they are not the only ones that have not been properly dealt with: there are widely-used pesticides that have been shown to cause cancer, chemical whiteners such as TiO<sub>2</sub> that have a clear evidence trail showing risks to human health from inhalation and thousands of hazardous chemicals in tattoo inks. All of which have not yet been legislated against, but are still found in consumer products and have been for decades.

There is also ever-increasing evidence of, and public outcry against, air pollution and the risks to health. The European Commission is taking several member states to court. But at the same time politicians, in the face of the difficulty in reducing air pollution, are seeking to reduce the standards.

Similarly, there is public opposition to illegal logging in protected areas (as in the Białowieża forest in Poland), letting invasive species undermine national and regional cultural landscapes (as eucalyptus is doing in southern Portugal), or having hydro dams ruin fisheries and ecosystems

(as is happening in the Balkans).

Citizens will not thank regulators for turning a blind eye to legislation and failing to implement commitments, delaying legislation, agreeing legislation that is not fit for purpose, or weakening legislation that protects citizens' health and the environment. EU law and national laws are needed to protect people, support the basic freedoms of citizens to live in a non-toxic environment, and the politicians and civil service should have the political courage to act more forcibly. Citizens' lives are more important than short term profit for businesses too slow to innovate and produce products that are safe. Similarly, we have a responsibility to future generations – we have "borrowed our planet from the next generation" so we need policy makers in this generation, to be responsible stewards of the planet and hand it over in at least a good state.

Furthermore, the premise that the EU regulatory system is overly burdensome and a major barrier to economic development is a highly subjective one, underpinned by little, if any, evidence. In fact, the available evidence, in particular in the environmental field, shows that a competitive industry is able to absorb and adjust to the costs of new regulations and that it can encourage innovation and long-term competitiveness. Progressive

business can and should lead the great transition to a sustainable future, and indeed should even encourage policy makers to regulate to reduce the risk from climate change, to encourage a transition to a resource efficient, circular economy, and ensure a non-toxic environment for their workers and their families. There is no room for cheating, as has unfortunately been seen in the dieselgate case. Those are not only illegal shortcuts, but steps back allowing global competitors to advance. There are too many cases where in the name of protecting (short term) European competitiveness we undermine medium and long-term competitiveness and doing a disservice to business.

Law making is not rocket-science, but it is a complicated business. It is the art of the possible. And strong commercial interests and ideological standpoints reduce the scope for what is possible in practice. Policy makers are human, will make use of the unfortunately biased models and tools at hand, and that they respond to lobbying pressure by business is also understandable. Surely, we need to reframe what we want by better regulation – to one of protecting EU citizens and the environment in which we live and breathe. We need a mindset on law making that focuses not on short term burdens to



Regulations are vital for protecting rich wilderness areas, such as Białowieża Forest (above), and for keeping us safe and healthy in our daily lives.

business but returns to one focusing on protecting people. And surely, we need to reframe how the political classes see themselves - they are elected to represent the people, or hired to serve the public, i.e. the citizens. They are not "political masters", but prime public servants with public responsibilities.

The shocking revelation that a third of chemicals used in industry break EU safety laws (see page 14) is one of many recent examples that underline the dangers of inadequate regulatory oversight and highlight the reckless folly of those advocates of deregulation who have been seeking a 'bonfire of regulations'. The "dieselgate" scandal further underlines the importance of regulation and its enforcement. The public cries should be properly heeded - for clean air, plastic free oceans, protect biodiversity rich and culturally important ancient woodlands, a non-toxic environment and a climate in which we can live. We have seen some progress – with the Paris climate agreement, recent renewables and energy efficiency

## The EEB's Better Regulation Project: Protecting Europe

Together with the New Economics Foundation, and funded by the Adessium Foundation and the KR Foundation, the EEB is working on better regulation - looking into cases of poor regulation, risks of deregulation, regulatory chill and poor regulation by non-compliance. We are seeking to reframe the debate on better regulation to identify the risks of the current agenda and show a way forward that can build on

targets – but even these are short of what we need to stop the planet from burning.

We therefore hope that the policy makers at each level – whether EU or member states levels (who we should remember are also members of the Council) – take a forward looking and more balanced approach to much needed efforts to improve the EU regulatory system, most crucially by promoting legislation to protect EU citizens and by ensuring that the public benefits (short and long term) of regulatory action are given

some of the positive aspects of better regulation, while moving away from a vision of short term business and administrative cost reduction towards one back towards law-making to protect the EU and its citizens. If you have examples of deregulation or risks of poor regulation that don't adequately protect EU citizens, please get in touch. Patrick.tenBrink@eeb.org

We will also engage with the EP election debate to encourage candidates and parties to embrace commitments to have EU law refocused on protecting EU citizens.

See also: [eeb.org/reprotection](http://eeb.org/reprotection)

sufficient weight and that rules, once in place, are effectively implemented and enforced irrespective of whether they address competition law, pollution, public health or workers' protection.

We call upon this Commission, the member states (particularly, but not only those that take up the mantle of EU Council Presidents), and for MEPs finishing their current mandate and those campaigning for a new mandate to fight for regulation that protects EU citizens and the environment.

# ON THE FRONTLINE

## 10 worldwide battles for environmental justice

**E**nvironmental justice activism is to this age what the workers' movement was for the industrial age - one of the most influential social movements of its time. Yet, despite its consistent progress since the 1970s, environmental justice protests seem to get lost in the morass of information on broader environmental issues.

In contrast, labour conflicts, including strikes and lock-outs, carry such gravity that the International Labour Organization tracks these on a systematic basis. As more communities are refusing to allow the destruction and contamination of their land, water, soil and air, these, in turn, deserve to be counted.

The Environmental Justice Atlas (EJAtlas), an inventory of social conflicts around environmental issues, fills that gap. It is funded by two successive European research projects, through a collective effort of scientists and activists. It records the failures and successes of the worldwide movement for environmental justice.

In honour of World Environment Day, some of the highlights of the most pertinent findings, stemming from the ten most critical categories of environmental distribution conflicts facing the world today are shown. These are listed in order of most-catalogued cases in the EJAtlas. But due to the nature of the project, this is not indicative of its global significance.

The case studies and database provided by the EJAtlas support the legitimacy and provide evidence to support the environmental justice movement.

The EJAtlas shows that people all over the world, organised in groups and networks, struggle for the kind of world they want to create, and in doing so, are promoting sustainability. Environmental conflicts are not disruptions to smooth governance, fixable with market solutions and technology. People are expressing grievances, aspirations and political demands. They should not be repressed; they should lead us to a better world for all.

### Conflicted renewable energies

**31 wind, 326 water infrastructure conflicts**

Renewables are necessary in a post-carbon world, but mega projects for dams and wind cause conflicts. Methane emissions and cost overruns hide behind a twisted sustainability discourse to justify dams. Rural communities create cooperative wind and water energy models, expose the violence and reclaim the right to decide what energy transformation and sovereignty they want.

### Trash economy

**126 conflicts**  
Facing a multi-billion-dollar waste industry are alliances of grassroots organisations protecting health and livelihoods. GAIA resists incinerators, BAN tries to decrease e-waste, the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers defends the informal recycling sector and the NGO Shipbreaking tries to ban the beaching of ships.

### Pesticide popularity

**23 conflicts**  
Despite pesticides impact on the environment and human health, their use in farming is increasing - especially in developing countries. Sadly, it is usually only when the impact becomes irreversible that people demand justice for the damage they do to health. In Argentina the use of glyphosate in soybean cultivation has been challenged with some success.

### Mega-mining

**270 conflicts**  
New technologies, highly polluting chemicals and massive amounts of water accompany mega-mining expansion in Latin America and Western Africa (bauxite or iron in Guinea, gold in Burkina Faso, Senegal or Ghana). Resistance in Latin-America and Africa is strong and often enjoys the high participation and leadership of women. This often leads affected communities to develop new local initiatives that are more sustainable.

### Fighting for fish

**77 conflicts**  
The industrialisation of fishing since the 1950s caused stock collapses and extinctions. Small-scale fishing communities reclaim rights for access to and control over aquatic commons. The World Forum of Fisher People and World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers combat fisheries injustices such as those caused by intensive fish farms in Turkey and Chile and big port projects in India.

### Land-grabbing

**600+ conflicts**  
The palm oil boom comes with a land-grabbing plantation surge. Palm oil is now in half of all packaged products sold in the supermarket but palm plantations replace food crops, take land from farmers, increase slave labour and cause deforestation, water pollution, infertile soil and fires. Grassroots activist networks stopped some of these "green deserts" in countries such as Honduras and Indonesia.

### Unburnable fuels

**178 conflicts**  
The fossil fuel industry increasingly depends on unconventional means and locations of extraction: from oil sand and fracking to Arctic and deep-water sources. Their contamination of fresh water supplies and marine systems, seismic activity and global warming gave rise to a Blockadia movement of direct action. Massive oppositions have resulted in moratoria on off-shore drilling, litigation over continued oil exploration, bans on fracking, the removal of gas pipelines, and the halting of oil and gas operations.



### PX-explosions in China

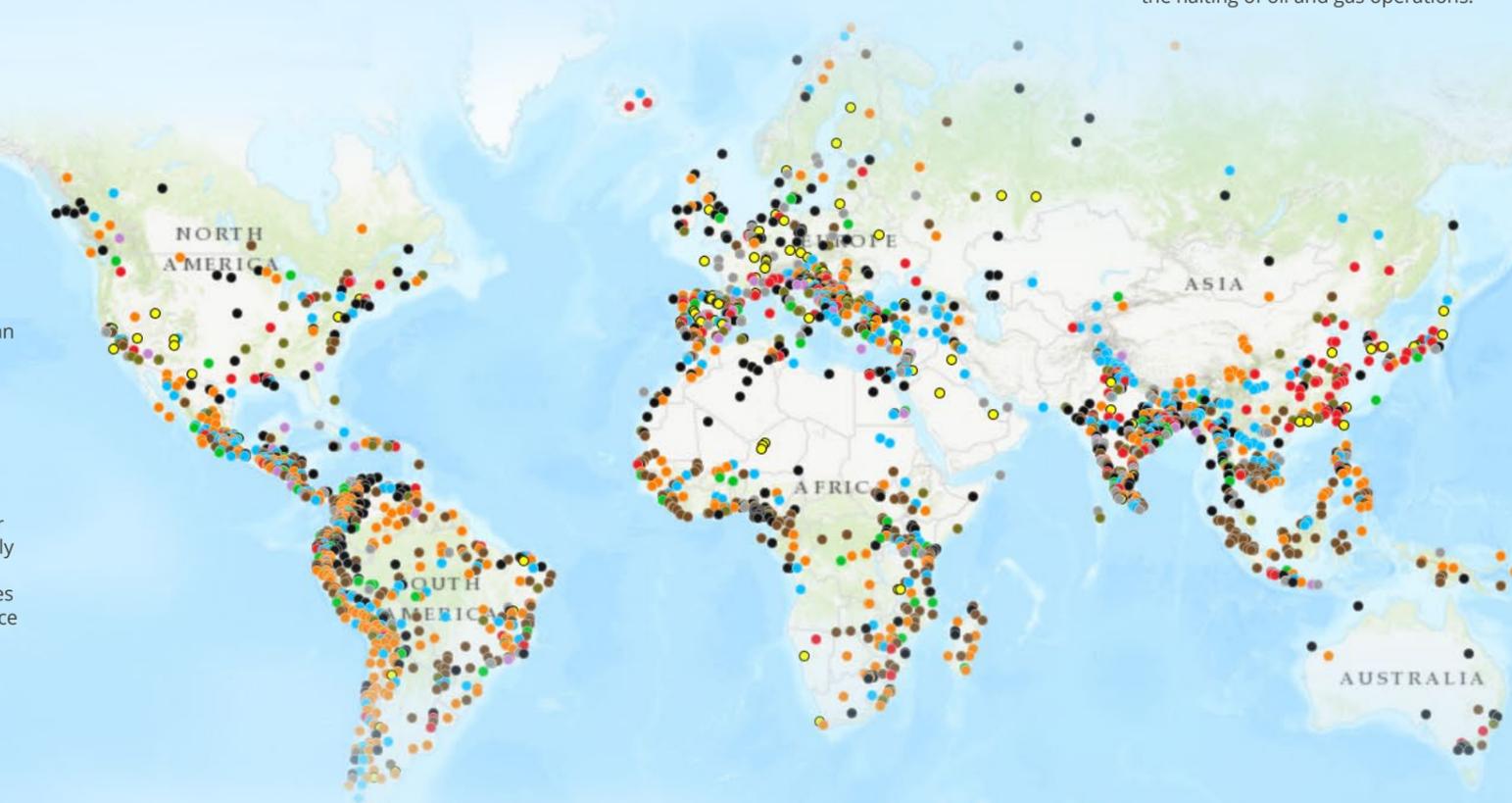
**76 conflicts**  
China is swept by large scale protests against the highly flammable petrochemical Paraxylene (PX), used to make plastic and polyester. Protests in Xiamen (2007) stopped the construction of a PX plant and spread to Dalian, Chengdu, Shanghai and elsewhere. The protests are linked to those against incinerators, wastewater issues, coal-fired power plants, etc.

### Nuclear nightmares

**57 conflicts**  
Nuclear power's risks are illustrated by accidents in Three Mile Island (1979), Chernobyl (1986) and Fukushima (2011). The risky "fast breeder reactors" in Creys-Malville (France, where an activist lost his life), Kalkar (Germany) and Monju (Japan) were stopped, but struggles at other places, such as Kalpakkam (India) are ongoing. Accidents and grassroots movements slowed down the nuclear industry substantially.

### Sand mafias

**82 conflicts**  
Illegal sand mining has ten times more value than all wildlife crime. The booming building industry is a key culprit. India is a massive hotbed of sand mining conflicts, from beach sand mining in the south to riverbed sand mining in the Himalayas. Hundreds have been killed. Despite all the violence, activists do occasionally succeed in getting sand mine moratoria enforced through the courts.



**Legend**

- Nuclear
- Mineral Ores and Building Extractions
- Waste Management
- Biomass and Land Conflicts
- Fossil Fuels and Climate Justice
- Water Management
- Infrastructure and Built Environment
- Tourism Recreation
- Biodiversity Conservation Conflicts
- Industrial and Utilities Conflicts

The EnvJustice research project studies and contributes to the global environmental justice movement. The EnvJustice team includes Sofia Avila, Daniela del Bene, Federico Demaria, Irmak Ertör, Juan Liu, Joan Martinez-Alier, Sara Mingorria, Grettel Navas, Camila Rolando Mazzuca, Brototi Roy, Arnim Scheidel, Julie Snorek (Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Autonomous University of Barcelona) and Nick Meynen (European Environmental Bureau).

To explore the interactive map for yourself, go to [www.EJAtlas.org](http://www.EJAtlas.org)

# A round-up of environmental news over the last three months

These stories and more are available on the new EEB news channel [META.eeb.org](http://META.eeb.org)



## LAST ORDERS FOR YOUR FAVOURITE PINT?

TO MAKE good beer you need clean water, but environmental groups have warned that fresh water supplies across Europe – and the future of beer – is at risk because EU water protection laws are being ignored.

The Water Framework Directive protects all sources of Europe's water, such as rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and groundwater. It is currently threatened by the European Commission's drive to reduce regulations.

100 environmental NGOs and angling groups have launched a 'Protect Water' campaign to save the EU's Water Framework Directive.

Freshwater ecosystems are the most threatened on the planet and the Protect Water campaign hopes its boozy message will draw attention to the fact that 60% of EU waters are not in good shape.

Take part in the campaign to tell the European Commission to keep EU water law strong: [eeb.org/protect-water](http://eeb.org/protect-water)

More at [meta.eeb.org](http://meta.eeb.org) and at #ProtectWater.



## 5 things we learnt when 20,000 Belgians became air pollution scientists

THE BIGGEST ever citizens' investigation into air pollution has produced some interesting results about air quality in Europe.

- Why do spiders ruin Air Quality tests?
- What don't they tell tourists about Bruges?
- And what's so curious about a Belgian's nose?

To find out the answers to these questions and read other discoveries from the investigation, head to [meta.eeb.org](http://meta.eeb.org)

### Opinion

## OPINION: E-waste - here's why we're getting it all wrong



IN HIS opinion piece, the EEB's Mauro Anastasio explains why International E-Waste Day missed the mark with its focus on recycling. He says: "We can't recycle our way out of pollution... Waste prevention and reuse are Europe's top two priorities to save resources, while recycling is the third preferred option."

Read more at [meta.eeb.org](http://meta.eeb.org)

Go to the hashtag #RightToRepair  
Watch the new video at the EEB's YouTube channel.

## LIMITING WARMING TO 1.5C IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE BUT UNPRECEDENTED TRANSITION NEEDED

IN THE latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, which is the global objective authority on climate change, makes clear that we are already dealing with the fallout of 1C warming and we need deep and fundamental changes to stop warming.

Environmentalists are now calling on European Governments to listen to IPCC scientists' warnings about the need for unprecedented action to limit global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees.

Read on at [meta.eeb.org](http://meta.eeb.org)

## ENERGY COMPANY DEPLOYS MEDIEVAL TACTICS TO 'PROTECT' COAL



IN OCTOBER, German energy giant RWE dug a moat to discourage people from trying to enter the threatened Hambach Forest.

However, it wasn't enough to deter protesters, who gathered in their thousands to speak out against the threatened destruction of the forest and the mining of lignite coal.

Since the protest, Hambach Forest has been given a temporary reprieve from logging thanks to a court ruling.

Follow developments in the Hambach story with us at [meta.eeb.org](http://meta.eeb.org)

## AIRPORTS VS THE CLIMATE: HOW DOES THE LAW RULE IN EUROPE?



AIRPORTS ALL over Europe are under construction, renovation and expansion. But the impact of this infrastructure on the climate are enormous. In its multi-part series of articles, META is investigating the airports at the centre of the battle to protect our climate.

Read on at [meta.eeb.org](http://meta.eeb.org)

## TACKLE OVER-CONSUMPTION OF MEAT AND DAIRY TO AVOID CLIMATE CHANGE 'CLIFF EDGE' - NEW REPORT

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE is responsible for around 16.5% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to the emissions from the combustion of all transport fuels.



In October, one of the most comprehensive reports on our food system's environmental impact stated that a huge reduction in meat-eating will be essential to avoid dangerous climate change.

For more information, go to [meta.eeb.org](http://meta.eeb.org)



*"Our economic system based on growth is showing its limits. We need to rethink growth to protect our planet and guarantee a future for future generations"*

- Patrizia Heidegger, EEB

## POSTGROWTH MOVEMENT CALLS FOR A RETHINK OF THE ECONOMY

IN SEPTEMBER the European Parliament played host to international experts to discuss "Post-Growth", a concept that challenges the use of growth as the primary goal of the economy.

For many, this means rethinking what prosperity means. Post-Growth uses human wellbeing and environmental health as measures of our richness over Gross Domestic Product.

Alongside the well-attended event, 238 academics signed an open letter to the EU calling for a move away from the focus on GDP, which was published in many major news sources.

You too can speak up for this idea of a brighter future by signing the petition at [wemove.eu/postgrowth](http://wemove.eu/postgrowth)

Read more on [meta.eeb.org](http://meta.eeb.org)

Find out more about Post-Growth and the event at [postgrowth2018.eu](http://postgrowth2018.eu)

Prosperity is possible



without greedy growth

# BAD REACTION

**'Silent pandemic' as fears grow that dangerous chemicals are in more everyday products than previously thought**



By Jack Hunter



**C**ompanies are breaking EU law by marketing hundreds of potentially dangerous chemicals that are widely used in consumer and other products.

That's the finding from a three year investigation into the chemical industry by national authorities.

Exposure to many types of industrial chemicals is a leading cause of falling human fertility and rising rates of childhood cancers, among other diseases.

A third (32%) of the 1,814 high production volume chemicals made in or imported into Europe since 2010 break EU laws designed to protect the public and the environment from harmful exposure, according to the study by German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) and the German Environment Agency (UBA).

Just 31 percent were declared as legally compliant, with the rest needing more investigation. The BfR/UBA study was announced on 25 September but not promoted.

EEB chemicals policy manager Tatiana Santos said:

"This rare investigation by German regulators shows that we just don't know whether or not everyday products are made from stuff that is bad for us. Not the people who make products, or the people who consume

them. What we do know is there is a serious problem with chemicals in our environment linked to cancer and other nasty diseases, and it is getting worse."

Companies are breaking Europe's Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulations by failing to report to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) whether their substances are cancer causing, neurotoxic, mutagenic, bioaccumulative and/or harmful to developing children or human fertility.

*"Exposure to industrial chemicals is a leading cause of growing rates of metabolic diseases and hormone-related cancer"*

Yet millions of tonnes of these substances have flowed into the production of all manner of consumer and industrial goods, from paint to packaging, furniture to construction materials, since 2010.

Exposure to many types of industrial chemicals, mainly through the mouth, skin or lungs, is a leading cause of growing rates of metabolic

diseases like diabetes; increasing rates of cancer, in particular to hormone related cancers (breast, testicular, ovary); and increasing rates of neurodevelopmental diseases, such as children born with lower IQ, or with coordination problems.

A few of the substances have become household names after their dangers were exposed by hundreds of independent scientific studies. These include bisphenol A and phthalates, widely used in food packaging.

The problem of chemical exposure is not new. UN special rapporteur on hazardous substances and wastes, Baskut Tuncak has warned of "incessant exposure to toxic substances" creating a 'silent pandemic' of diseases.

Miquel Porta, professor at the Institut Hospital del Mar d'Investigacions Mèdiques in Barcelona, said:

"We all constantly excrete toxic residues after daily exposure to plastic. This permanent internal contamination is contributing to severe health problems, suffering and high economic losses." He is calling for more effective regulation to substantially reduce chemical exposure.

## A New Home for the EEB

After more than 20 years living amongst high-end fashion shops in boulevard de Waterloo, the EEB has moved offices. We are now at 14-16 rue de Deux Eglises, Brussels, in the heart of the European quarter.

Since the start of September we have been adjusting to the modern open-plan work space and enjoying the last of the summer's sun during breaks out on the terrasse!



## Coming and going

### Leaving the EEB

**Faustine Bas-Defosse** (Policy Manager for Agriculture and Bioenergy) is now IEEP's Head of Agriculture Programme

**Leonardo Mazza** (Senior Policy Officer: Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems) moved to work on policy at DG Environment

**Carsten Wachholz** (Senior Policy Officer for Resource Conservation and Product Policy) now works as a Civil Society Officer for European Investment Bank

### Joining the EEB



**Bérénice Dupeux** Policy Officer for Agriculture



**Sergiy Moroz** Senior Policy Officer for Water and Biodiversity



**Giacomo Udugbor** Membership Assistant



**Nicoleta Bugarin** Finance Assistant



**Gemma Bowcock** Communications Assistant



**Francesca Carlsson** Legal Officer



**Evi Declercq** Intern for Global Policy and Sustainability



**Jean-Pierre Schweitzer** Product Policy and Circular Economy Officer

## About us

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is the largest network of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe with around 140 member organisations from over 30 countries. The EEB is an International non-profit association / Association internationale sans but lucratif (AISBL). EC register for interest representatives: Identification number: 06798511314-27



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# EEB Annual Conference 2018

## GETTING TO THE EUROPE WE WANT

5 Nov 2018  
Area 42, Brussels

*Actions to accelerate the Green Transition*

<b>0900 - 0940</b>	Welcome coffee and registration
<b>0940 - 1000</b>	Welcome and opening
<b>1000 - 1200</b>	High-level panel discussion All-change at the EU: more of the same or a chance to set an ambitious green vision for the '20s?
<b>1200 - 1300</b>	Lunch
<b>1300 - 1500</b>	Parallel break-out sessions - <i>see signs for room information</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Towards a non-toxic circular economy</li><li>• Protecting our life support system</li><li>• An EU climate policy as if our lives depended on it</li></ul>
<b>1500 - 1530</b>	Coffee break
<b>1530 - 1615</b>	Feedback and reporting from parallel sessions
<b>1615 - 1715</b>	High-level panel discussion Finding common ground for a sustainable Europe
<b>1715 - 1730</b>	Closing keynote speech
<b>1730 - 1745</b>	Conclusions and the way forward
<b>1745 - 1930</b>	Conference reception

# #EEB18

