

META



EEB
European
Environmental
Bureau

NATURE WINS EU ELECTION

Europe votes for climate action

SURFING THE GREEN WAVE

Why Europe needs a Green New Deal

EUROPEAN INEQUALITIES

Gaps widening across continent

From Green Wave

to Green New Deal

**Europe has voted
for climate and
environmental action.**

How will the EU respond?
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| CLIMATE NEEDS CASH

| CARING ABOUT CLOTHES

| EEB FAMILY PORTRAIT

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Image: lazyllama (stock.adobe.com)



EDITORIAL

Turning the page to a greener future?

In the last issue of META, we wrote that the big question ahead of the European elections was whether the EU could emerge in a stronger position to face the critical, even existential, challenges the world faces. It now seems that that question has been answered by voters all over Europe. With a 'green wave' spreading across much of the continent, politicians of all parties have started to get the message: Europeans want to see bold and meaningful action to prevent devastating climate breakdown and to help people and nature thrive together.

Environmental issues had a more central role this year than in any previous European election. A clear trend has emerged of success for parties calling for greater European action on climate and environmental issues, and this goes much deeper than just the traditional Green parties - see our story on page 4. Following a period when certain European leaders have obstructed meaningful climate action and worked hard to tear up laws that protect our environment, there is a new and genuine hope for a European Green New Deal (page 6) which finally places the Sustainable Development Goals at the heart of all the EU does (page 10).

The coming weeks will be critical in determining whether this actually happens; whether the importance that voters placed on climate and environmental issues at the election will fundamentally shape the new Commission's - and therefore the EU's - strategic priorities for the next five years. Whereas exactly five years ago, the priorities of the Juncker Commission were more or less waved through a Parliament in which the two largest parties had a majority, with virtually no debate, now a more diverse Parliament is paying more careful attention to what the new Commission's priorities should be. The parliamentary hearings that will be held in the autumn to assess whether the nominated commissioners are fit for the job will be a further key opportunity for our MEPs to ensure that the new Commission is one capable of delivering a greener Europe.

For the first time in many years, thanks to the votes of millions of Europeans - and thanks in turn to the young people and activists that put climate and nature on the agenda at the election - there is new hope for political leadership on some of the most crucial issues of our time. Now, the hard work begins to make sure that the EU delivers.



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GREEN WAVE: A CLEAR SIGNAL FOR CHANGE



It wasn't long after election results began to emerge that the press and pundits started to talk about a 'green wave' having crossed the continent. Anton Lazarus reflects on the election results that could change Europe forever.

On the morning of Saturday 25 May, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar tweeted: "It's a very clear message from the public that they want us to do more on climate action - and we've got that message."

After months of protests and hundreds of 'school strikes' all over Europe, a message that young people had been trying to send to adults appeared to be finally getting through. Climate and the environment had become major issues in an election campaign that for many people offered the last chance to elect a European Parliament that still had time to act.

Varadkar's tweet was just a taste of what was to come and signalled the start of what was quickly dubbed the 'green wave'.

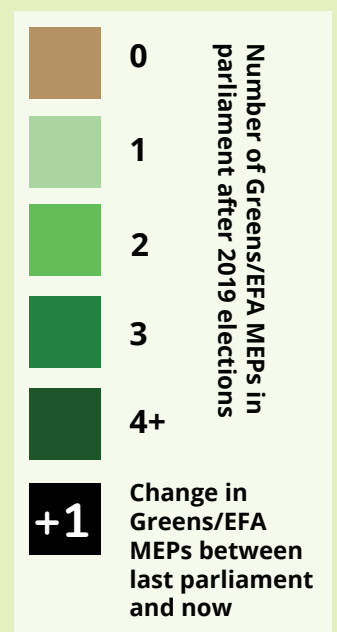
Sweeping across Europe from Ireland in the west to Lithuania in the east and Portugal in the south, Green parties went on to win additional seats in ten countries: Germany, France, the UK, the Netherlands, Portugal, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Lithuania and Ireland.

Weeks later, as results were officially confirmed, and further parties opted to join the Green group in the European Parliament, the total number of Green seats had risen from 52 in 2014 to 75 now. This growth was made all the more significant

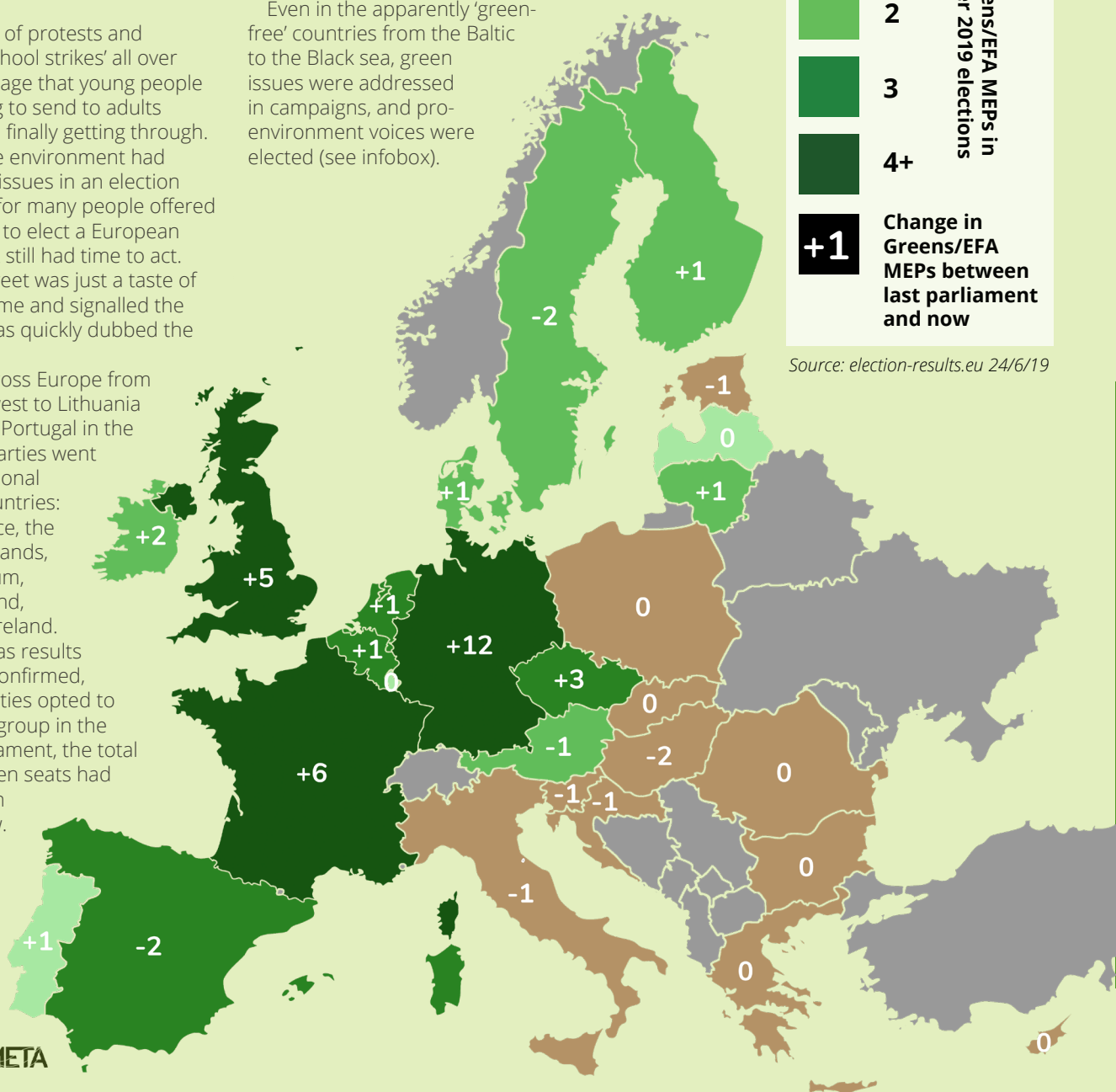
by the drop in the vote for the parties of the traditional 'grand coalition' of centre-left and centre-right.

But the success of Green parties, particularly in Ireland, the UK, France and Germany, is only part of the story of the green wave.

Even in the apparently 'green-free' countries from the Baltic to the Black sea, green issues were addressed in campaigns, and pro-environment voices were elected (see infobox).



Source: election-results.eu 24/6/19



On Monday 27 May Angela Merkel woke up to a similar situation to that which Leo Varadkar had found himself in just two days earlier. Merkel's CDU, like Varadkar's *Fine Gael*, is a member of the EPP group of European conservatives. Both countries saw a surge in the vote for their respective Green parties.

In Germany *die Grünen* took second place in the election, gathering more than 20% of the national vote. The party even leapfrogged Merkel's CDU into first place in some post-election opinion polls.

The EPP may have been damaged by a pre-election report by the Climate Action Network that referred to the party as "climate dinosaurs" and highlighted a voting record that had "not yet grasped the need for action against climate change".

Meanwhile in France, where the election was seen by many as a battle between President Macron's *La République en marche* and the far-right National Rally, Yannick Jadot's European Ecology party came comfortably third. With more than three million votes, it took twelve new seats, six of them new.

Success for the Greens in both France and Germany was thanks to strong support from younger voters.

An exit poll in France pointed to 22% of 18-24 year olds going green while similar research in Germany showed an even stronger lead, with 29% of the under-30s making the same choice.

While the election in the UK was overshadowed by Brexit, the Greens were not the only party opposed to the country leaving the European Union

“

An exit poll in France pointed to 22% of 18-24 year olds going green while similar research in Germany showed an even stronger lead, with 29% of the under-30s making the same choice.

”

and they too enjoyed an historic result. The English and Welsh Green Party's seven MEPs will be joined by three Scottish National and one Plaid Cymru member in the European Green group.

The green wave was accompanied by the first ever increase in turnout between EU elections. For the first time in more than 20 years, more than 50% of eligible voters turned up to cast their ballot.

The European Parliament has been praised for its work to boost participation but citizens' groups across Europe also worked incredibly hard to encourage their supporters to vote.

Of course, the election was not all good news, and not just because the Irish government approved a licence for a new oil and gas well just days after the Leo Varadkar sent his "we've got that message" tweet.

In a number of countries, including Belgium, France, Hungary and Italy, extreme right-wing, anti-immigration and anti-EU parties took significant shares of the vote. Yet their success was not as great as had been predicted by some and they failed to grow their overall share of the vote in the way that Green parties managed.

The European Parliament is certainly now more representative. The need for the centre-right and centre-left to work with the liberal and green fractions to form a majority will make decision making more inclusive.

A final observation? While much is written about the rise of anti-Europeans, there is a strong pro-EU majority in the new European Parliament. This can only be welcomed by those of us that care about the environment and understand the importance of working across borders to make sure that nature can flourish.

THE GREEN WAVE IN THE EAST

The green wave was more than just about Green parties, as the success of liberal, socialist and conservative candidates that campaigned on green issues has shown.

SLOVAKIA

Michal Wiezik and Martin Hojsík both boast green credentials but will join the Renew bloc of liberals, as will the two members from the new pro-European Momentum party in Hungary, which also highlighted green issues when campaigning.

ROMANIA

The big winners were the new Alliance 2020 party, which describes itself as centrist and pro-European, its inclusive nature could leave the door open to more environmentally progressive policies than the country's previously dominant socialist and conservatives ever managed.

BULGARIA

Radan Kanev, who will join the EPP, was elected as the only candidate from a coalition of parties that included the local greens. Kanev has supported and fought for environmental causes in the past and is expected to continue to do so.

POLAND

The new *Wiosna* - or 'Spring' - party saw three members elected. Łukasz Kohut, Sylwia Spurek and Robert Biedroń will join the S&D group of socialists and democrats having stood on a platform that included increasing green policies and animal rights.

Europe's turn for a Green New Deal?



With the European elections behind us, what could the 'green wave' mean for the EU? The EEB's Director of EU Policy Patrick ten Brink says it's time to get serious about a European Green New Deal.

The environmental challenges facing Europe and humankind - the climate emergency, "insectageddon" and the wider biodiversity crisis, body-changing chemicals exposure, the corrosive effects of poor air quality on health and society - are existential challenges. Each of these challenges underlines the fact that existing commitments and actions are not enough, a series of small steps forward is not enough, tweaking what we have is not enough.

We need a deep systemic change of our policies and attitudes to people and planet, and we need to answer the calls of the youth in the streets, of civil society groups and of the vast majority of the world's scientists. The facts are there. The voices too.

The EU is facing a choice about its next Environment Action Programme. The current one ends in 2020 and discussions on its successor are underway.

The new '8EAP' needs to address the above threats, but to be a motivating

'green new deal' it should embrace a positive agenda that responds to citizen expectations and aspirations - for clean air and water, access to rich nature, plastic free oceans, and products we can trust to be free of hazards.

"We need to answer the calls of the youth in the streets, of civil society groups and of the vast majority of the world's scientists."

We need healthy liveable cities, a supporting climate, environmental and social justice. We also need to be able to say that our policy leaders listen to citizens when deciding laws and deliver on their promises.

So what can such a Green New Deal do?

First, it should respond to the clear environment crises and young people's call for action.

If our existing laws are not ambitious enough to address the existential challenges we face, we need to act. The EU has committed to a transformative circular economy agenda. And many countries are already raising their game, declaring climate emergency, or making serious, bold, needed commitments, such as the new Finnish government's commitment to go carbon neutral by 2035, or the fact that the New Zealand government has put wellbeing at the heart of all its policies, dethroning GDP growth and crowning a people's perspective.

Second, we need strategies and action plans for system change to address lock-ins and enable a swifter and just transition to a one-planet economy.

“Implement and enforce our promises, and we are a long way towards the future we want.”

There is little point taking resources from the ground to make products that are used once and thrown away, when we can reuse, repair, recycle. There is little point in building roads or new airport runways that lock in

greenhouse gas emissions growth, when rail can do the job. There is no point subsidising fossil fuels when we've committed to a cleaner future.

Third, we need to implement our promises – EU and national laws on air quality, on chemicals, on protecting nature, and the global Sustainable Development Goals that we worked so hard to negotiate. Implement these, enforce these, and we are a long way towards the future we want, the future our children and their children would thank us for. At the moment, we are not there; and young people rightly feel betrayed.

Together these three paths can form the core of a Green New Deal. To achieve this requires not just courage and conviction, but also open and cooperative governance; it can only

work if there is a serious greening of finance and economics; and can be helped by sensible use of digitalisation and artificial intelligence, an ethical 'AI for People and Planet'.

We stand before a decision: a small-steps-forward, 'business as usual plus' approach, or a true Green New Deal that embraces people and planet, and interestingly, will also create a foundation for a future sustainable economy. Which do you choose?

The EEB is developing a civil society vision for the 8EAP and we would be happy to share our working recommendations with any interested parties across the EU.

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Marie-Amélie Brun
investigates...

What could be in a European Green New Deal?

1 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS AND TARGETS

Strengthening existing objectives and commitments like the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (see page 10) and taking on environmental challenges in a joined-up way. Plastics, climate, chemicals, agriculture – these issues are more linked than we think and finding the interactions and fixing systemic problems is essential.

2 STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS FOR SYSTEM CHANGE

Our economic system has locked us up in a vicious circle that won't allow for change. To bring our consumption into line with what the planet can sustain, we need to rethink our investments and break the chains that link us to some damaging activities.

3 PUTTING EXISTING LAWS INTO PRACTICE

Too many EU laws are not applied correctly or could be put to better use: why are so many cities still breaking air quality laws? Why is fresh water so polluted? The first step needed in the EU is the proper implementation of laws and the launch of so-called 'infringement procedures' against governments that don't follow the rules.

No more gifts to polluters: Towards a more inclusive and responsible EU budget



The EU's budget is often hugely controversial. Mauro Anastasio takes a look at how European money could be put to good use – to prevent climate breakdown.

It's a climate emergency – that much we know. Now, what is Europe going to do about it?

Forget 'emissions reduction'. Many in the EU want to go all in and are stepping up plans to achieve 'net zero carbon emissions by 2050'. Although the failure to reach a consolidated position has recently delayed the negotiations, EU governments are expected to submit their long-term strategy before the end of the year.

The UK became the first major economy in the G7 to legally commit to such a target in June.

There's something comforting about seeing these commitments being taken seriously. Only five years ago this sort of language would have been unthinkable.

But despite calls for action and heart-warming tweets, there's a long way to go – for example, we know that staying within 1.5°C will mean reaching net zero much sooner than 2050. The EU is still financing controversial projects that continue our dependence on fossil fuels, like the controversial Trans-Adriatic Pipeline transporting gas from the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean.

As governments continue to give money to oil, gas and coal companies, they incentivise the use of fossil fuels at the expense of clean and renewable energy. The UK itself hit the headlines in January when a European Commission report found the country has the biggest fossil fuel subsidies in the EU – about €12 billion a year.

Scientists and financial experts agree that if we want to avert climate breakdown, there must be a change of direction in the way public money is spent.

Greening the EU budget

The revision of the upcoming EU budget, known as the Multiannual Financial Framework or MFF for short, will decide how EU money is spent in the next seven years.

The Commission wants to increase the money available to address the climate crisis from the current 20% to 25% of the new budget – that means from €206 billion in previous years to €320 billion for 2021-2027.

But that's not enough, according to the European Parliament and environmental experts, who have proposed respectively a 30% and 40% minimum spending on projects supporting climate-neutral energy and business models.

Proposals for % of new
EU budget to be spent on
tackling the climate crisis:

25%

European Commission

30%

European Parliament

40%

Environmental groups

The Parliament and green groups also support the exclusion of support to fossil fuels from the budget.

The negotiations are ongoing and EU governments are expected to reach an agreement on this by the end of the year, but they have so far delayed talks and shown much less urgency than the Parliament and Commission.

To protect citizens from climate breakdown our lawmakers must

agree to redirect investments towards cleaner energy, transport, agriculture and business models, says EEB policy officer Roland Joebstl. "This means no more gifts to industries that are literally destroying the climate and killing people, but investments in clean solutions and financial support for those regions that still rely on fossil fuels. No one must be left behind in the transition to a green economy," he said.

Any agreement will have to clearly spell out what percentage of the overall budget will be allocated to the climate crisis; how much money each government should put in the pot; and clearer guidelines as to what the money is going to be spent on and what it definitely shouldn't be spent on.

This last point is expected to be the subject of a heated debate, as the largest single share of the EU budget is currently used controversially to support largely unsustainable agriculture. Intensive farming is responsible for 10% of the total carbon emissions in the EU and is the third biggest source of primary particulate matter – a harmful air pollutant. Campaigners have called for public money to be used exclusively for farming that's based on sustainable practices.

All eyes are now on Finland, which is holding the rotating presidency of the EU Council and will coordinate work on behalf of all governments to come up with a final budget proposal before the end of the year. The Scandinavian government has just announced it will go climate neutral by 2035, spurring hope that an ambitious deal could be struck soon.

EXPERT Q&A

A sterile world?



META sat down with Bérénice Dupeux, EEB Policy Officer for Agriculture, to talk about the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and what role the European Parliament should play.

Hello Bérénice, could you tell us more about the history of the CAP?

After the second world war, European countries were in a very difficult situation, facing food shortages, with many people on food stamps. Policymakers saw a liberal market economy as an ideal solution as it would ensure the availability of food and promote peace as a result of the interdependence between countries. So, the six founding countries of the EU (Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands) agreed to the first CAP in 1962.

What is the difference between the CAP from 1962 and the one we have now?

Funnily enough, they are not that different.

Why is that?

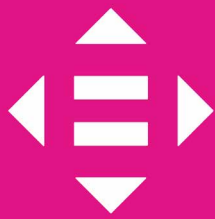
In 1962, farmers' incomes were on average lower than the rest of the economy and the farming population was aging. The situation is similar today. Despite the EU becoming a net exporter of agricultural commodities (an agricultural model based on export), the CAP failed to help the farming community, instead creating a major environmental crisis. Water pollution, air pollution, soil erosion, and many more environmental issues are caused by our current agricultural system.

What should we expect from the European Parliament over the next five years?

The new European Parliament arrives at a crucial time for the CAP, as MEPs need to decide what direction the policy will take for the next 7 years. I want to make it clear that we can't have incremental changes anymore, we need a drastic change. We know that if we don't do anything regarding the climate, our environment, and our biodiversity, we will not get it back. The next generation, my daughter, should not be faced with a sterile world. The European Parliament needs to embrace change and not resist it. They have the support of citizens. Historically, the EU has been able to answer major food crises very quickly, today it is time to address our climate and environmental crisis.

Listen to the full META podcast at meta.eeb.org

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Europe's deepening inequalities are leaving too many behind



The UN's Sustainable Development Goal's are the world's crisis plan to end poverty and protect the planet. Goal 10 of 17 is to reduce inequalities. Khaled Diab explains how a new report exposes the widening inequalities in Europe, as more and more people fall through the cracks.

Despite the European Union's commitment to 'leave no one behind', millions of people in Europe are falling victim to widening inequalities, a newly released EU-wide report concludes.

Meanwhile, European governments are not doing enough to bridge the chasm.

On Tuesday 18 June, 'Falling through the cracks: Exposing inequalities in the European Union and beyond', a major new report on inequalities in Europe, was released by SDG Watch Europe and Make Europe Sustainable for All (MESA), two Europe-wide civil society platforms which seek to raise awareness of and promote the ambitious implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

All EU countries have signed up to

deliver on the SDGs in the coming years. Widening inequalities are a challenge that cuts across and affects many of the other goals.

The release was timed to coincide with the European Development Days (EDD), whose theme also related to addressing inequalities and "building a world which leaves no one behind".

While visitors and delegates to the event received a wealth of information about inequalities in developing nations and how the EU social model could help tackle these inequalities,

"Inequality is not only a fact in the Global South, it is also a problem in Europe."

missing from the official programme was how the much-vaunted European model was under assault and how

many forms of inequalities were widening in a part of the world which prides itself on its egalitarianism.

To raise awareness of this oversight, a team of 'Fight Inequality' activists, dressed fetchingly in sandwich boards with eye-catching designs, talked to hundreds of visitors outside the EDD venue in Brussels about inequalities in Europe and about the report.

"Inequality is not only a fact in the Global South, it is also a problem in Europe," Patrizia Heidegger, director of global policies and sustainability at the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), said during a packed side event at the EDD.

"The EU is one of the wealthiest regions on the planet and prides itself on being a leader in social progress and sustainability," she explained. "The reality is quite different."



Fractured lives

'Falling through the cracks: Exposing inequalities in the European Union and beyond' finds that the European Union and its member states are failing millions of the most vulnerable and marginalised people in Europe and the wider world, as significant socio-economic and environmental inequalities worsen or persist.

The report maps the reality of various forms of inequality, both nationally and at the European level. It includes national reports from 15 countries that, together, represent nearly three-quarters of the EU's combined population and 11 thematic reports exploring key dimensions of inequality, including gender, age, disability, ethnicity and homelessness.

"The gap between the richest and poorest in Europe is widening – 20% of the EU population earns less than the poverty threshold in their country," explained Ingo Ritz, director of programmes at Global Call to Action against Poverty, one of the organisations involved in the report.

But the story does not end at the chasm between the haves and the have-nots. "Across the EU, 10% of those employed are living in poverty. The gender pay gap in the EU is 16% and much higher in some countries. The gender pension gap stands at 40% in the EU, exceeding 45% in Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands," Ritz elaborated. "The richest men in France have a life expectancy of 84 years, while the poorest men have a life expectancy of 71 years."

Inequalities are also sharpening in other European countries too. In Germany, "40% of full-time workers live below the poverty line, which also affects the lives of families and children," noted Anja Ruhlemann of Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), which also contributed to the report.

When it comes to age, "young people have become the population group at greatest risk of poverty and social exclusion, with more than one in four young people affected by this risk," the report observes in its chapter on youth.

In countries where age-related inequalities are at their starkest and where young people lack opportunities, there is enormous pressure to migrate in search of a better life. However, young people are fighting to create opportunities

at home. "I don't want to leave my country because I want to be a part of my country's future," Teodora Grau (16), a youth activist from Romania and a member of the World Vision Children Consultative Council, told the audience at the report launch.

Sustained demands for sustainability

'Falling through the cracks: Exposing inequalities in the European Union and beyond' makes numerous recommendations designed to tackle, reduce or eliminate the inequalities it highlights.

A group of recommendations revolve around repairing Europe's frayed social safety net and strengthening it. Examples in this regard include introducing a basic minimum income for all, ensuring equal pay for equal work, and the expansion of social transfer and social protection policies.

On the other side of the balance sheet, the report demands that taxation policies be reformed to

help reduce inequalities, protect the environment, to encourage more sustainable lifestyles and to avoid harming countries outside the EU.

“Rather than the current fixation on economic growth, the European Union should seek to enhance quality of life and welfare.”

Several recommendations relate to human rights and policies to overcome discrimination against women, the young and people with disabilities, among others.

Rather than the current fixation on economic growth, the European Union should seek to enhance quality of life and welfare, the document insists. Towards this end, the report proposes that the EU be guided by a Sustainability and Wellbeing Pact.

Campaigners have been calling for the EU to put sustainable development at the heart of its agenda for many years. Civil society even launched a Manifesto for a Sustainable Europe in September last year.

Since the European election in May, demands have become more vocal for the EU to deliver on the SDGs, by making them and sustainable development in general the "golden thread" that runs through all of the EU's work.

Read the full report at sdgwatcheurope.org/sdg10



Time to move the needle on pollution and waste from the textile industry



The global textile industry uses 53 million tonnes of natural and synthetic fibres every year, 73% of which end up incinerated or in landfill. Emily Macintosh takes a look at the environmental impact of the clothes we wear and asks whether Europe is in need of a wardrobe change.



Soaring global levels of production and consumption of textiles have resulted in huge amounts of pollution, waste, and carbon emissions - 1.2 billion tonnes of CO2 a year to be exact. And without transformative change, by 2050 the sector could be responsible for more than a quarter of the world's total carbon emissions.

Yet in the EU, laws targeting the sector are patchy.

While new environmental protections signed off by EU governments last year mean they have committed to separately collect textile waste by 2025, for Stéphane Arditi, EEB Policy Manager for Circular Economy, Products, and Waste, "it is crucial to look beyond separate collection of textiles and recycling and prevent the excessive amounts of textile waste being produced in the first place".

With the outgoing European Commission earmarking the sector as 'the next priority after plastics', Arditi said that "the new Commission must investigate what EU protections and incentives could ensure that clothes are designed to be long-lasting and repairable, and move business models away from increased production volumes". He added that "we need proper implementation of the polluter pays principle with incentives for sustainability in EU law".

The challenges are huge, and manifold. Hazardous chemicals used in textile production lead to safety concerns for workers and water pollution, and they are seldom tracked. Plastic microfibres released from synthetic clothes during washing pass filters and waste treatment plants and end up in rivers and the sea. Another key problem is that there is a proliferation of 'green' certification schemes and labels all using different 'sustainability' criteria.

The criteria used for giving textile products the EU's own 'Ecolabel' certification could soon be up for review. The EEB's Ecolabel expert Blanca Morales said: "There is always room

for improvement, but the Ecolabel's criteria on the restriction of hazardous substances and durability are some of the strictest. We need the Commission and EU governments to promote more uptake of the label through public procurement or tax incentives and increased public awareness of the Ecolabel. The more it is used, the more industry will be under pressure to back up sustainability claims by getting EU Ecolabel certified. The EU Ecolabel's textiles' criteria could be the basis for future legally binding standards for the whole market, not just the best performing 'greenest' products."

“ The environmental challenges from the textile industry are huge, and manifold. ”

And an ongoing review of environmental standards on the maximum amount of energy and hazardous chemicals used in 360 production facilities located within the EU could have an impact globally, with the EU often viewed as a "standard bearer", according to Jean-Luc Wietor, EEB Senior Policy Officer for Industrial Emissions.

"It's crucial to have high environmental standards for production waste, pollution, emissions, and transparency of information in the textiles industry in the EU, but with 90% of all clothing imported into the EU, at the same time we must put due diligence requirements on importers to ensure that textile products entering the EU market are subject to the same standards," said Wietor.

With so many challenges facing the sector, in the coming months, campaigners and fashion industry insiders alike will be looking to the new European Commission to come up with policy solutions to both slash the industry's environmental and climate footprint – and its human and labour rights' violations.

And with growing public calls for political action to clean up fashion – just as for single-use plastic – a wardrobe change for the industry could soon be on the cards.

**Your online source of Europe's
biggest environmental news**



PREVENTION IS THE BEST CURE FOR PLASTIC WASTE

Despite growing awareness of the environmental toll of plastics, production and consumption are continuing to grow in Europe. An increasing number of European countries are shifting from recycling to prevention, but these efforts must be scaled up and made more binding, says the European Environment Agency (EEA).

Khaled Diab 6 June



'CHEMICAL DIESELGATE' ON EVE OF EU ELECTION

Major food, medicine and plastic producers across Europe are using millions of tonnes of chemicals without completing important safety checks, according to an analysis of government files. Between 12 and 121 million tonnes of the 41 chemicals are used in Europe annually.

Jack Hunter 23 May

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ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS FEEL THE HEAT IN BRUSSELS

As pregnant women, children and elderly people are advised to remain indoors, environment ministers from all 28 member states travelled to Brussels this week to discuss a wide range of environmental issues. However, despite the unusually high temperatures reminding ministers of the elephant in the room, climate talks were not a priority.

Marie-Amélie Brun 27 June



THE PROBLEM WITH BATTERIES

Batteries are an essential product on the path to decarbonization. But experts in the EU are increasingly concerned about their hidden environmental cost and are calling for immediate solutions.

Mauro Anastasio 29 May



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Have you listened to our deep dives into the issues with Marie-Amélie yet? Find it on meta.eeb.org.

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Woodland Trust

IRELAND

An Taisce
Friends of the Irish Environment
Irish Environmental Network
Irish Wildlife Trust
Sustainable Water Network
Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment

FRANCE

Association pour la Protection des Animaux Sauvages
France Nature Environnement
SEPANSO
SOS Loire Vivante
Zero Waste France

SPAIN

ECODES
Ecologistas en Acción
Ecologistes de Catalunya
Fundación Nueva Cultura del Agua
Fundación Vivo Sano
IIDMA

PORTUGAL

GEOTA
LPN
Quercus
ZERO

NETHERLANDS

LandschappenNL
Mondiaal Alternatief
Natuurmonumenten
NSG
Natuur en Milieu
Vereniging Milieudefensie
Waddenvereniging

BELGIUM

Bond Beter Leefmilieu
Inter-Environnement Bruxelles
Inter-Environnement Wallonie

GERMANY

BBU
BHU
BUND
Bundesverband Boden
Deutsche Umwelthilfe
DNR
Grüne Liga
HEJSupport
Licht und Natur
Living Rivers Foundation
NABU
Öko-Institut
SDW
Umweltinstitut München
UVP
Verband Der Deutschen Höhlen- und Karstforscher

SWITZERLAND

Noé21

Set up in 1974, the EEB is Europe's largest network of environmental NGOs, bringing together over 150 civil society organisations from more than 30 European countries, including a growing number of European networks, with a combined membership of an estimated 30 million people.

What makes us unique?

The EEB is the only European network that covers such a large number of environmental policy issues and is open to membership for all 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.

What we offer

- Close co-operation on the most pressing environmental issues with environmentalists from all over Europe
- 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
- Dedicated Working Groups on the majority of the issues we cover
- Contributions towards travel and accommodation costs to attend our events
- Visibility and outreach within our network and beyond.



Your stories in META

We are looking for member stories to share in the coming editions of META. Please send us news of your big successes, campaigns and projects!

Contact

Emma Ernsth, Membership and Development Manager
emma.ernsth@eeb.org

Join us today

Join our diverse membership today! Download the membership application pack at eeb.org/join or contact us to know more about what membership could mean for you.

See you in Berlin?

Organisations that apply to join now are welcome to join us for our annual events in Berlin 18-20 November 2019. We'll host a public conference on Monday 18 November, while our annual general meeting on the following two days will discuss the development of our Long-Term Strategy for the coming decade.

EEB 2019 Annual Conference

Sailing the winds of change for Europe's environment

The **2019 EEB Annual Conference** will bring together key players from the European environmental movement with political decision-makers at a crucial moment for the European Union.

After the May 2019 elections, freshly elected MEPs and a soon-to-be-appointed European Commission will be getting ready to set sail for the next five years.

Join us in Berlin on 18 November 2019 to discuss what true environmental leadership will look like in the coming years and how the European Union can succeed in protecting the natural world and the fundamentals of life.

The conference will be held in cooperation with the EEB's member Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR).

Sign up to our newsletter on eeb.org to receive information when registrations open.

Photo: mexitographer (stock.adobe.com)

EEB News

Joining the EEB



Roberta Arbinolo
Communications Officer



Alessia Belluomini
Membership Assistant



Darko Bizjak
Circular Economy Intern



Patricia Capell
Senior Finance Officer



Khaled Diab
Senior Communications Officer



Nathan Metenier
Global Policies and Sustainability Intern



Quentin Monsieur
IT Officer



Célia Nyssens
Policy Officer for Agriculture



Jean-Luc Wietor
Senior Policy Officer for Industrial Emissions

Leaving the EEB



Nicoleta Bugarin
Finance Assistant

About us

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is the largest network of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe with around 150 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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