

WORK PROGRAMME 2018



EEB
European
Environmental
Bureau

**EUROPE'S LARGEST NETWORK
OF ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENS
ORGANISATIONS**



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THE EEB PROVIDES AN ENVIRONMENTAL VOICE FOR EUROPEAN CITIZENS, standing for environmental justice, sustainable development and participatory democracy. Our aim is to promote a healthy environment and rich biodiversity throughout the EU and beyond.

OUR VISION

The European Environmental Bureau's 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.

INTRODUCTION

The European Environmental Bureau aims to promote environmental justice, sustainable development and participatory democracy throughout the European Union and beyond.

As the largest environmental citizens' association in Europe, we articulate the views and concerns of a wide and diverse group of environmental organisations, bringing together around 140 environmental organisations from over 30 countries, with a combined membership of some 30 million environmentally concerned citizens.

The EEB is the only umbrella organisation that covers such a large number of policy issues and is at the same time open to membership for all NGOs active in the field of the environment in Europe. 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.

The EEB's key strengths are its broad and diverse membership base, its in-depth expertise on a wide array of environmental and sustainability issues and its committed and qualified staff. Over four decades, these strengths have enabled the EEB to be an effective force in influencing EU environmental policies and politics.

In its Medium-Term Strategy for 2016-2019, the EEB has set itself the overarching goal of becoming an even more inclusive and effective organisation and identified five areas that need to be addressed in order to achieve this goal. To this end, in 2018 the EEB will address the following areas, elaborated further in this work programme:

- **A strong well mobilised EEB membership network**

The EEB will seek to expand its network to European countries with no members, countries with potential additional members, and to pan-European networks, to become a more comprehensive umbrella organisation for Europe's environmental and sustainability NGOs.

- **Sharp political advocacy**

The EEB will remain at the centre of the political debate on environmental issues in the EU and will actively engage where feasible in other fora at global and regional level where environmental policies are being shaped.

- **Solid alliances**

The EEB will continue to build cohesion and coordination among environmental organisations working on EU environmental policy through coalitions and networking and to collaborate and seek common ground with non-environmental stakeholders to further promote environmental objectives within the sustainable development agenda.

- **A clear and powerful voice**

Following the completion of a rebranding exercise in the first half of 2017, the EEB will continue to work to improve the quality of our communications tools and outputs, which will, in turn, improve the EEB's outreach.

- **A robust organisational base**

The EEB will increase its efforts to establish a stronger, more diverse and more sustainable financial base, maintain a high quality and highly motivated staff and expand staff training and capacity building opportunities.



The EEB's role will be as important as ever in 2018. It will be the final year where the Commission can still bring forward new initiatives before the European Parliament elections of 2019, while at the same time all three EU institutions will be under pressure to conclude negotiations on major outstanding issues. While negotiations on revised waste legislation and key climate instruments were concluded in 2017, negotiations on for example renewable energy, energy efficiency and circular economy measures, including a new plastics strategy, are under way in 2018. Significant progress will need to be made in the preparations for a new Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) post 2020 and the regulations underpinning this spending, not least in relation to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) even if these will not conclude before the 2019 EP elections.

The debate on the future of the EU can be expected to continue well into 2019 and continue to require our attention, in particular to ensure that that future is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The second phase of the negotiations between the EU27 and the UK on the UK's leaving the EU will take place in 2018 with all the risks that that brings to progress in EU decision making on other matters.



OVERARCHING POLICY FRAMEWORK

Achieving a timely transition to a sustainable economic model in Europe will require not only increased ambition in relation to specific policy initiatives addressing detailed topics but also a high-level policy framework which is supportive of such a transition.

The EU's current high-level policy framework is unduly based on short-term economic considerations and has failed to put sustainable development at the heart of the EU's mission or look beyond gross domestic product (GDP) as the primary indicator of success. There is plenty of evidence (e.g. from OECD) and formal recognition (e.g. 7EAP) that stricter environmental policy makes economic sense even in the short run, for example by boosting employment and stimulating innovation. Examples of environment-economy win-win strategies would be to phase out costly public subsidies to fossil fuels and to carry out environmental tax reforms that put a price on emissions and lower taxes on e.g. employment.

EU political strategies and frameworks

While the European Commission has so far missed the opportunity to present a concrete roadmap of how it intends to implement the international political commitments made in 2015 with the adoption of a 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the pressure from civil society (and also certain Member States) will continue to grow in 2018. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development not only provides a unique opportunity for Europe to set out a comprehensive new political framework in the form of a new EU Sustainable Development Strategy with a 2030 time horizon, but it should also be the basis for the discussion on the future of Europe.

The Agenda 2030 provides the framework and the vision of the Europe we want and should be the context for the review of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the evolution of President Juncker's political priorities. The Commission published in November 2016 its Communication on SDG implementation which, basing itself on a disturbingly superficial gap analysis, concluded that the EU was already doing well in implementation. Moreover, a first set of indicators

on the SDGs presented by EuroStat in April 2017 has been drawn together in a rush without proper stakeholder consultation, while not being able to provide key indicators, for instance, on the crucial question of whether the EU is able to decrease its resource use in absolute terms or not. In June 2017, the General Affairs Council of the European Council decided to push the Commission into publishing in 2019 a report to the UN on SDG implementation. In the meantime, the Council asked the Commission to work on a gap analysis as well as an implementation strategy. The Council has therefore added pressure on the Commission to fulfill these long-standing civil society demands. The question as to how this debate will be carried forward by the different institutions - Commission, Parliament and Council, as well as the EESC - and whether this agenda will be linked to the debate on the Future of the European Union without the UK remains open.

What is however certain is that the next MFF will be a first test case of how the EU will be shifting its political priorities and specifically whether there is the political will for a significant increase in the EU budget towards environmental protection.

With the elections for a new EP taking place already in 2019, the EEB will need to prepare to reach out to the main political groups participating in the elections to secure cross-party support for the continued development of ambitious EU environmental policies.

ACTIVITIES:

- ***Engage in high level advocacy work in support of a new Sustainable Development Strategy to become the EU's comprehensive overarching political strategy, in the short term guiding the review and implementation of Europe 2020 and the Juncker political priorities;***

- *Closely monitor the unfolding implications of the Brexit vote and the debate on the future direction of the European Union, and take appropriate measures (e.g. workshops, conferences, publications etc, subject to funding) to counter and/or highlight any negative consequences both at a horizontal level and within specific policy areas for both the UK and EU27;*
- *Organise the EEB's 2018 Annual Conference to provide the platform for debate on how to ensure high level political support and buy-in for the environmental agenda.*
- *Track implementation of Commission Vice President Timmermans' mandate on sustainable development (governance, civil society participation and coherence) and Commissioner Thyssen's mandate in relation to the development of the EU indicators;*
- *Stimulate and facilitate EEB membership engagement in national implementation of the SDGs, including through continued updating of the online SDG Toolkit, and the revitalisation of the Rio+20 Working Group as the Agenda 2030 Working Group which will hold one meeting, subject to funding;*
- *Continue the implementation of the three-year (July 2017 – June 2020) awareness-raising and policy campaign on the ambitious implementation of the SDGs by and in Europe as the project lead together with 24 project partners in 15 Member States.*

SDG implementation and review mechanisms

In 2018, the EEB will continue to advocate for sustainable development as the overarching objective of Europe's economic, social and sectoral policies, at the same time seeking coherence between the various policies and the strategies that implement them. The UN General Assembly meeting in September 2015 resulted in the global agreement to start implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from the beginning of 2016. The EEB is closely following up the implementation at the EU level and Member State level. It perceives the SDGs as a strong advocacy and campaign tool to advance sustainable development policies while remaining critical of the weaknesses and contradictions in the Agenda 2030.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Monitor and provide input to the SDG implementation actions and ensure that SDG targets are fully integrated into all EU policies and that policy coherence for sustainable development is secured;*
- *Continue its leading role in the EU civil society alliance SDG Watch Europe (on its Steering Group and active in the work strands), in order to monitor and push for the SDG implementation and review mechanisms, carry out awareness-raising on the SDGs, and stimulate and contribute to a debate on a genuine EU sustainable development strategy reflecting our regional obligations for the implementation of the SDGs, considering all goals;*

Macro-economic questions and the transition towards a sustainable future

In its mid-term strategy, the EEB acknowledges the need for both high-level strategies for transformational change and for more concrete incremental changes through detailed policies leading towards a sustainable future. The EEB will in 2018 invite its members to engage more in the question of what is needed for the transformation towards sustainable development in terms of broader systemic change and to meet its vision of an economic and social system in which all people of present and future generations are able to enjoy a rich, clean and healthy environment with prosperity and peace secured for all while respecting the carrying capacity of the planet and preserving its rich biodiversity.

A growing academic community focusing on the transformation towards such a «green economy», including alternative macro-economics, is providing a strong scientific basis for the necessary transformation of our economic system. The question for the EEB is how to translate this into concrete policy proposals. The aim of creating a discussion platform within the EEB is to develop a clear position and policy asks related to, amongst others, 1) alternative measurements of well-being and prosperity beyond GDP, 2) the question of how the objective of 'sustainable economic growth'

enshrined in e.g. SDG-8 can be reconciled with the necessity to significantly reduce overall resource consumption levels and pollution, 3) the relationship between a growing volume of global trade (also through new trade agreements), that is, the metabolism of the global economy, versus the carrying capacity of the planet, and 4) the relationship between the sustainable development agenda and current negotiations on legally-binding rules and regulations on corporate responsibility and accountability.

ACTIVITIES:

- ***Depending on the interest of EEB members, set up a new working group on green economy issues that may develop basic positions and more concrete policies related to economic-environmental aspects of societal transformation.***

Evaluating the 7EAP, preparing an 8EAP

The 7th Environmental Action Programme continues to be central for the EEB's efforts to ensure the development and implementation of the EU Environmental agenda as a central part of Europe's overarching political strategies. In 2018 the EEB will continue a debate about its mid-term evaluation and early preparations for a new 8th Environmental Action Programme in order to ensure a high degree of political continuity on this topic ahead of the 2019 EP elections. The EEB Board and EEB Working Groups will provide input as needed.

ACTIVITIES:

- ***Monitor implementation of the 7EAP and press for early preparations for the 8EAP by developing proposals and debating these with decision makers.***

Better Regulation and Trade

With the 2016 UK settlement package annulled by the outcome of the UK referendum on EU membership, the Commission's Better Regulation agenda has lost some of its political momentum and is now mostly driven by the implementation of the Inter-Institutional Agreement on Better Lawmaking. This means that there is still a risk that the EU will be adopting a deregulatory target at some point. More generally 'Better Regulation' is still seen by too many groups as an easy antidote to anti-democratic and anti-EU forces, which will require

a more coordinated and effective pushback.

In the area of trade, uncertainty will remain about the ratification of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) which is expected to only progress slowly and whether or not negotiations on the EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) would be revived under the Trump or a post-Trump regime. Meanwhile other trade agreements are under discussion, e.g. between the EU and China, which for the most part receive little attention from the environmental NGO community.

ACTIVITIES:

- ***Continue to monitor and counter the impact of the Better Regulation agenda on environmental policies and pro-actively push for Better Regulation tools to put key policies that threaten the environment under scrutiny, such as CAP;***
- ***Develop papers and reports that show the risks posed by 'Better Regulation' for specific topics;***
- ***Develop alternative approaches to reforming and improving EU governance and lawmaking, e.g. by stepping up enforcement measures, and seek support for these ahead of the next EP elections;***
- ***Explore opportunities to step up our work on the environmental implications of trade agreements and provide information and support to EEB members on the topic.***

Fiscal Reform

There is an urgent need for work on fiscal reform at EU and Member State level. In response to the euro crisis, the EU developed in 2011 a new mechanism of stronger economic governance. This is organised through a «European Semester» in which national budgets and national reform programmes are subject to scrutiny by both the Commission and the Council. Although the recommendations are not binding, they set a benchmark and can provide strong political signals, for example to phase out harmful subsidies and green the tax base.

As regards the post-2020 MFF, the debate on this has been moved to 2018 in order to minimise impacts from Brexit negotiations on this with a first proposal from the Commission expected in May 2018.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Continue to monitor and assess opportunities for work on fiscal reform at EU and Member State level, cooperating closely with Green Budget Europe on this;*
- *Keep a watching brief on developments in relation to the preparation of the MFF post-2020.*

Strengthening the rule of law

The European Commission should reinforce compliance promotion activities, inspections and enforcement in a wider sense. All three activities are needed, with inspections and strict and coherent enforcement measures being particularly important.

Inclusion of provisions for environmental inspections in specific sectoral laws can improve the situation in some areas but will not lead to a harmonised approach which is important to protect the environment but also for a level playing field for industry. A Compliance Assurance Directive with a strong inspections and surveillance part could make a major contribution.

The Environmental Implementation Review (EIR), a new instrument to improve implementation of the existing EU environmental acquis in the Member States, should identify and solve Member State-specific but also systemic issues, going into root causes, involving public administration quality and other sectors. At the same time, the EIR should not in any way detract from other ways of ensuring the proper implementation of environmental laws, e.g. infringement proceedings. The EIR also needs to be implemented in a more transparent, participatory manner with close involvement of civil society actors.

The revised Environmental Impact Assessment Directive includes many improvements helping to overcome some of the shortcomings and loopholes in the previous directive and improving public participation to some extent. Now it is important to inform NGOs of the new requirements and their improved rights for information and participation and encourage them to monitor the transposition in their country.

The EU assessment of the implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive discovered many shortcomings and the recently adopted Action Plan to address those problems should result in better enforcement of the current framework.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Continue to press for sectoral as well as horizontal initiatives to ensure effective compliance;*
- *Subject to funding, follow the EU work on the Environmental Implementation Review and help identifying and promoting solutions to Member State-specific but also systemic implementation and enforcement issues in close cooperation with civil society groups;*
- *Continue collecting information on complaints cases about bad transposition of the EIA Directive or about breaches in its application and whenever possible, provide support to EEB members having submitted such cases.*

Environmental democracy

Despite the EU having become a Party to the Aarhus Convention in 2005, environmental NGOs still have virtually no access to the Court of Justice of the EU to challenge alleged violations of environmental law. This has been a direct obstacle in other areas of the EEB's work, e.g. where we have attempted to challenge Commission decisions in relation to chemicals or industrial emissions. This lack of effective access to justice at the level of the EU institutions led the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee to conclude in March 2017 that the EU is not in compliance with the Convention. This has added an important legal argument to the political ones for strengthening the EU Aarhus Regulation which is supposed to apply the Convention to the EU institutions: until the EU does so, it will be in violation of international law.

Regrettably, when the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention convened for its sixth session (MoP-6, Budva, Montenegro, September 2017), the EU sought to prevent the MoP endorsing the finding of non-compliance. This would have overturned a longstanding practice whereby every single finding of non-compliance by the Committee has been endorsed by the MoP and would have thereby significantly weakened the compliance mechanism and indeed the Convention itself, thus undermining efforts to improve democratic accountability throughout the wider region of Europe and Central Asia. Fortunately not a single other Party or stakeholder supported the EU position, which resulted in a stand-off and postponement of the issue to the next MoP in 2021. Following its shameful

performance in Montenegro, the EU must now move swiftly to address the problem at the root of the non-compliance by revising the Aarhus Regulation to improve access to justice at the EU level.

There are also problems with access to justice at the Member State level. In April 2017, the Commission issued interpretative guidance to help Member States apply the access to justice provisions of the Convention. While this may be useful as an interim measure, a directive to ensure access to justice in environmental matters at the Member State level will ultimately be required and will support better implementation and enforcement of environmental law.

The Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) continue to provide an important international legal framework promoting environmental democracy in the EU and the wider UNECE region. However, the hard-won rights provided by the Convention need to be constantly defended by civil society organisations, as many governments fail to comply with the Convention and push back against any strengthening of it or filling of its loopholes. Crucial to the Convention's effectiveness is its participatory compliance mechanism, where the EEB and its partners have played a key role in defending and ensuring responsible use of the mechanism.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Continue to exercise our rights under the Aarhus Convention and its implementing legislation in our everyday advocacy work wherever needed or useful;*
- *Follow up on the Aarhus MoP-6 outcome by stepping up efforts to advocate for a progressive legislative proposal revising the Aarhus Regulation so as to strengthen citizens' rights of access to justice in environmental matters and address other deficiencies in the Regulation, as part of a broader attempt to increase the transparency and accountability of the EU institutions;*
- *Continue to press for a directive on access to justice in environmental matters while assessing the effectiveness and making use of the interpretative guidance on access to justice where this can help to achieve progress;*
- *Continue to play a leading role on behalf of the European ECO Forum in the NGO work on the further development and implementation of the Aarhus Convention and its PRTR Protocol, in particular through coordinating NGO input into the official processes and supporting effective use of the Convention's compliance mechanism, while keeping a watching brief on the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment;*
- *Explore opportunities to promote the Aarhus Convention and Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration at the global level and in other regions.*



CLIMATE AND ENERGY

With the very survival of the most vulnerable nations at risk, climate change is one of the most urgent environmental challenges facing the planet at present.

The commitment by world leaders at the Climate Change Conference COP 21 in Paris in December 2015 to seek to keep temperature rise to «well below» 2°C above pre-industrial levels and «pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C» represented an important step forward. However, this long-term objective is in striking contrast to the weak and vague emissions reduction targets for the near future. To maintain its climate credibility on the world stage, the EU needs to rapidly put in place the necessary measures to fully implement the Paris agreement.

EU climate action

Successfully closing the negotiations on the 2030 Clean Energy for all Europeans (CEP) package and preparing for the 2018 global stock take and the update of the 2050 roadmap will frame the key objectives for 2018. Swift negotiations made it possible to conclude the substantive negotiations on the 2030 climate framework by the end of 2017, leaving only the formal adoption for early 2018. After political agreement was similarly reached on the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive by the end of 2017 as first element of the CEP, the remaining package includes the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and new rules on renewable energies in the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) together with the proposal for a new Electricity Market Design Directive and Regulation and the governance framework as part of the EU Energy Union.

These measures should enable Europe to go beyond the current level of climate action and should be coupled with an upgrading of the EU's targets for 2030; specifically, the EU should commit to cut domestic greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60%, improve energy efficiency by at least 40% and boost sustainable renewables to at least 45% by 2030. These targets should be legally binding at EU and Member State level, with a view to bringing the EU towards achieving net zero emissions by 2040.

The revision of the EED in particular provides a crucial window of opportunity to increase the ambition of energy efficiency policies as the European Parliament

supported a binding target of at least 35% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030. Work also needs to be stepped up to address the climate change impacts of agriculture. In parallel, the implementation of the Paris Agreement requires the EU and its Member States to elaborate a low-carbon mid-century strategy by 2020. This is an opportunity to create political momentum to ensure that EU policies are in line with the temperature objectives of the Paris Agreement.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Seek to increase the ambition in EU implementation of the Paris Agreement through tracking and seeking to influence the above processes, cooperating with CAN Europe where appropriate;*
- *Press for stronger measures to mitigate the climate impacts of agriculture;*
- *Set up a new working group on climate and energy keeping a general overview on the EU implementation of the Paris agreement with a particular focus on the 2050 decarbonisation roadmap, hold one or two meetings during 2018 depending on availability of funding.*

Exit fossil fuels and nuclear

The EEB will push for phasing out coal and lignite for power production at the latest by 2030, pursuing this objective through advocating against all fossil fuel subsidies and through its work on emission standards for large combustion plants (see section on Industrial Emissions), while at the same time arguing against the use of unconventional fossil fuels.

Increased pressure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has brought with it a revival of interest in nuclear energy in some countries. Taking into account the hazards associated with uranium mining, the risk of

Fukushima-type accidents and the unsolved problem of radioactive wastes that will remain dangerous for millennia, the EEB considers that nuclear power has no place in a sustainable energy future based on clean, renewable sources. Far from being part of the solution to climate change, it is an expensive and potentially dangerous distraction from the energy transition that is needed.

ACTIVITIES:

- ***Continue to keep a watching brief on nuclear issues, including state aid and transboundary consultation issues, and intervene selectively in the debate, with particular emphasis on transparency and participation issues through continued participation in Nuclear Transparency Watch.***

Energy savings

While EU leaders have yet to acknowledge that the Paris Agreement will require the EU 2030 climate targets to be significantly strengthened, it is clear that a significant decrease of our energy consumption is essential for achieving the necessary greenhouse gas emission reductions. The Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) are two key measures to achieve energy savings and therefore need to be continued and strengthened for the 2030 period. In parallel, the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Directives need a continuous and ambitious implementation, notably after the revision of the Energy labelling scheme in 2016, and the slowdown of implementation measures in 2016 and 2017.

The Commission proposal for the revision of the EED lays out a continuation of the energy savings obligation to 2030 and beyond (Art. 7), but fails to set national binding energy efficiency targets (Art. 3) or boost public building renovation (Art. 5). In its final position, adopted in January 2018, the European Parliament supports an at least 35% binding EU headline target on energy efficiency, introduces the concept of indicative national energy efficiency targets, and calls for new savings each year from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2030 of at least 1.5 % of annual energy sales, fully including the energy consumption in the transport sector.

To achieve an ambitious outcome, the EEB will continue to participate in the Coalition for Energy Savings (CfES) and collaborate closely with the EEB network, providing information and gathering intelligence and experience from Member State level. The task in 2018 will be to

push key Member states on national and Brussels levels to support ambitious elements of the European Parliament's report in the trilogue.

The final agreement on the revision of the EPBD sets a high energy efficient vision for the building stock by 2050 and introduces the element of charging stations for eMobility in the framework while sticking to a very selective adjustment of the overall content of the Directive. The EEB is carefully monitoring the link to the EED and the preparation of the EPBD implementation in collaboration with the energy savings working group and having regard to the elements of the 2050 vision, the phase-out of fossil fuels and the contribution of sustainable renewable energy sources.

The continuous implementation of Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Directives is fully justified in view of the tremendous savings delivered so far (50% of our 2020 efficiency target) and the unique added value of acting at European level on product policy. After the revision of the energy labelling scheme in 2016 and in the context of the definition of new labelling schemes in 2018, we have a major opportunity to reframe positively these instruments and deliver additional savings linked to the revision of existing measures, the starting of new measures, and unleashing the CO2 emissions saving potentials linked to resource use conservation through better design of products.

ACTIVITIES:

- ***Engage in advocacy works with the EP and Council on the EED in close cooperation with the CfES;***
- ***Organise a meeting of the EEB Energy Savings working group in early 2018 to support members to advocate with their national Ministries for an ambitious negotiation in trilogue;***
- ***Closely follow the implementation of the EPBD with other EU NGOs and partners of the CfES working in the building sector;***
- ***Through our Coolproducts campaign, step up the communicating of the benefits of these policies for EU citizens;***
- ***Ambitious outcomes of revised measures on white goods, displays, lighting and computers as well as pushing for better testing standards and enforcement;***
- ***Mobilise to address systematically the***

durability, reparability, recyclability of products in the perspective of the whole range of product policy instruments at European level.

Energy infrastructure

The presentation of the Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) 2018 will be the key development on EU level concerning the future approach to building energy infrastructure. The TYNDP 2018 will, for the first time, be fully aligned for its assessment of the gas and electricity use in Europe and constitute the basis for the investment decisions and future lists of Projects of Common Interest (PCI). This process offers a window of opportunity for the EEB to ensure that the roll out of energy infrastructures for the energy transition will fully consider the potential of energy savings and renewable energy while avoiding a lock-in in fossil fuel infrastructure like liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and gas pipelines and preventing that it be used as an excuse to weaken provisions for nature conservation, environmental protection and public participation. A key task will be to ensure that the TYNDP is checked against its compatibility with the commitments of the EU under the Paris Agreement. The EEB is engaging with the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) and other NGOs on this task.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Follow the TYNDP process, constituting the basis for the TEN-E regulation;*
- *Push for a Paris Agreement check of the TYNDP;*
- *Continue the ad-hoc working group on energy infrastructure with EEB members and other partners.*

Renewables & sustainability of bioenergy

In November 2016, as part of the broader Clean Energy Package, the Commission issued a proposal for a new Renewable Energy Package for the period from 2020 to 2030 which included a sustainability policy for all bioenergy, including all biomass, not only biofuels - a longstanding demand of the environmental community. Discussions between the EU institutions in the co-decision process are generally expected to conclude in 2018.

Bioenergy plays a significant role, within appropriate limits, in mitigating climate change by replacing fossil fuels, and should continue to do so, but it is evident that clear and unacceptable negative impacts on, for instance, biodiversity and emissions of greenhouse gases occur in a number of cases and must be avoided. The EEB will therefore advocate for a new policy that really delivers and is formulated into a truly effective sustainability policy for bioenergy that includes a cap on the share of bioenergy in the renewable energy mix that counts towards the target reflecting the amount which can be produced sustainably, resource efficient use of biomass, full accounting of the net GHG impacts of bioenergy and environmental safeguards for non-climate aspects of biomass use. All these requirements must be based on an energy systems perspective which ensures a full and rapid phase out of all fossil energy.

In addition the EEB will continue to monitor the implementation of existing legislation to limit food-based biofuels and emissions from indirect land use change that was adopted in 2015. The new bioenergy sustainability policy needs to build on the lessons learned from the biofuels policies and further lead to rapid phase-out of environmentally harmful land-based biofuels.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Monitor implementation of the biofuels/ indirect land use change (ILUC) provisions of the revised existing Renewable Energy Directive and support the adoption of an effective and meaningful sustainability policy on bioenergy use in the negotiations on the new Clean Energy Package;*
- *Continued cooperation with EEB members through regular exchange in the bioenergy working group aimed at further clarifying the distinction between sustainable and unsustainable bioenergy with a view to promoting the former and opposing the latter.*

NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

Our current production and consumption patterns are causing unprecedented levels of species loss, destroying the very nature we need to survive.

In Europe, industrial farming is one of the main drivers of habitat destruction and nature loss. The fragmentation of habitats, due to increasing urban sprawl, infrastructure development, climate change and the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, is also playing a key role in this deterioration of Europe's nature. This loss of biodiversity in turn impacts on both health and the economy. In 2010, EU leaders made a binding commitment to reverse this downward trend by 2020. However, Europe is way off track to meet this target and report after report highlights the alarming state of plants and wildlife on the continent. To protect our ecosystems and natural resources (and the public goods/ecosystem services they provide) from pollution and human activities that may lead to their deterioration and irreversible loss we need a strong legal framework and it needs to be fully and effectively implemented. Harmful incentives and subsidies need to be reformed, budgetary resources need to be substantially increased, including through the MFF, and nature conservation needs to be integrated into the relevant sectors and relevant rules enforced by public authorities.

Implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

The EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy was adopted in 2011 with a view to halting the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Strategy's first target foresees the full implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives which have underpinned the creation of the Natura 2000 network and remain the cornerstone of Europe's efforts to safeguard its biodiversity. The effective implementation and management of the network is of the highest priority for the EU to reach its biodiversity targets. Following the completion of the Nature Directives Fitness Check (which found the Nature Directives to be fit for purpose but in need for better implementation) and the adoption by the Commission of the Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy, the EEB will engage in the relevant actions foreseen with a view to ensuring fast progress towards achieving the objectives of the Directives. As regards the other targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, the EEB will in particular for push for progress with the strategic restoration of ecosystems and degraded habitats (target 2) by promoting carefully designed green infrastructure approaches and nature based solutions - which also help with integration into other sectors (e.g. water and climate policy) - and follow the implementation of the Invasive Species Regulation (target 5).



ACTIVITIES:

- *Engage in the actions foreseen in the EC Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy with a view to revitalising the implementation of the Nature Directives and contributing to their effective delivery;*
- *Develop and promote a range of concrete policy proposals that can help achieve the EU Biodiversity Strategy's headline target in particular in the following areas: biodiversity financing in the next MFF, the strategic deployment of green infrastructure in the EU, improved coherence and synergies between the EU biodiversity and agricultural, water and energy policies; and the EU's strategic biodiversity policy framework post-2020;*
- *Convene two meetings of the EEB's biodiversity working group and cooperate with our partners at European level inter alia in the context of the European Habitats Forum.*

An overhaul of the CAP post 2020- a step towards a sustainable food and farming system for Europe

Facing a failure of the greening and criticism from civil society that the CAP is broken (a perspective confirmed by EEB-commissioned studies among others) and from the farming community that it is far too complex, the Commission has launched reflections on the future of this policy with a public consultation that ran from February until May 2017 and a Communication that was published in November 2018. It should be followed by legislative proposals on the post-2020 MFF and on the CAP mid-2018 and negotiations between the Parliament and the Council shortly after. The election of the new European Parliament and appointment of the new Commission in 2019 will certainly also impact the timeframe of the reform. Besides the reform process that was just launched, some members of the European Parliament (Agriculture Committee) are trying to water down further the greening component of the ongoing CAP through the financial legislation simplification (omnibus proposal).

The EEB has already played a significant role, together with BirdLife Europe and WWF, in the early stages of the reform process, notably through the Living Land website mobilizing over 600 organisations and businesses around the consultation and over 250,000 citizens for an e-action. It also set the tone of the debate on the future of the CAP by organizing a major conference shortly after the closing of the consultation (around a CAP fitness check study it commissioned together with BirdLife Europe) and before the Commission's own stakeholder conference. In 2018, the EEB will build on these two successful steps in the early stage of the reform process to create a strong and wide momentum for a radical overhaul of the CAP post 2020 with lots of pressure at national level too. It will also promote its position on the future of the CAP, notably as a response to the Commission's legislative proposals and in the context of the debate on the next MFF.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Promotion of the EEB's position on the future of the CAP and related MFF debate and discussion on some of the new instruments proposed with relevant stakeholders (farmers, industry, decision makers) like the transition instrument;*
- *Organise workshops with decision makers (also at national level) and key stakeholders on the future of the CAP and the EEB's position;*
- *Hold meetings with decision makers from the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States;*
- *Push for joint responsibilities on the CAP reform between AGRI committee, ENVI but also DEVE and others and the same in the Council;*
- *Continuation of the Living Land activities together with BirdLife Europe and WWF, including joint media activities;*
- *Participation and leading role in the sustainable food and farming platform (SFFP) activities which gathers around 30 organisations working on the environment but also health, animal welfare, farming etc;*
- *Give greater attention to threats to pollinators posed by e.g. neonicotinoids;*

- *Press for greater transparency around data on pesticide residues in food and water;*
- *A major conference on CAP;*
- *Two working group meetings (one back to back with the conference and one tentatively outside of Brussels in the country of Presidency and back to back with the informal meeting of Ministers) and regular updates to EEB members on EU policy developments through the mailing list and the Newsletters.*

Water

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is the EU's main legislation governing the management of its freshwater resources. The WFD has led to important improvements in water status throughout the EU since it was adopted in the year 2000 but its goal of achieving good status for all Europe's waters by 2015 has been missed by a long shot with only about 50% of Europe's waters estimated to be in good condition at the time. Water ecosystems in the EU, such as wetlands, lakes and rivers, are still experiencing the most significant degradation and loss of wildlife compared to other ecosystems. The causes of various pressures on freshwater ecosystems, including widespread pollution and over abstraction of water due to intensive agriculture, changes to water flow and the physical shape of water bodies due to hydropower plants, flood defence and navigation, are not properly and effectively addressed.

The second river basin management plans (RBMPs), which Member States adopted towards the end of 2015, will have to be implemented in a much more ambitious way than in the first planning period. Specific attention needs to be put on the synergies with the Directive on priority substances (i.e. substances presenting a significant risk to or through the aquatic environment); the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive; and the Floods Directive and climate change policies. In particular, priority should be given to those measures that prevent water pollution and that are able to retain water in catchments in a natural way, thus reducing water stress and increasing resilience, with a focus on green infrastructure, biodiversity and ecosystems health. Groundwater ecosystems should get a more prominent role in water protection.

The EEB will aim to bring the required ambition into the implementation of the second RBMPs through actively engaging in the WFD implementation processes at the EU level and by supporting members in their advocacy work at national level. It will also feed information into the Commission's assessment of the 2nd RBMPs to be completed in 2018 and more generally feed into Commission's REFIT evaluation of the WFD which will start in 2017 and is scheduled to be completed in 2019.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Ensure ambitious implementation of the 2nd RBMPs, including through active participation in activities of the WFD Common Implementation Strategy process, input to the Commission's assessment of these plans and the REFIT evaluation of the WFD with a particular focus on hydromorphological pressures, diffuse pollution and protecting free flowing rivers;*
- *Work on chemical aspects of ensuring good water status as a follow up to the 2013 revision of the Priority Substances Directive, including by actively engaging in the process of development of a revised list of priority substances and the Commission's development of a strategic approach to the pollution of water by pharmaceutical substances;*
- *Follow the development of the legislative instrument for minimum quality requirements for water reuse in agricultural irrigation and aquifer recharge and carry out advocacy work if needed;*
- *Support members in their complaints about poor implementation and in their work to achieve an ambitious implementation of the 2nd RBMPs;*
- *Organise two meetings of the EEB's water working group.*

Soil

Soil is fundamental to life on Earth, providing the home for about a quarter of all biodiversity and storing twice as much carbon as the atmosphere and three times as much as vegetation, and yet it is being eroded and degraded at an alarming rate. The 7th Environmental Action Programme commits Member States to reflect on how soil quality issues could be addressed within a binding legal framework at the EU level. The EEB will continue to make the case for a dedicated EU legal instrument for soil protection, not least because of soil's crucial role in storing carbon.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Advocate for the adoption of legal obligations at the EU level for protecting soils, preferably within a dedicated framework;*
- *Organise one working group meeting.*

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

Given the risks and uncertainties in relation to the implications of the development, use and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), it is crucial that rigid risk assessment criteria and processes are put in place and that strict sustainability criteria are always applied in any decision-making process on GMOs.

ACTIVITIES:

- *In 2018, the EEB will monitor relevant developments and continue to support a comprehensive and transparent EU system of authorisation which prevents environmental damage and the contamination of conventional and organic farming.*



INDUSTRY AND HEALTH

The common presence of toxic substances in the air, water and soil around us and in the consumer products that adults and children are exposed to on a daily basis has become increasingly problematic. Therefore policies and legislation to regulate chemicals and prevent pollution are ever more essential to protect public health and wildlife.

It is evident that much remains to be done in these areas. Even substances that are long known to be toxic are not effectively regulated; nor is the precautionary principle effectively applied to the numerous substances that continue to be put in circulation.

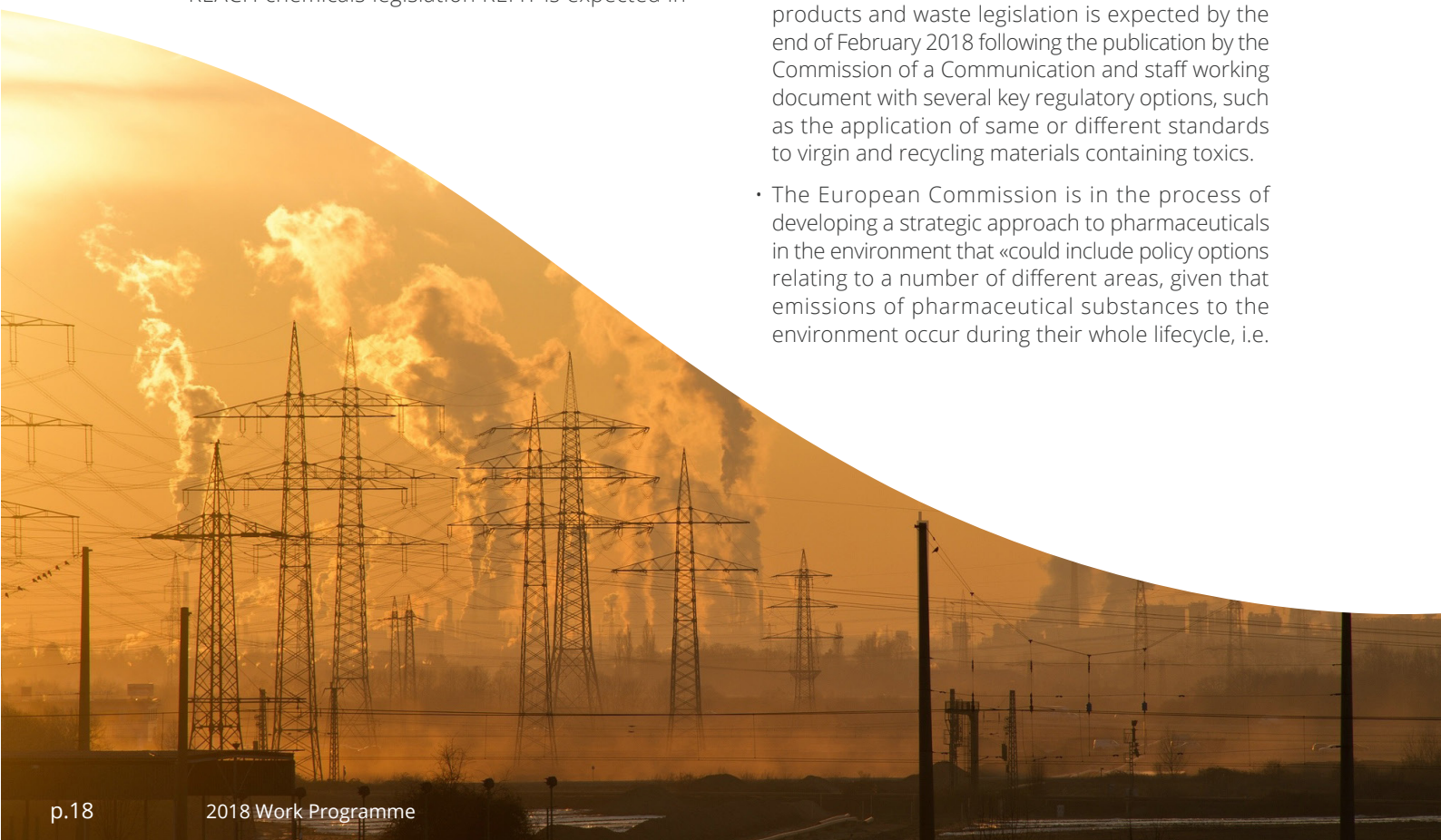
Chemical safety

2018 will still be a critical year regarding the policy framework for the protection of citizens and the environment from the risks posed by hazardous substances and nanomaterials (NMs) as a number of highly influential initiatives launched by the Commission will be finalized:

- Early in 2018, the Commission is expected to deliver the results of the REACH Review while the non-REACH chemicals legislation REFIT is expected in

early autumn. Therefore, the resulting proposals for changes in EU chemicals policy and regulatory framework are expected to be presented and developed during 2018 and 2019.

- In 2018 the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), which is responsible for REACH implementation, will have a new Executive Director (and a new 5-year work plan) who should aim to improve the implementation of REACH.
- The 7th Environmental Action Programme (7EAP) aims to achieve a non-toxic environment and foresees the development by 2018 of a strategy to this end that is conducive to innovation and the development of sustainable substitutes. The Commission has postponed the development of this strategy, awaiting the results of the REACH Review and Chemicals REFIT.
- A public consultation on the interface of chemical, products and waste legislation is expected by the end of February 2018 following the publication by the Commission of a Communication and staff working document with several key regulatory options, such as the application of same or different standards to virgin and recycling materials containing toxics.
- The European Commission is in the process of developing a strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment that «could include policy options relating to a number of different areas, given that emissions of pharmaceutical substances to the environment occur during their whole lifecycle, i.e.



from production through consumption to disposal.

Also, the development of criteria for the identification of endocrine disruptors was finalised in 2017, and therefore, during 2018 and 2019 chemicals regulations should begin to apply the criteria in order to speed up the phasing out of these substances of high concern.

The overall environmental objectives of the EEB in this area for 2018 are the development of a non-toxic environment strategy in line with the 7EAP goals; the timely substitution of hazardous chemicals, especially of substances of very high concern (SVHCs) under REACH; the adequate implementation of the REACH processes; a more effective European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) that supports REACH's core objectives and is committed to promoting substitution; to increase political attention in Europe towards the need to prevent the releases of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) to the environment during the manufacture, use and disposal of pharmaceuticals; and to ensure that the REACH annexes amendments are implemented in such a way that NMs are addressed appropriately in REACH and revive the general call for an EU wide nano register as part of a comprehensive and meaningful set of transparency measures.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Follow up the publication of the Commission's assessment of the non-REACH chemicals legislation and REACH Review and push for additional measures to be taken where needed to ensure the protection of human health and the environment while promoting innovation to safer alternatives;*
 - *Contribute to the development of a European Strategy for a non-toxic environment that ensures the protection of human health and the environment from hazardous substances while supporting innovation; to this end, establish a working group to agree on NGO priorities for the Non Toxic Environment Strategy and make recommendations to the Commission which is the primary target of this work, Member states and MEPs;*
 - *Build alliances with other stakeholders such as academia, industry, authorities, etc., in order to collaborate and provide concrete proposals to ensure the proper implementation of REACH and promote*
- *substitution and innovation with the Commission, ECHA and Member States;*
 - *Coordinate with NGOs to provide a common position and policy options to solve the toxic material cycles problem;*
 - *Develop a proposal with policy and legislative options to tackle the environmental and health problems caused by the emissions of API to the environment; raise awareness among EU policy actors on the urgent need to prevent emissions of APIs to the environment and the best policy options and influence the outcome of the European Commission's work on a strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment, with a view to ensuring that legislative options are seriously considered as a follow up to address the problem;*
 - *Evaluate the effectiveness and benefits of the nano observatory to be developed by ECHA, develop policy recommendations for a meaningful EU-wide register for NMs and follow up on the implementation of the REACH annexes amendments;*
 - *Facilitate the flow of information and the sharing of experiences by convening one or two meetings of the EEB's chemicals and nano working groups in 2018 and by regularly updating EEB members engaged in implementing EU chemicals and nano legislation.*

Air quality

As established by the new National Emission Ceilings (NEC) Directive, Member States have to prepare national plans by 1 April 2019 in order to show how they will comply with the already set emission limits for 2020 and 2030. This will require the introduction of new measures to prevent and limit air pollution from energy, industry, transport and agriculture-related sources which the EEB will closely monitor. In parallel, the EEB will continue supporting its members to ensure that legal air quality limits set in the Ambient Air Quality Directive are achieved throughout the entire EU and prepare to get engaged in the Fitness Check of this Directive planned for 2018. More importantly, the EEB will advocate for more stringent levels recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to be achieved

throughout the EU. This will require new and ambitious international, EU and local action which the EEB will continue pushing for.

ACTIVITIES:

- **Support EEB members in their involvement in the implementation of the new NEC Directive (in particular through the development of National Air Pollution Control Programmes) as well as the Air Quality Directive via exchange of best practices and litigation;**
- **Coordinate and represent NGOs during the Commission's Fitness Check of the Ambient Air Quality Directive and its follow-up phase (potential review of relevant legislation);**
- **Coordinate NGO work addressing air pollution from agriculture and solid fuel burning which are key contributors to PM and ozone levels;**
- **Support T&E's work in addressing air pollution from transport with a focus on road and shipping;**
- **Participate in the work of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) when relevant;**
- **Organise one or two meetings of the EEB's clean air working group.**

Mercury

Mercury is a highly toxic metal that is volatile and has global dispersal patterns. It causes damage to the nervous system, may impair the development of the brain and nervous system of the foetus, and can in its organic form accumulate and concentrate in food chains of ecosystems. Due to its extraordinarily hazardous qualities, the Minamata Convention on Mercury was adopted in October 2013, with the objective to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic mercury emissions, and entered into force in August 2017, with a first session of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-1) in September 2017.

At EU level a revised EU Mercury regulation was adopted in May 2017, including measures aimed at meeting, and going beyond in some cases, the provisions of the Minamata Convention.

In 2018, the EEB will continue to lead the Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) and the Zero Mercury campaign. It will seek to ensure an effective representation of NGOs in the relevant meetings, including the second Conference of the Parties. The EEB/ZMWG will continue assisting NGOs mainly in developing countries to prepare for ratification and implementation of the treaty. Furthermore the EEB will follow, as relevant, issues related to the implementation of the EU mercury regulation.

ACTIVITIES:

- **Coordinate and lead NGO attendance at and input into the Minamata Convention processes (including the Conference of the Parties and UNEP expert groups);**
- **Support international projects, mainly in developing countries, in preparation for the ratification and implementation of the Convention as well as on mercury reduction activities.**
- **Follow, as relevant, issues related to the implementation of the EU mercury regulation.**

Industrial emissions

Work on the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) is aimed at ensuring its ambitious implementation. In 2018, the EEB will continue its involvement with a view to achieving ambitious standards for environmental performance benchmarks - so called Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Documents (BREFs), which have gained in political importance since BAT conclusions are now legally binding under the IED. Key BREFs currently being developed are those concerning the waste management and chemical industry. The EEB will actively coordinate the NGO involvement in this process to ensure that environmental ambitions are improved or at least upheld.

The EEB will also continue to push for strict enforcement and challenge derogations from state of the art compliance. After the adoption of the revised LCP BREF in April 2017, a key focus for the upcoming years will be on large combustion plants (LCPs), in particular coal/lignite-fired ones. The EEB will continue to work with other NGOs on the 'Europe Beyond Coal' campaign with the goal of achieving a European coal phase out by 2030 at the latest. Support will be provided to achieve ambitious implementation at Member State level, where BAT standards are implemented through General Binding Rules.

Improving access to information and public benchmarking of industry will also be in the focus throughout 2018, linked to the REFIT of the E-PRTR.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Continue to organise technical expert input, coordinate and provide active NGO involvement in the Sevilla process;*
- *Maintain our new dedicated NGO Sevilla platform (www.eipie.eu);*
- *Support members in enforcement work and in fighting BAT derogations;*
- *Subject to funding, work on implementation of BAT conclusions for specific sectors (e.g. iron and steel, cement production);*
- *Advocate for improved access to information and public participation in decision-making on industrial activities;*
- *Organise one EEB industry working group meeting.*

Light pollution

More than 99% of the EU population, and about two-thirds of the world population, live in areas where the night sky is above the threshold for polluted status i.e. the artificial sky brightness is greater than 10 per cent of the natural night sky brightness. Light pollution may also have consequences on nocturnal fauna and on human health through affecting the quality of sleep. Light pollution may be addressed through lighting regulations such as are set within Ecodesign, Green Public Procurement and Ecolabel policies, but the issue of 'over' lighting at night needs also to become a matter of concern in relation to the definition of protected areas for biodiversity and for urban policy to tackle excessive outdoor lighting at night.

ACTIVITIES:

With the support of interested member organisations and subject to the availability of funding, the EEB will:

- *Strive for the integration of this dimension when assessing relevant future policy options and identify possible solutions to moderate light pollution while taking into account the expected energy and other environmental gains linked to new lighting technologies;*
- *Circulate relevant materials and carry out advocacy work at national and European level.*

Noise

The Environmental Noise Directive (END) defines a number of procedures for Member States according to which they should reduce noise pollution levels. Since the end of a public consultation in 2012, the European Commission has been expected to come up with a proposal for revision of the Directive.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Monitor, if appropriate, developments on EU noise policies (END and source policy) in particular if the Commission comes up with a proposal to revise the END;*
- *Participate in meetings and events as appropriate.*



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Promoting a circular economy is the best way to reduce our environmental footprint while creating new jobs and moving towards a more inclusive society.

If more ambitious and consistent EU waste legislation and a better utilization of different product policy instruments are implemented properly, this will leverage the uptake of more sustainable business models and help designing out waste and toxics from our currently unsustainable production and consumption patterns. Resource saving lifestyles, products and services need to be encouraged on larger scales to bring down the overall consumption of natural resources in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

This work also requires the EEB to develop a more global perspective and strategy on the circular economy and where appropriate engage in common projects to spread the benefits of positive aspects of EU policies in economies in other parts of the world while at the same time gaining further knowledge from those economies.

Implementation of revised waste directives

The EEB's work after the conclusion of the negotiations on the Waste Directives at the end of 2017 will be to monitor first steps of national transposition and related tasks to be conducted by the Commission. There will be a need to closely cooperate with EEB members to gather intelligence on national transposition ways and formulations and to communicate ongoing Commission initiatives. This should help put pressure on governments to adapt their policies and detect possible legislative loopholes, notably linked to uncertain EU formulations agreed during the final negotiation stages. The EEB will act as helpdesk for our members during the transposition of the revised EU waste laws and contribute where needed to waste-related tasks to be performed by the Commission in the aftermath of revised waste policy.

The EEB will also monitor the revision of the Batteries Directive which will intensify during 2018 and 2019 with a Commission proposal to be tabled by 2020. Phasing out toxic technologies and non rechargeable batteries would be amongst our priorities.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Continue to act as a helpdesk for our members during the transposition of the revised EU waste laws;*
- *Coordinate with our members and other NGOs to apply combined pressure on the governments to ensure an effective and robust enforcement of the existing legislation;*
- *Influence the revision of Batteries Directive through early collaboration with Commission services and consultants in charge of supporting studies;*
- *Organise two meetings of the EEB working groups on circular economy with a specific session on waste policy.*

Resource conservation through product policy

The continuous implementation of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) from December 2015 through related legislative and non-legislative actions will remain the key guidance for the EEB work on circular economy at EU level. As the range of policy measures foreseen by the Commission is wide, the EEB will particularly focus on a coherent framework for product policy instruments and the setting of horizontal requirements on repair information in the context of the Ecodesign Directive. The EEB will also follow up on the outcomes of the initiatives started in 2017 such as the analysis and policy options to address the interface between product, waste and chemicals policy, an EU strategy on plastics and the proposal for a monitoring framework on circular economy.

Throughout 2018, the EEB will also continue working on Ecodesign, Green Public Procurement and Ecolabel criteria for specific products and services as well as on

horizontal issues with relevance to the circular economy such as reparability, upgradability and recyclability of products. In addition, we will contribute to the final outcome of the Environmental Footprint pilot phase and advocate for a stronger policy framework promoting circular economy practices beyond energy related products covered by the EU Ecodesign and Energy Label Directives today. Building on our own EEB analysis e.g. for the furniture sector and a continued dialogue with progressive businesses from other sectors, the EEB will move the discussion forward on complementary product policy options such as the development of EU provisions and pilot initiatives on Eco-design criteria, Labelling schemes and Producer Responsibilities schemes for non-energy related products, and towards a possible European harmonised information system for products placed on the single market ('product passport'). The EEB will also closely follow the possible changes in the implementation of the EU Ecolabel Regulation to ensure the environmental excellence of the scheme, notably with regard to chemical contents.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Promote the idea of a European information system for products in different platforms/fora related to Circular and Digital economy;*
 - *Organise two meetings of the EEB Circular Economy working group with dedicated sessions on product policy;*
 - *Develop Circular Economy related campaign activities (Make Resources Count).*
-
- *Monitor the implementation of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan, notably in relation to the above mentioned priorities;*
 - *Ensure beneficial outcomes of product policy for the environment (Ecodesign, Energy Labelling, Green Public Procurement, Ecolabel, Product Environmental Footprint);*



GLOBAL POLICIES AND SUSTAINABILITY

While many European environmental organisations have not been very engaged in global policies — neither in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, nor the UNEP/ UNEA processes — more and more environmental NGOs discover the value of the SDGs and the Agenda 2030 for their campaign and advocacy work at national level.

The engagement of environmental NGOs both at national and international level will be crucial in the 12 years remaining until 2030 during which the UN, the EU and governments have agreed to implement the comprehensive agenda on Sustainable Development. The EEB will continue the process of integrating this agenda into its traditional work and is actively involved in global coalition building in order to secure the environmental dimension in the 2030 Agenda.

Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The EEB was actively engaged as Organising Partner for the Major Group of NGOs in the global sustainable development process that received a new mandate from the Rio+20 conference with the task to facilitate the NGOs to be engaged into the process. In 2018, the EEB will continue to actively engage in the global and regional decisions on the monitoring and review mechanisms. This will be done at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) meetings and the UNECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development. The EEB will contribute to shaping the global and EU NGO position, and will try to influence the position of the EU in those discussions by providing direct input to it.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Participate in and provide input to the HLPF processes at global and regional levels, in the latter case by participating in the UNECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development;*
- *Actively engage in the debates around the future development of the stakeholder engagement mechanisms both at the level of the HLPF and of the UNECE Regional*

Forum on Sustainable Development, in particular the Regional Consultation Mechanism (RCM) to be launched in 2018;

- *Monitor and influence EU involvement in those processes, drawing on the EEB's EU policy work;*
- *Maintain and update a toolkit for EEB members to stimulate engagement in actions implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on the Member State level;*
- *Revitalise and rename the Rio+20 Working Group as the Agenda 2030 Working Group to ensure EEB members' input into the global SD process, and to stimulate EEB members to do the same at Member State level and to encourage the development or updating of National Sustainable Development Strategies;*
- *Reach out to other sectors in society in order to encourage them to involve the environment in their SDG work;*
- *Work with SDG Watch Europe and exchange with Action 4 Sustainable Development, a large global coalition focussing on SDG implementation and advocacy, for our work at regional and global level.*

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

After the upgrade of the UNEP Governing Council to UNEA, involvement of stakeholders in UNEA processes has become even more important. In 2018, while no Environment Assembly will be held (UNEA III having been held in December 2017), the EEB will seek to cooperate with UNEP in organising a Regional Consultation Meeting in preparation of UNEA 4 (March 2019) in close collaboration with UNEP's Regional Office for Europe (ROE). The EEB will also continue to actively engage in the discussions around UNEP's stakeholder engagement policy following the previous failed attempts to resolve this issue. We will disseminate information to interested EEB members and facilitate advocacy work.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Follow up on decisions taken at UNEA III (December 2017);*
- *Engage in the discussions around the stakeholder engagement process for UNEA and the early preparations for UNEA IV (2019);*
- *Involve interested EEB members in the discussions and process.*

Global Environmental Justice

The EEB will continue its active involvement in the Atlas for Environmental Justice through its EnvJustice project. The Atlas and the network behind it increase the capacities of communities struggling for environmental justice by connecting them with academics and through a global exchange of best practices. It gives them cover and outreach potential, makes it easier for journalists to find stories on environmental injustice and allows researchers to see patterns in both the destructive practices of certain state and corporate actors and the resistance to it. The EEB will continue to be responsible for the communication part of the project and, subject to funding, will try to fill in the gaps in the Atlas.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Communication, blog articles and social media work around the Environmental Justice Atlas;*
- *Selective engagement in highlighting specific cases of environmental injustice.*

Beyond the European Union borders

The EEB will continue its activities aimed at promoting better environmental policies in the countries neighbouring the EU and strengthening collaboration with NGOs working in those regions. We aim to continue to monitor developments regarding accession negotiations with candidate countries in South-East Europe and Turkey, by implementing a new phase of the ENV.net project. The EEB will also explore new opportunities to step up its work with our members and other interested NGOs in the countries within the European Neighbourhood Policy, in particular those belonging to the Eastern Partnership.

In 2018, the EEB will continue to engage and promote NGO involvement in relevant UNECE processes other than those already mentioned above (the Aarhus process and the regional meetings on SDG reviews and HLPF consultations), including the Environment for Europe process.

Through its involvement in the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), the EEB will seek opportunities to engage in Mediterranean activities.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

The OECD plays an important role in shaping environmental policy in developed countries, providing a forum for influential debates on topical issues. For a number of years, the EEB has facilitated input to OECD environment-related processes from NGOs from throughout the OECD region.

In 2018, the EEB will continue to coordinate the NGO input into the implementation of the OECD's environmental work programme, by participating in several working groups of the OECD (such as those dealing with chemicals, biodiversity, water, soil), the Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC), Green Growth and Sustainability Forum and SDG work. We are also making additional efforts to secure good geographical balance in NGO engagement among all OECD countries.

A MORE INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION

The EEB has set itself the overarching goal of becoming a more inclusive and more effective organisation and identified five areas that need to be addressed in order to achieve this goal.

In 2018, the EEB will address the following areas to pave the way to becoming an even more effective force in the years to come.

A strong, well mobilised EEB membership network

The EEB will seek to expand its network to European countries with no members, countries with potential additional members, and to pan-European networks, to become a more comprehensive umbrella organisation for Europe's environmental and sustainability NGOs.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Implement a membership expansion plan with targets and indicators;*
- *Further explore strategies to strengthen member engagement in EEB activities, projects and communications.*

Sharp political advocacy

The EEB has effectively influenced EU policy-making over several decades, bringing the views and concerns of a large constituency of environmentalists into the heart of the EU processes, and the capacity to do so is probably as strong today as ever. It has achieved this through combining ambitious agenda-setting activities with engaging in ongoing decision-making processes, working on a wide spectrum that ranges from high-level policy frameworks down to detailed technical policy areas. Nevertheless, the EEB still needs to constantly review its approaches, working methods and communication style in the shifting political and institutional landscape.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Prepare and publicise detailed memoranda for the incoming Bulgarian, Austrian and Romanian Presidencies, containing a comprehensive set of demands, summarised in Ten Green Tests; prepare and publicise assessments of the Bulgarian and Austrian Presidencies' performances;*
- *Set out key policy demands to all EU Environment Ministers prior to each formal meeting of the Environment Council; and upon invitation, participate in the informal meetings of the Environment Council;*
- *Provide input to the preparation of the key horizontal instruments such as the Commission Work Programme for 2019;*
- *Reach out to the main political groups participating in the 2019 EP elections to seek cross party support for ambitious EU environmental policies;*
- *Participate in and bring a European NGO perspective to political fora outside the EU that deal with environmental topics, such as UNEP, UNECE and OECD.*

Solid alliances

The EEB will continue to build cohesion and coordination among environmental organisations working on EU environmental policy through coalitions and networking and continue to collaborate and seek common ground with non-environmental stakeholders

to further promote environmental objectives within the sustainable development agenda.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Continue to play an active role within the Green 10; work within single issue coalitions such as on energy savings; and with trades unions and social and development organisations within the framework of configurations such as the Spring Alliance, SDG-Watch and the Better Regulation Watchdog.*

A clear and powerful voice

Communication has been given increasing priority in the EEB in recent years and 2018 will be no exception. We will continue to work to improve the quality of our communications tools and outputs with particular attention to developing the organisational reach.

ACTIVITIES:

- *In 2018 we will work to strengthen our communication channels with our members, partners, stakeholders and, in particular, the general public. We will develop best practice methods of delivering our messages and policy points to the widest possible audience through the development of an online hub for content which we then distribute through newsletters and social media. This will bring our members closer to the work of the EEB and also reach out to citizens who can support the campaign work of both the EEB and our member organisations. We will embrace online tools, such as digital marketing techniques, to build support and track this work through analytics.*
- *The EEB will continue to ensure that its policy and communications teams work closely together so that they are used to mutual benefit and have the maximum impact on policymakers. Making smart use of communications in advocacy work is becoming increasingly important to influence decision-makers and the EEB will work to make sure that its policy*

documents and reports are sharp and fresh and have strong facts and figures that can be communicated and have impact on a wide range of stakeholders from Commission staff, to national governments, MEPs, industry, NGOs and the general public.

- *The EEB will work to improve the clarity of its messaging. This will involve tailoring its output to sectoral/technical media, mass media and general consumption.*
- *This will also include working closely together with EEB members, other NGOs, trade unions and progressive business, for example, to offer packages to journalists that reflect our positions and demands and, with the inclusion of quotes and contacts from other stakeholders, show that we are part of a larger movement for positive change, advocating strategies and change that is in line with other key players.*

A robust organisational base

The EEB will seek to establish a stronger, more diverse and sustainable financial base, maintain a high quality and highly motivated staff and expand staff training and capacity building opportunities.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Identify and address gaps in staff capacity;*
- *Further develop and implement a fundraising strategy to ensure adequate financing of the EEB's activities;*
- *Hold an annual staff retreat to review progress against goals mid-year, monthly staff meetings to coordinate, plan and review, monthly coordination unit, policy unit and team meetings to oversee operations;*
- *Further develop staff training and capacity building.*

BUDGET 2018

A. General Costs	
1. Office Costs	165,184
2. Office Supplies	97,731
3. Communications	49,262
4. Depreciations	47,225
5. Financial Costs	3,800
6. Unforeseen expenditures	10,000
Sub-Total — A. General Costs	373,202

B. Salary Costs	
1. President's Secretariat	10,000
2. Secretary General's Unit	339,232
3. EU Policy Unit	899,927
4. GPS Unit	275,292
5. Information & Communication Unit	370,066
6. Accounting & Support Unit	407,580
7. Special Campaigns	157,781
8. Volunteers and Temporary Staff	36,000
9. Other personnel costs	66,590
Sub-Total — B. Salary Costs	2,562,467

C. Activities	
Overarching Policy Framework	43,000
Climate and Energy	34,700
Biodiversity Strategy	60,172
Industry and Health	410,058
Water	11,400
Circular Economy	80,924
Horizontal Legal Instruments	27,900
Global Environment and Sustainable Development Agenda	377,755
Environmental Democracy	57,441
Membership and Organisational Development	186,000
Missions and Representation	15,000
Sub-Total — C. Activities	1,304,349

D. Allocation to Working Capital	60,000
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,300,018
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The EEB is Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations.

We bring together around 140 civil society organisations from more than 30 European countries.

We stand for sustainable development, environmental justice & participatory democracy.



EEB

European
Environmental
Bureau

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