



EEB
European
Environmental
Bureau

2020

WORK PROGRAMME



EUROPE'S LARGEST NETWORK
OF ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENS'
ORGANISATIONS



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The EEB is the largest and most inclusive European network of environmental citizens' groups – and the only one that works on such a broad range of issues.

We advocate for progressive policies to create a better environment in the European Union and beyond.

WORKING FOR A BETTER FUTURE WHERE PEOPLE AND NATURE THRIVE TOGETHER

The next generation deserves a healthy planet. We believe in a world where equal, just, peaceful and democratic societies can prosper. A world with rich biodiversity and a safe climate. A world where laws and policies promote health and wellbeing while respecting nature. We believe that Europe has a crucial role to play in building this future.



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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 people who want to see a better future where people and nature thrive together.

Bringing together over 160 environmental organisations from more than 35 countries, with a combined membership of some 30 million environmentally concerned citizens, the EEB is the only umbrella organisation for environmental citizens' organisations 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. For more than four decades, these strengths have enabled the EEB to be an effective force in influencing EU environmental policies and politics.

For Europe, 2020 is a year of great opportunity. The surge of support for MEP candidates promoting green policies that marked the May 2019 European elections sent a clear signal that European voters expect the EU to do more when it comes to protecting the environment. This was followed in the summer by incoming Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's announcement

of a new set of political guidelines for the Commission, with a commitment to a European Green Deal being the first of six priority areas. The European Green Deal itself was unveiled in December 2019, setting out a framework with key principles and a roadmap involving a number of milestones to be reached over the next few years. Thus an immediate challenge and opportunity as the new legislative cycle gets underway will be to ensure that as the European Green Deal is rolled out in the coming months, its individual elements will be sufficiently transformative, ambitious and progressive to urgently speed up the transition to sustainability.

For the EEB, 2020 will be the first year under a new long-term strategy, through which we will seek to increase our impact on key decision-making processes, consolidate our membership, expand our outreach through ever-improving communications, and ensure that our organisational base is fit for purpose.

This work programme sets out, area by area, what we aim to achieve in the coming year to ensure that we – Europe and the EEB – move towards these longer-term goals. It illustrates the EEB's distinctive combination of determined idealism with concrete pragmatism.

OVERARCHING POLICY FRAMEWORK

2020 will be a year of new beginnings for the European Union, being the first full year of the new Parliament and Commission. The outcome of the European elections and the European Green Deal presented by the von der Leyen Commission in its second week in office have created the opportunity to establish a more progressive agenda based on sustainability and strong environmental policies.

Such policies should address the underlying drivers of environmental degradation and destruction and enable a transition to a one-planet economy where the EU plays an important responsible role in a global context. The European Environment Agency's State of the Environment Report 2020, published in early December 2019 just a week before the European Green Deal came out, underlined the scale of the environmental challenges from a scientific perspective and the need to go beyond traditional environmental protection measures to transforming our energy, transport, construction and food systems among others.

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 and institutional structures which are supportive of such a transition. The EU's high-level policy framework has been 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. It has also failed to address a wide range of negative impacts of European policies and practices around the world such as deforestation or resource depletion.

There is plenty of evidence (e.g. from OECD) and formal recognition (e.g. 7th Environmental Action Programme (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, to carry out environmental tax reforms that put a price on emissions and lower taxes on e.g. employment, and to invest in technologies and measures that save the EU and its citizens money and resources, such as renewables and energy efficiency. This will help break the systemic fossil-fuel lock-in and together allow the EU economies to transition to a more sustainable future. There is also a growing recognition that a range of system lock-ins are blocking progress to essential policy commitments and challenges, including the climate emergency and existential threats to nature and humanity as identified by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report.

In addition, environmental policy has been weakened not only by a lack of ambition in its formulation, but also by a lack of political will in its implementation. The lack of ambition has been exacerbated by the deregulation aspects of the so-called better regulation agenda. There is a clear need to upgrade this perspective and move towards regulation and policies to protect EU citizens' health, rights and the environment. The implementation deficit also needs urgent attention - to ensure commitments and objectives

are met, to ensure European citizens' right to a quality environment is supported, and to ensure a Europe where the rule of law is respected. Without this the public trust in EU and national institutions will be undermined.

The negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) are expected to continue well into 2020, with particular challenges around the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) element, the overall level of the budget, and to what extent it will be a budget that addresses the climate emergency and the stark findings of biodiversity loss made in the IPBES report. It will be a test case of how the EU is shifting its political priorities and realising its responsibilities towards environmental protection.

The 7EAP comes to an end in 2020 and given the escalating evidence of existential threat from climate change, biodiversity loss and chemical pollution, there is a clear need for an ambitious and transformative 8EAP that both helps implement and complements the European Green Deal and Sustainable Development Goals. Proposals for the 8EAP are expected in early 2020. The EGD is a Commission commitment, but the 8th EAP will be a joint commitment by the Commission, Parliament and Council, with

agreement expected to be reached during the German Presidency in the second half of 2020. The development of both the EGD and the 8EAP are important opportunities for civil society to share its vision, insights and recommendations – and promote a green deal and 8EAP that, together with the implementation of the SDGs, will help catalyse a just transition to a one-planet economy.

Finally, in 2020 the pressure from civil society (and also certain Member States) must be maintained and strengthened in order to give a clear signal to the new Commission and Parliament that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is essential. The two EU Presidencies – Croatia and Germany – must be used well in that regard. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda not only provides a unique opportunity for Europe to set out a comprehensive new political framework in the form of a new overarching EU Sustainable Development Strategy with a 2030 time horizon and beyond, but it should also be the basis for the discussion on the future of Europe and the long-term compass for all policies and the EU's budget.

ACTIVITIES

- Engage with the new Parliament and new Commission to promote ambitious policies that are adequate to respond to the critical environmental challenges that Europe faces;
- Engage in high level advocacy work in support of ambitious implementation of the European Green Deal (2020-2024) and an 8EAP (2021-2030) that is ambitious and progressive, so that these together catalyse a just transition to a one-planet economy based on sustainable development principles and the international commitments made under the 2030 Agenda;
- Promote a move away from the deregulation agenda that has masqueraded as 'better regulation' and seek to minimise the risks coming from the new Commission's commitment to the "one-in-one-out" principle

set out in the mission letters to Commissioners by communicating the ethical, environmental, health and political benefits of regulation;

- Engage in the finalisation of the MFF and its implementation so that it serves as a budget that protects the environment – addressing the climate emergency and the existential crisis of biodiversity loss;
- Systematically promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Europe and its integration across all policy areas to ensure enhanced coherence. This will require engagement with the Croatian and German EU Presidency teams, the Commission Services and the European Parliament.

The above themes are each addressed in more detail below.



EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL AND 8TH ENVIRONMENT ACTION PROGRAMME

On 11 December 2019, the Commission published a Communication presenting the European Green Deal (EGD) that had been promised by Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen in her Political Guidelines for the new Commission as the first of six priorities. The Political Guidelines had already set out some of the key elements of the EGD, such as a European Climate Law for 2050, a European Climate Pact, a strategy for green financing, and fair tax reform, with a view to making Europe the first climate-neutral continent; curtailing further loss of biodiversity within five years, including via an EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and taking a leadership role at the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; a Zero Pollution Ambition Strategy for a toxic-free environment addressing threats to health from poor air and water quality, hazardous chemicals and industrial emissions among others; the transition to a circular economy; and a 'Farm to Fork' strategy aimed at making food policy more sustainable.

The EGD Communication expanded on these elements (see examples in following sections). While its framing as a 'growth strategy' has raised concerns that lessons have not been learned from the negative consequences of undue fixation on growth, its broad message that progressive environmental policies can help to strengthen the EU's economic leadership and its rejection of the idea that environmental protection holds back economic development are positive, as is its commitment to 'deeply transformative policies'. However, the EGD Communication is in its own words only an 'initial roadmap', setting out a series of further instruments, measures or decisions that are still to be adopted. How transformative the EGD will ultimately be will depend on the levels of ambition in the various elements that will be rolled out over the coming months and years.

In addition, and complementing the EGD, an 8EAP is expected to be proposed in the first half of 2020. It will be a joint commitment by the Commission, Parliament and Council, and is expected to run to 2030.

The European Green Deal and the Environment Action Programmes (EAPs) will be key policy tools targeted by the EEB with a view to ensuring that they are ambitious and reflect the vision and insights of civil society and are well implemented. Both instruments have the potential to play central roles in Europe's overarching political strategies and to be key tools for ecological transformation of our policies and society. In 2020, the EEB will continue to inform the design of the 8EAP and push for an ambitious EGD rollout and EAP that address system lock-ins to allow fundamental change and that encourage enhanced cohesion across policies. The EEB will also seek a review of whether the ambition of existing policies is up to the task of the environmental challenges humanity faces, and to create the conditions for better implementation, so that EU policy promises can be delivered. As in 2019, the EEB Board and EEB working groups will provide input as needed.

ACTIVITIES

- Consult civil society and engage with policy makers on how the promises of the European Green Deal can be turned into policy reality and practically implemented - for example, through the EU Budget and its implementation, the European Semester, and a range of specific policy proposals;
- Consult civil society on the priorities for an 8EAP and engage with policy makers to get uptake of our recommendations;
- Work towards a balanced complementarity of the EGD, the 8EAP and Agenda 2030, that together should form a coherent set of policy commitments that catalyse transformative change.



2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EU

The UN General Assembly meeting in September 2015 resulted in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a 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 and Member State levels. 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 2030 Agenda and attempts of governments and business stakeholders to use the SDGs for window-dressing.

In November 2016, the Commission published a Communication on SDG implementation. Regrettably, this only addressed the period up to 2020 and, basing itself on a disturbingly superficial gap analysis, concluded that the EU was already doing well in implementation. The Juncker Commission was unwilling to develop a new Sustainable Europe 2030 strategy with an action plan of how to implement the SDGs and would only commit to preparing a 'reflection paper' for the period beyond the term of its mandate. Moreover, the set of indicators on the SDGs first presented by EuroStat in April 2017 was drawn together in a rush without proper stakeholder consultation and missed key indicators on, for instance, the crucial question of

whether the EU is able to decrease its resource use in absolute terms or not. Eurostat's first SDG monitoring report published in November 2017 attracted strong criticism from civil society.

In June 2017, the General Affairs Council decided to push the Commission into publishing a report to the UN on SDG implementation in 2019. The Council asked the Commission to work in the meantime on a gap analysis as well as an implementation strategy. In October 2018, the European Council reaffirmed its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and its implementation and reiterated the call for an implementation strategy. The Council has therefore added pressure on the Commission to fulfil these long-standing civil society demands.

Late in 2017, the Commission convened the first meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) on the Implementation of the SDGs, to which the EEB Secretary General was appointed as a member and the Director of Global Policies and Sustainability as a member of the Management Committee. The MSP established various subgroups working on issues such as the EU budget and governance as well as on improvement of the SDG indicators, monitoring and reporting. In October 2018, the MSP published its input to the reflection paper.

Only in January 2019, close to the end of its mandate, did the Commission publish the “Reflection Paper” on the SDGs. While the problem analysis of the paper was relatively strong, the paper only proposed different possible scenarios of how to move forward.

Following her appointment, incoming Commission President von der Leyen affirmed the Commission’s collective responsibility for implementation of the SDGs, imposed on each Commissioner the responsibility for ensuring the delivery of the SDGs in their respective areas and pledged to refocus the European Semester into an instrument that integrated the SDGs. The new Commission did not however commit to come forward with an EU implementation strategy for the SDGs, notwithstanding the Council’s reiteration in December 2019 of its earlier call for such a strategy. Nor has it renewed the mandate of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on the implementation of the SDGs.

In 2020, 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.

ACTIVITIES

- Ensure the establishment of a new multi-stakeholder body to continue the work of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on the implementation of the SDGs, with an improved mandate, and seek to actively contribute to that body;
- Monitor and provide input to the SDG implementation actions by the different Commissioners and the European Parliament and ensure that SDG targets are fully integrated into all EU policies, with appropriate EU indicators, 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;
- Stimulate and facilitate EEB membership engagement in national implementation of the SDGs, including through continued updating of the online SDG Toolkit and the EEB’s Agenda 2030 working group;
- Continue the implementation of the three-year (July 2017 – June 2020) awareness-raising and policy campaign Make Europe Sustainable For All on the ambitious implementation of the SDGs by and in Europe as the project lead together with 24 project partners in 15 Member States;
- Seek funding to continue working on the implementation of the SDGs in a broader coalition of CSOs beyond the end of the current Make Europe Sustainable for All project.



MACRO-ECONOMIC QUESTIONS AND THE TRANSITION TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

In 2018, the EEB set up a new working group on economic transition. We worked with DG's DEVCO, ENV and GROW on various events, co-organised a big [post-growth conference](#) in the European Parliament and launched a petition through WeMove.eu entitled '[Europe, it's time to end the growth dependency](#)'. It was signed by more than 200 academics with relevant expertise, supported by 90,000+ individuals and handed over to Commission First Vice-President Timmermans. The EEB also organised a debate during the Growth in Transition Austrian Presidency conference that led to a set of Vienna Vehicles: concrete policy proposals that build further on the petition text. That [policy letter](#) was published 18 times in 10 countries on 9 May 2019, to coincide with Europe day and the Sibiu Summit on the Future of Europe. We used this to challenge candidates for the 2019 European elections in order to raise their ambition regarding economic reforms that are needed to transition towards a sustainable future. Later in 2019, we launched a [report on decoupling](#), agreed on a set of [policy proposals](#) linked to this report and organised a debate with MEPs and Commission staff. We also used the 2019 review of SDG 8 to challenge the growth paradigm and co-organise a flagship event of the Finnish Presidency on the topic of Beyond GDP.

In 2020, we aim to organise another postgrowth conference in the European Parliament, as a follow-up to the successful 2018 conference in the EP. A group of MEPs are also forming a Parliamentary Intergroup on the European Green Deal and post-growth policy and we aim to work with them on concrete policy proposals.

We are already exploring engagement with the Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity (CROSOL) on advocacy workshops on degrowth during the Croatian Presidency and we are scoping opportunities under the German Presidency.

The aims of the economic transition working group are to develop a clear position and policy asks related to, amongst others, alternative measurements of well-being and prosperity beyond GDP growth, 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, 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 the relationship between the sustainable development agenda and current negotiations on legally binding rules and regulations on corporate responsibility and accountability.

ACTIVITIES

- Through the working group on economic transition, develop positions and strategies to advocate for policy measures related to economic-environmental aspects of societal transformation;
- Organise conferences, panels and side events on the issues where appropriate and with MEPs, DGs and governments who preside over the Council;
- Through the H2020 project LOCOMOTION on energy, climate and economic transition (starting 1 June 2019 and running for 4 years), further intensify the work on macro-economic questions.



BETTER REGULATION AND TRADE

The Commission's Better Regulation agenda underwent a 'stock-taking' exercise in 2019 and has faced criticism that it is seen by many stakeholders as a deregulation agenda aimed at placating anti-democratic and anti-EU forces. While the Commission has underlined that the aim is effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and not deregulation, it is clear that the focus on reducing economic and administrative burdens remains a core part of the 'DNA' of Better Regulation. A regulatory scrutiny board (RSB) has been in operation leading to a slowing down in the progress of proposals through the system. Also there is recognition that some proposals manage to side-step the need for impact assessments, and this has raised concerns of a non-level playing field against the environment, exacerbated by the innate bias in the combination of the analytic tools, data, and political framing of a number of the policy questions and scope of options considered. The Commission's intention to develop an instrument delivering on the 'one-in, one-out' principle, according to which any legislative proposal creating new burdens should relieve people and businesses of an equivalent existing burden at EU level in the same policy area, is of particular concern and should be opposed.

In the area of trade, the EU constantly negotiates and agrees on new bilateral trade agreements including with other highly industrialised countries such as Japan (JEFTA entered in force in early 2019) as well with developing or emerging markets such as the currently negotiated free-trade agreement with Indonesia. The implications are manifold: trade agreements boost global trade volumes and thereby increase environmental pressures; the sustainable development chapters in the EU trade agreements are legally non-binding and therefore lack teeth; most trade agreements

comprise Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) or similar arbitration systems that put investors' rights over the right of a government to protect health, consumer rights and the environment.

While the future of negotiations on an EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership is uncertain, the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) provisionally entered into force in September 2017, meaning that many aspects of the agreement now apply. National and in some cases regional parliaments are still in the process of considering its ratification which is necessary for it to take full effect with some appearing to be contemplating rejecting CETA. Many concerns remain over the investment arbitration system under CETA, despite the European Court of Justice having confirmed its legality. Moreover, new trade negotiations with governments that fail to address issues around sustainable development, deforestation, the loss of biodiversity and/or climate change, such as the United States and Brazil (as part of Mercosur), are highly problematic, with little guarantees provided for the environment, in stark contrast to the rights afforded to investors.

Finally, there is a risk that following its departure from the EU, the UK will opt for a low regulation pathway in order to offset the losses that are expected to result from the current UK government's decision to stay outside the Single Market and Customs Union. It will therefore be important for the EEB to monitor closely the negotiations on the future relationship between the EU and the United Kingdom and engage as appropriate in order to avert any negative consequences for environmental policy in the EU or UK.

ACTIVITIES

- Engage in activities to reframe the “better regulation” debate to one of “regulation to protect citizens”, work on reducing risks of deregulation and seek to promote regulation that takes on board the long-term needs of people and planet;
- Push back against the Commission’s idea of an instrument applying the ‘one-in, one-out’ principle and, if the proposal is not withdrawn, seek to limit the damage from its application;
- 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 on chemical laws and CAP;
- Develop recommendations for reforming and improving EU governance and law-making, e.g. by stepping up enforcement measures;
- Engage NGO networks, including through the EEB Law Group, to highlight needs for improved implementation and solutions so that the rule of law and environmental justice ambitions are dealt with more effectively;
- Actively participate in the EU-wide campaign “Stop ISDS – Rights for People, Rules for Companies”;
- 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, including in relation to the ratification or otherwise of CETA and the EU-Mercosur agreement;
- Monitor and as appropriate engage in the Brexit-related negotiations on the future relationship between the EU and the UK;
- Explore how the EEB and its members can support concerns on corporate accountability and citizens’ rights in protecting the environment in the context of new UN treaties under development, and being proposed, and call for the EU to engage proactively and constructively in such initiatives, in a manner consistent with a party to the Aarhus Convention.





FISCAL REFORM AND GREEN FINANCE

Economic signals, economic instruments and financial flows still overwhelmingly favour incentives and finance that more often undermine sustainability than support it. There remains an urgent need for work on fiscal reform at EU and Member State level to address market failures and provide due incentives and investment consistent with sustainable development. In response to the euro crisis, the EU developed in 2011 a new mechanism that in principle supports 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, while the proposal was launched as a climate budget, it remains a far weaker budget on climate and on the environment than needed. While the negotiations in 2019 have led to progress with the use of some funds, notably LIFE and funds that support Cohesion Policy, others are not only lacking in ambition, but run counter to science – notably the CAP, which, if agreed in its current form, will be a major missed opportunity for reform, for the environment, and indeed for the long term viability of farming. In addition, when the MFF was proposed it reflected the context and priorities of the Juncker Commission. With the European Green Deal there is a need to revisit the MFF and how it is implemented if it is to deliver. Negotiations remain intense and are expected to continue into 2020 and the “programming stage” of developing the Partnership Agreements, the Operational Programmes and the CAP Strategic Plans will be particularly important, as are the connections to the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and the National Development Programmes (NDPs) linked to the European Semester.

In 2019, the EEB reached agreement with Green Budget Europe (GBE) to integrate the projects and activities of GBE into the EEB’s structures and work programme, with a view to GBE ceasing to exist as an independent organisation. This will enable the EEB to step up its work on fiscal reform while providing a vehicle for the good work of GBE to be continued. Initial steps taken in 2019 included agreeing the transfer of two grants supporting a project on MFF and climate to the EEB. The process of fully integrating GBE activities into the EEB is expected to be completed in 2020.

ACTIVITIES

- Complete the process of integrating GBE activities and projects into the EEB structures and relaunching the fiscal reform working group;
- Continue to monitor, assess and pursue opportunities for work on fiscal reform at EU and Member State level to improve economic signals to catalyse sustainability;
- Seek to influence the remaining steps of the MFF negotiations by reviewing critically the proposals that emerge during the negotiations from the perspective of environment and wider sustainable development goals and encouraging an MFF that respects people and planet;
- Support the development of civil society capacity to influence climate finance in national programming and plans for the use of EU funding.



STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATION AND 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 and/or a Directive on Environmental Inspections would significantly help achieve better, efficient and more harmonised compliance.

The new Commission will certainly continue to focus on Member State implementation of environmental law and policy. The Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) should therefore become more ambitious to identify and solve Member State-specific but also systemic issues, going into root causes, involving public administration quality and governance. At the same time, the EIR should not in any way detract from the Commission's duty to enforce the Treaties and bring infringement proceedings. The EIR also needs to be implemented in a more transparent, participatory manner with close involvement of civil society actors.

Harassment of environmental civil society groups and activists appears to have increased in the last few years in Europe. This is a major problem, not only for the work of the EEB and its membership, but for the civil society community as a whole. Movements and actions to undermine and silence NGOs and interest groups is a threat to democracy and to the rule of law. The outcome of the European Parliament Elections 2019 has shaped the political landscape within which NGOs and critical voices will have to work in for the next 5 years. All improvements that NGOs will strive for in environmental legislation and rights

of information, public participation and access to justice will be underpinned by how seriously the next Commission and Parliament intend to defend the rule of law.

A revision of the Environmental Crimes Directive will provide the opportunity to broaden its scope and ensure that it is effective in combatting illegal activities.

ACTIVITIES

- Continue to press for sectoral as well as horizontal initiatives to ensure effective compliance;
- Continue to follow the EU work on the Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) and help identify and promote solutions to Member State-specific and in particular systemic implementation and enforcement issues in close cooperation with civil society groups; in this context, help develop NGO capacity on implementation and feed in their knowledge into the EIR process;
- Continue collecting information on complaints cases about poor transposition of environmental legislation or about breaches in their application and whenever possible, provide support to EEB members having submitted such cases;
- Create a support network for EEB members to tackle harassment and shrinking of civil society space with the help of Justice & Environment;
- Monitor and provide input and/or react to the REFIT of the Environmental Crimes Directive together with the members.



ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY

In March 2017, the EU was found by the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee to be in non-compliance with the Convention due to the insufficient possibilities for access to justice at the EU level. When the matter was discussed six months later at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP-6, Budva, Montenegro, September 2017), the EU managed to prevent the MoP endorsing the finding of non-compliance but was severely criticised by other Parties and stakeholders for its position.

Following the Montenegro meeting, growing pressure from Member States eventually taking the form of a formal request by the Council, combined with that from civil society, led the Commission to belatedly set in motion a process for considering options to address the issue, including by launching a public consultation on a roadmap in May 2018, but at a slow pace which seems unlikely to see the issue fully resolved before MoP-7. The study was published in October 2019 and confirmed that the most effective way to address the problem and bring the EU into compliance with the Convention was through revising the Aarhus Regulation. It now falls to the new Commission to come forward with a specific proposal.

The EU must move swiftly to address the problem at the root of the EU's non-compliance by revising the Aarhus Regulation to improve access to justice at the EU level. To that end, we have been pushing the Commission to come forward with a proposal for an amendment to the EU's Aarhus Regulation to finally ensure compliance with the Aarhus Convention.

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.

The Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context also provides a potentially useful framework to promote participatory democracy and strengthen environmental integration in the wider Europe. As with the Aarhus Convention, recent positions taken by the EU under the Espoo Convention have sometimes been problematic, tending to undermine the compliance mechanism and thereby the effectiveness of the Convention itself. This has underlined the importance of maintaining active NGO engagement in the Convention processes.

ACTIVITIES

- Continue to exercise the rights provided under the Aarhus Convention and its implementing legislation in the EEB's everyday advocacy work wherever needed or useful;
- Press the new Commission to make a legislative proposal to amend 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 and seeking improvements to the effective use of the Convention's compliance mechanism, such as more resources and improved remedies;
- Engage in relevant processes under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, in particular tracking the ad hoc working group on lifetime extensions of nuclear plants and the upcoming session of the Meeting of the Parties in December 2020;
- Where appropriate, explore opportunities to promote the Aarhus Convention and Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration at the global level and in other regions.

POPULATION

A major, if not the major, driver behind many of the environmental problems described in this work programme (such as resource consumption, habitat fragmentation, and water and air pollution) is the continuing growth in human population numbers. These have increased dramatically from just 4 million 12,000 years ago to 1.65 billion in 1900 and from there to the current level of 7.6 billion and are foreseen to continue increasing to 9.8 billion by 2050 and 11.2 billion by 2100. Whether we consider climate change, biodiversity loss or pollution of the oceans, virtually all environmental problems would be easier to solve with fewer people, and most are exacerbated by more people.

Despite the objective importance of human population numbers as a key factor in determining our impact on the environment, population receives little attention from the environmental movement. This may be due to the very long timespans before measures to reduce the population growth rate take effect, to the fact that some of the measures required (e.g. empowerment of women and girls) lie outside

the traditional field of 'environmental' measures, or to the fact that some measures taken to curb population growth raise sensitive political, moral and/or religious questions. Given the threat posed by an ever-growing human population to the balance of life on Earth as well as the quality of life of future human generations, the EEB believes that this topic needs a fuller discussion, first and foremost within the environmental movement.

ACTIVITIES

- Hold a workshop for EEB members and other environmental NGOs to exchange information and perspectives and discuss policy options.





CLIMATE

The world is facing climate breakdown, and the looming impacts on people, planet and economies require swift action to manage the most urgent environmental challenge facing the planet at present.

The importance of the commitment by world leaders in the Paris Agreement to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C” has been confirmed by the scientific findings of the IPCC special report on 1.5°C. Avoiding climate breakdown requires the world to significantly speed up its emissions cuts and put in place the framework to achieve a net zero economy as soon as possible. Europe’s emission reduction targets for the near future are in striking contrast to this long-term objective. To maintain its climate credibility on the world stage the EU needs to commit to a net zero greenhouse gas economy

by 2040, adjust the 2030 climate and energy objectives accordingly and rapidly put in place all necessary measures to fully implement the Paris Agreement. This demands an energy transition to 100% renewable energy while cutting overall energy consumption and a radical transformation of the whole energy, transport and industrial system. It also requires a system change in agricultural production and consumption, as well as significantly higher ambition and action on land and ecosystem restoration.



EU CLIMATE ACTION

Active engagement by civil society is essential for a strong implementation of the 2030 Climate and Energy framework including the national energy and climate plans (NECPs). The EEB will continue its ongoing activities in this context and support its members and partners with expertise and advocacy activities.

In the next 20 years, Europe needs to accelerate the transformation towards a net-zero greenhouse gas economy and deliver on its “long-term low greenhouse gas emissions development strategy” that responds to the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on 1.5 degrees. The legal embedding of the net zero objective for the EU and the final submission of the EU long-term strategy to the UNFCCC will constitute key milestones for 2020.

A key enabler for accelerated climate action is to direct public and private financial flows towards climate-proofed activities. Efforts to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies and to climate-proof EU and national budgets and push for fiscal reforms with instruments like a revision of the Energy Taxation Directive and effective CO₂ pricing tools will be coordinated with the EEB’s work on fiscal reforms (see section Fiscal Reform and Green Finance). A key venue for this is the mobility sector where the EEB will build on and amplify work by related organisations like Transport and Environment (T&E). Similarly, the Common Agricultural Policy and its incentives need to be improved to mitigate the climate impacts of agriculture.

The EEB will also advocate for climate-proofing of Europe’s energy infrastructure by ensuring that the future gas and electricity systems are compatible with our long-term commitments under the Paris Agreement. Specifically, it will work with its members and relevant stakeholders to build a Paris-Agreement Compatible Scenario within the Ten-Year Network Development Plans for gas and electricity, reflecting the objective of net zero GHG emissions by 2040.

The full implementation of the Clean Energy for all Europeans package supported by the NECP process will 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, reflecting the need to bring the EU towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. Building on the activities in 2019 for the preparation of revised 2030 climate targets (nationally determined contributions or NDCs) the work for an upwards revision will intensify towards UNFCCC COP 26 in 2020.

The EEB will further increase efforts to bring together the perspective on circular economy, renewable energy, energy savings and consumption-based emissions as pillars of increased climate action. This effort will be especially looking into the role of the building sector and its supply chain including energy intensive industry.

ACTIVITIES

- Support a strong implementation of the 2030 Climate and Energy Package, cooperating with CAN Europe where appropriate;
- Advocate for an ambitious plan towards a climate-neutral industry sector that integrates synergies with the circular economy;
- Advocate for the phase out of fossil fuels from the heating and cooling sectors by 2030, in the frame of a decarbonized economy;
- Contribute to the activities towards a legal framework for a net-zero greenhouse gas economy and the long-term strategy with revised targets for 2050 and 2030, as well as intermediate targets;

- Link the work on climate with the activities on fiscal reform;
- Support and amplify T&E's work on climate action in the transport sector;
- Press for stronger measures to mitigate the climate impacts of agriculture as part of the CAP negotiations;
- Link the work on climate with the work on sustainable energy infrastructure (including electricity and gas grids);
- Make the Industrial Emissions Directive climate-proof (see section on Pollution Prevention and Control – Stationary sources, IED Refit);
- Engage the membership to convince the Council on the need for the adoption of new NDCs;
- Keep advocating for climate friendly food and farming practices that support sustainability by also taking biodiversity, water and air quality into account – in the CAP, in the MFF and the associated partnership agreements and rural development programmes;
- Explore possibilities for further linking the work on circular economy, energy savings and climate with a consumer perspective by addressing consumption-based emissions in Europe;
- Coordinate work in the working group on climate and energy, holding at least one meeting in 2020.





ENERGY SAVINGS

The Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) are two key measures to achieve energy savings. The year 2020 is of special importance as it is the finish for the 2020 target and the deadline for the national transposition of the new requirements set in the 2018 revisions. In parallel, the Ecodesign and Energy labelling Directives need a continuous and ambitious implementation, building on the adoption of the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling package in 2019. Further activities on new instruments to accelerate energy efficiency activities and tap the full energy saving potentials will be developed in the context of the new institutional setup.

To ensure a strong transposition of the EED, the EEB will continue to participate in the Coalition for Energy Savings (CfES) and follow the issue closely within the EEB network, providing and gathering information and experience from Member State level. The first task in 2020 will be to monitor the implementation, prepare for the evaluation of the 2020 target, ensure clear guidance on the national transposition and support member organisations.

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 adoption of 17 ecodesign and labelling measures in the 'Ecodesign package' in 2019, we have a major opportunity to build on the recognition of the merits of 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, notably smartphones and ICT.

ACTIVITIES

- Raise awareness of CSOs and policy makers on the importance of NECPs to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and what commitments in NECPs, and links to NECPs, are needed for them to be ambitious and transformative.
- Engage in advocacy towards the Commission and European Parliament on new instruments, full enforcement and good implementation of the EED in close cooperation with the CfES;
- Engage and support EEB members in pushing for a strong implementation of the EED;
- 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 communication on the benefits of these policies for EU citizens, targeting smartphones and ICT as iconic products;
- Ambitious outcomes of new or revised measures on heating and cooling products, computers, smartphones and other ICT as well as pushing for better testing standards and enforcement;
- Mobilise to systematically address the durability, reparability and recyclability of products considering the whole range of product policy instruments at European level;
- Seek binding standards on energy efficiency for stationary sources (see section on Pollution Prevention and Control – Stationary sources, IED Refit).



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE AND PHASE-OUT OF FOSSIL FUELS AND NUCLEAR

As part of the overall need to transition to 100% renewable energy while cutting overall energy consumption, Europe's energy infrastructure and generation will undergo a massive transformation. To achieve a phase-out of all fossil fuels as soon as possible, 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 Pollution Prevention and Control – Stationary sources), while at the same time contributing to the effort against the use of environmentally harmful unconventional fossil fuels.

Some countries advocate for a continued use of nuclear energy. 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.

The transformation of the energy system to 100% renewable energy and the accelerated phase-out of fossil fuels in mobility and industry requires an adjustment of the existing energy infrastructure including grids, storage and an increased role of decentralised production and prosumers.

The Ten-Year Network Development Plans (TYNDPs) of the European Networks of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) and the European Networks of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSO-G) are essential for long-term investment decision in energy infrastructure.

The preparation for the TYNDP 2020 to be aligned with the requirements of the Paris Agreement will be a key requirement on the EU level concerning the future approach to building energy infrastructure. The TYNDP 2020 will for the first time offer a long-term perspective beyond 2040, possibly going up to 2050.

This process offers the opportunity for the EEB and its members to ensure that the roll-out of energy infrastructures for the energy transition will fully consider the potential of energy savings, renewable energy and local solutions while avoiding a lock-in into unsustainable solutions and fossil fuel infrastructure like liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and gas pipelines and to prevent that it is used as an excuse to weaken provisions for nature conservation, environmental protection and public participation. The EEB is engaging with the ENTSO-E, ENTSO-G and NGOs on this task, in cooperation with the Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI) through the PAC Project (Paris Agreement Compatible scenarios for energy infrastructure).

ACTIVITIES

- Strive for an early phase-out of coal and lignite power plants (before 2030), inter alia through playing an active role in the Europe Beyond Coal campaign and through improved framework conditions (see section on Pollution Prevention and Control – Stationary sources, IED Refit);
- 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 and increased engagement in relevant processes under the Espoo Convention;
- Follow the TYNDP process, constituting the basis for the TEN-E regulation;
- Push for a check of the TYNDP for consistency with the Paris Agreement;
- Develop a Paris-compatible energy scenario together with CAN Europe under the PAC project, and ensure that this scenario is fed into the 2022 TYNDP Process;
- Provide feedback to ENTSO-E and ENTSG on the 2020 TYNDP through public consultation and engage with network in the process;
- Engage with stakeholders on the grid issue in a long-term perspective;
- Continue the ad-hoc working group on energy infrastructure with EEB members and other partners.



NATURE



For many people living in towns and cities, nature and wildlife are often something you watch on television.

But the reality is that the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat all ultimately rely on biodiversity and ecosystem services which are essential for human existence and good quality of life. However, nature across most of the globe and in Europe has now been significantly altered with ecosystems and biodiversity showing rapid decline. Human actions threaten more species with global extinction now than ever before e.g. more than 25% of the European animal species are facing extinction and more than 50% of the wetlands in Europe have been lost since 1970s. Biodiversity loss is one of the core planetary boundaries that have already been crossed by humanity.

The global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services adopted by IPBES in 2019 concluded that the rate of global change in nature during the past 50 years is unprecedented in human history. The direct drivers of change in nature with the largest global impact have been confirmed as (i) changes in land, water and sea use; (ii) direct exploitation of organisms; (iii) climate change; (iv) pollution; and (v) invasion of alien species. Climate change is a direct driver that is increasingly exacerbating the impact of other drivers on nature and human well-being.

Those five direct drivers result from an array of underlying causes which are in turn underpinned by societal values and behaviours that include production and consumption patterns, human population dynamics, trade, technological innovations and local, regional and global governance. In the past 50 years, the human population has doubled, the global economy has grown nearly 4-fold and global trade has grown 10-fold, together driving up the demands for energy and materials. Economic incentives have favoured expanding economic activity, and often environmental harm, over conservation or restoration. Incorporating the consideration of the multiple values of ecosystem functions and of nature's contribution to people into economic incentives has been shown to deliver better ecological, economic and social benefits.



PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

The EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy was adopted in 2011 with the aim to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Strategy's first target foresees the full implementation of the EU's Birds and Habitats Directives (the so-called Nature Directives) which have underpinned the creation of the Natura 2000 network and remain the cornerstone of Europe's efforts to safeguard its rich biodiversity. The effective implementation and management of the network is of the highest priority for the EU to reach its biodiversity targets. As a result of a thorough evaluation of the Nature Directives in 2016, the European Commission concluded that the Directives are fit for purpose and adopted the Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy aimed to improve their implementation and boost their contribution towards reaching the EU's biodiversity targets by 2020. In addition, the EU Water Framework Directive remains an important legal instrument to prevent deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and restore them to ecological health in order to address the dramatic loss of freshwater biodiversity,

2020 is an important year to drive the needed transformative change in order to tackle the biodiversity crisis with the global community expected to adopt the Global Deal for Nature and People at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP 15 in Kunming creating a Paris moment for biodiversity. Moreover, the incoming European Commission has committed to play a leading role in global negotiations on the global post 2020 biodiversity framework as well as adopt its own Biodiversity Strategy 2030 as part of the European Green Deal to "set new biodiversity standards and curtail biodiversity loss within 5 years". The EEB will continue to contribute to the development of ambitious EU biodiversity policy commitments that address

the challenge of biodiversity and ecosystems loss and ensures that the solutions and benefits nature provides are integrated in systemic, inclusive, and transformative actions to benefit human well-being, the economy and the planet. The European Commission is expected to follow the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 with more detailed implementation plans by 2021 based on the results of the evaluation of the current Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and the agreed global post 2020 biodiversity framework.

ACTIVITIES

- Advocate for improved implementation and enforcement of the EU Nature Directives building upon experience from the EEB members;
- Influence the content of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 so that it includes inter alia restoration targets for ecosystems important for carbon storage and adaptation to climate change (e.g. peatlands, wetlands, old growth forests) as well as includes biodiversity relevant reforestation actions and action on freshwater biodiversity;
- Provide input into related EU-level initiatives such as evaluation of the current EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and EU positions in the debate on the global post 2020 biodiversity framework under the CBD (the so-called Global Deal for Nature and People);
- Track the development of the relevant EU initiatives on biodiversity (e.g. Invasive Alien Species Regulation, EU Initiative on Pollinators) and collect and provide expertise and experience from the EEB Members to the EU institutions, as required, with aim to increase their ambition and delivery;

- Engage proactively in EU level action on safeguarding large predators and engaging in protecting migratory species along their fly- or swim-way across Europe;
- In close cooperation with the agriculture working group and subject to availability of resources, support action by the EEB members on nitrogen and nitrates that are harmful for terrestrial or aquatic biodiversity particularly in protected areas (for example EU court ruling on nitrogen in the Netherlands or non-compliance with the Nitrates Directive in Germany);
- Convene one or two meetings of the EEB's biodiversity working group to share the experiences and build capacity of the EEB members to effectively engage in improving compliance with the Nature Directives and post 2020 biodiversity framework;
- Coordinate and synergise the EEB's activities with other NGOs and partners, inter alia in the context of the European Habitats Forum.





TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND FARMING SYSTEM

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 proposed a new delivery model based on performance and results in its legislative proposal package for the future of the CAP in June 2018.

The proposals kick-started a political to-and-fro between the different EU institutions and EU governments before a final decision is made on what the next CAP will look like.

The EEB has strongly criticised the new proposal which sets the stage for a race to the bottom on environmental farm standards if no true accountability mechanism is put in place.

While in February 2019 MEPs on the European Parliament's Environment Committee have stood up for higher environmental ambition under the next CAP, MEPs from the Agriculture Committee have voted for income support payments to no longer be subject to the respect of certain minimum environmental standards, without reaching a decision where the European Parliament stands (plenary vote) prior to the European elections. Hence, the negotiations on the CAP reform are expected to continue for much if not all of 2020. Commission services are currently working on a transition act, and the new European Parliament and appointment of the new Commission in 2019 will certainly also impact the timeframe of the reform. We expect the reform to not take effect before 2021 at the earliest.

The EEB has already played a significant role, together with BirdLife Europe, Greenpeace and WWF, in the early stages of the reform process,

notably by advocating for shared competences under the CAP reform for the Environmental Committee at the European Parliament, managing to have its positions and suggested amendments tabled and some voted on in committees. In 2020, the EEB will continue to argue, in the co-decision process, for more ambition as regards environmental aspects of the reform, as well as monitoring, accountability and safeguard provisions. During the first half of 2020, the EEB will particularly focus on the integration of ENVI Committee report into the final Parliament's position and will follow closely the discussion in the AGRIFISH Council. In the second half of 2020, the case will also be made that there are opportunities across Member States for a race to the top on environmental practices, given national benefits for biodiversity, water quality and long-term soil productivity. Not only will the focus be put on enhancing the CAP legislative proposal but also on ensuring that at national level the consultation and drafting processes of the national CAP Strategic Plans take into account EEB members' positions.

On a parallel track, the EEB will actively engage with the new 'Farm to Fork Strategy' which will be developed in 2020 under the European Green Deal umbrella. This Strategy, under the primary responsibility of DG SANTE with involvement of DG AGRI and DG ENVI, provides an opportunity to break policy silos and argue for a more holistic sustainable food and farming policy. In its EU Green Deal Communication, the European Commission committed to pursue reductions in pesticides and fertiliser use through the Farm to Fork Strategy.

ACTIVITIES

- Promote the EEB's position on the future of the CAP with relevant stakeholders (farmers, industry, etc), including calling for the new CAP to develop new policy instruments in order to help farmers to transition towards a more sustainable farming system and to become less dependent on pesticides;
- Specifically, advocate for eliminating the measures in the current CAP that support intensive farming that is harmful for nature and biodiversity;
- In close cooperation with the biodiversity working group and subject to availability of resources, support action by the EEB members on nitrogen and nitrates (see biodiversity section);
- Develop and promote the EEB's position on the Farm to Fork Strategy;
- Organise at least one event in Brussels with decision makers 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 to encourage improved safeguards and environmental ambition in CAP co-decision negotiations and eventual national implementation;
- Push for joint meetings on the CAP reform between agriculture ministers and environment ministers;
- Participate in the NGO platforms which gather around 30 organisations working on the environment but also on health, animal welfare, farming etc;
- Hold one or two working group meetings and provide regular updates to EEB members on EU policy developments.





WATER

Water is essential for human life and a fundamental resource on which our health and livelihoods, our economy and our wildlife all depend. Water ecosystems in the EU, such as wetlands, lakes, rivers and groundwater aquifers, are the source of water, and are experiencing the most significant degradation and loss of biodiversity compared to other ecosystems. The causes for this are various pressures on freshwater ecosystems, including widespread pollution and over-abstraction of water for intensive agriculture, industry and households. In addition, most European rivers, lakes and wetlands have been degraded by changes to water flow and their physical shape due to infrastructure for hydropower production, flood defences and navigation, as well as land drainage for agriculture and urban sprawl. Climate change is further exacerbating these pressures with, for example, more water storage infrastructure planned across the EU to cope with droughts. These pressures often act at the same time and affect the good functioning of ecosystems, contribute to biodiversity loss and threaten the valuable benefits water ecosystems provide to society and the economy.

Freshwater constitutes only about 2% of the water on the planet and competing demands may lead to an estimated 40% global water supply shortage by 2030. For nine years in a row have water crises been ranked among the top global risks facing businesses and society in the next decade, according to the World Economic Forum.

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and its daughter directives on priority substances and groundwater are the EU's main legal framework to protect and restore the EU's rivers, lakes, coasts and groundwater aquifers and a key legal framework to address the EU's growing water challenges of pollution including by emerging pollutants and water scarcity. The WFD has led to some important improvements in water status throughout the EU since it was adopted in 2000 but its goal to prevent deterioration and bring all water bodies in the EU to ecological health by

2015 has been missed by a long shot. Moreover, unless efforts are significantly stepped up, the EU is not on track to meet its 2027 deadline to bring its water bodies to ecological health. Currently, only around 40% of surface waters are in good ecological status, while only 38% of surface waters are in good chemical status. The status of groundwater across Europe is generally better: 74% of groundwater water bodies are in good chemical status and 89% are in good quantitative status. The WFD implementation report from 2019 concluded that EU governments continue to widely apply the exemptions from reaching the environmental objectives of the WFD and need to increase the uptake of nature-based solutions and make better use of economic instruments such as adequate water pricing and cost recovery from water users.

The European Commission has concluded that the WFD is broadly fit for purpose based on the 2-year fitness check evaluation of the WFD and its daughter directives as well as the related Floods Directive and Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. It concluded that the fact that the WFD's objectives have not been reached fully yet is largely due to insufficient funding, slow implementation and insufficient integration of environmental objectives in sectoral policies, and not due to a deficiency in the legislation.

The Zero-pollution ambition of the European Green Deal is expected to include a specific action on water and air quality (planned for adoption in 2021) which will be developed based on the results of this evaluation and a range of policy options currently being assessed by the Commission including strengthening the chemical aspects of the WFD. If the decision is made to amend the WFD (expected in 2020), the EEB will need to actively advocate for maintaining the ambition and key legal principles of the WFD since the proposals currently put forward by some Member States and industry and agriculture lobbies will undoubtedly result in a weakening of the WFD's high standards and undermine water protection and restoration efforts made to date.

ACTIVITIES

- Continue to engage in the #Protectwater campaign to ensure a proper follow up to the fitness check evaluation of the WFD including proposals for water in the European Green Deal as well as advocacy to maintain a strong WFD in case a decision is made to amend it;
- Engage in the delivery of the relevant outputs of the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the WFD to ensure ambitious implementation of the 3rd river basin management cycle by 2027 with a particular focus on application of exemptions from reaching the WFD objectives, tackling hydro-morphological pressures and diffuse pollution from agriculture, better use of economic instruments and uptake of river restoration and nature-based solutions;
- Review and as necessary further develop the EEB's policy regarding hydropower, involving the EEB working groups on water and on climate and energy and making sure it is compatible with scenarios consistent with the Paris Agreement;
- Carry out advocacy activities to support the adoption of the Water Reuse Regulation as well as a positive outcome to any revision, if proposed, of the Priority Substances Directive, the Groundwater Directive and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive;
- Organise one or two meetings of the EEB's water working group and build the capacity of EEB members to effectively engage in improving compliance with the WFD in their Member States;
- Coordinate and synergise the EEB's activities with other NGOs and partners, inter alia in the context of the Living Rivers Europe coalition.





MARINE PROTECTION

The EEB, through its well-established cooperation with EEB member Seas at Risk (SAR), will continue to advocate for healthy seas and oceans and include marine protection in its relevant horizontal activities.

ACTIVITIES

- Closely collaborate with SAR on the EEB's work with EU Presidencies;
- Advocate for healthy seas and oceans as appropriate in EEB activities on improving implementation of the EU legislation and the post-2020 biodiversity framework;
- Serve in SAR's Executive Committee.

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 Environment 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 EU-level action for soil protection, ideally through a dedicated legally binding instrument, not least because of soil's crucial role in storing carbon.

ACTIVITIES

- Advocate for EU-level action for protecting soils, preferably within a dedicated legally binding framework;
- Organise one working group discussion on sustainable soil policy if the European Commission launches an initiative on soil.

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. The GMO amendment to the Aarhus Convention contains minimum requirements for public participation in decision-making but still requires further ratifications to enter into force and thus have legal effect.

ACTIVITIES

- 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;
- Push for further ratifications of the GMO amendment to the Aarhus Convention so that it enters into force.



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. It is important that laws and policies regulating chemicals and pollution apply to all relevant products or services in the EU market, including imported ones.



CHEMICAL SAFETY

2020 will be a critical year regarding the policy framework for the protection of citizens and the environment from the risks posed by hazardous substances as several highly influential initiatives launched by the Commission will be finalized or are ongoing and/or pending. These include the development of a non-toxic environment strategy under the 7EAP, the interface between chemicals, products and waste legislation, the “non-REACH chemicals” legislation REFIT and the implementation of actions to improve the registration, evaluation, restriction and authorisation of chemicals resulting from the REACH Review. All these commitments are expected to be incorporated under the ‘zero-pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment’ in the European Green Deal that promises a chemicals strategy for sustainability. This commitment creates a new opportunity and context for pursuing our objectives in relation to chemicals.

The general environmental objectives of the EEB in this area for 2020 are:

- An ambitious chemicals strategy for sustainability under the Zero Pollution Strategy for a toxic-free environment presented as part of the European Green Deal that incorporates concrete, overarching and ambitious chemicals policy actions in line with the 7EAP commitment to a non-toxic environment strategy;
- Chemicals mainstreamed in the political agenda;
- Institutional commitment to an EU substitution strategy that promotes the timely substitution of hazardous chemicals, especially of substances of very high concern (SVHCs) under REACH as well as within the BREF and IED framework (see section on Pollution Prevention and Control – Stationary sources;

- Increased transparency in decision making, enforcement and non-compliance;
- Improvement of REACH implementation processes, enforcement, core objectives and principles and implemented actions outlined in the results of the REACH Review to ensure that this core chemicals regulation fully meets its goal of protecting people and the environment from the risks posed by hazardous chemicals;
- To ensure that the EU properly and effectively addresses the issue of toxic recycling;
- Commitment by the EU to mandatory harmonized information systems for chemicals in products and waste as well as replication of AskREACH application for consumers in other countries;
- To ensure that nano materials are addressed appropriately in REACH and to revive the general call for an EU-wide nano register as part of a comprehensive and meaningful set of transparency measures, subject to availability of funding.

ACTIVITIES

- Contribute to the development of an EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability in line with the toxic-free environment goal, that sets out concrete actions to prevent human and environmental exposure to hazardous chemicals to current and future generations and highlights the importance of addressing substances of concern, including endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs);
- Build alliances with other stakeholders such as academia, industry and authorities in order to collaborate and provide concrete proposals to ensure the proper implementation of REACH, information systems and/or promote substitution and the precautionary principle;

- Support the development of EU financial instruments to support substitution and safer alternatives and products;
- Advocate for ambitious EU restriction of spotlighted chemicals such as microplastics under REACH as well as for textiles production (Textiles BREF) and improved authorisation processes;
- Coordinate with NGOs and other stakeholders to provide a common position and policy options to solve the toxic material cycles problem, information systems on chemicals in products, use of hazardous substances in industrial activities as well as the replication of the AskREACH app to support citizens information on harmful chemicals in consumer products;
- Evaluate the effectiveness and benefits of the nano observatory to be developed by ECHA and develop policy recommendations for a meaningful EU-wide register for nanomaterials, subject to availability of funding;
- Support and contribute to the EDC-free coalition;
- Convene one or two meetings of the EEB's chemicals working group in 2020 and regularly update EEB members engaged in implementing EU chemicals and nano legislation;
- Work on and support our members and alliances with regard to non-EU/international chemicals control programmes such as SAICM, UN, OECD, international conventions, etc. where feasible.





AIR QUALITY

As established by the new National Emission Ceilings (NEC) Directive, Member States had to prepare national plans by 1 April 2019 in order to show how they will comply with the already set emission reduction targets for 2020 and 2030. This requires the introduction and implementation of new measures to prevent and limit air pollution from energy, industry, transport, domestic and agriculture-related sources, which the EEB will closely monitor.

In parallel, while continuing to press for full compliance with existing air pollution laws and to highlight non-compliance, the EEB will continue supporting its members to ensure that legally binding air quality limits set in the Ambient Air Quality Directives are achieved throughout the entire EU and will contribute to the follow-up phase of the Fitness Check of these Directives (completed in 2019).

More importantly, the EEB will advocate for more stringent air quality standards, in line with those 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 revised NEC Directive as well as the Ambient Air Quality Directives via exchange of best practices, litigation and communications work around non-compliance and infringements processes where the Commission will be pushed to enforce the Directives in a more strict and precise way;
- Coordinate and represent NGOs during the follow-up phase of the Fitness Check of the Ambient Air Quality Directives (potential review/revision of relevant legislation);
- Coordinate NGO work addressing air pollution from agriculture and domestic solid fuel burning, which are key contributors to particulate matter (PM) and ozone levels;
- Support and amplify T&E's work in addressing air pollution from transport with a focus on road and shipping;
- Participate in relevant activities under the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP);
- Organise one or two meetings of the EEB's clean air working group.





MERCURY

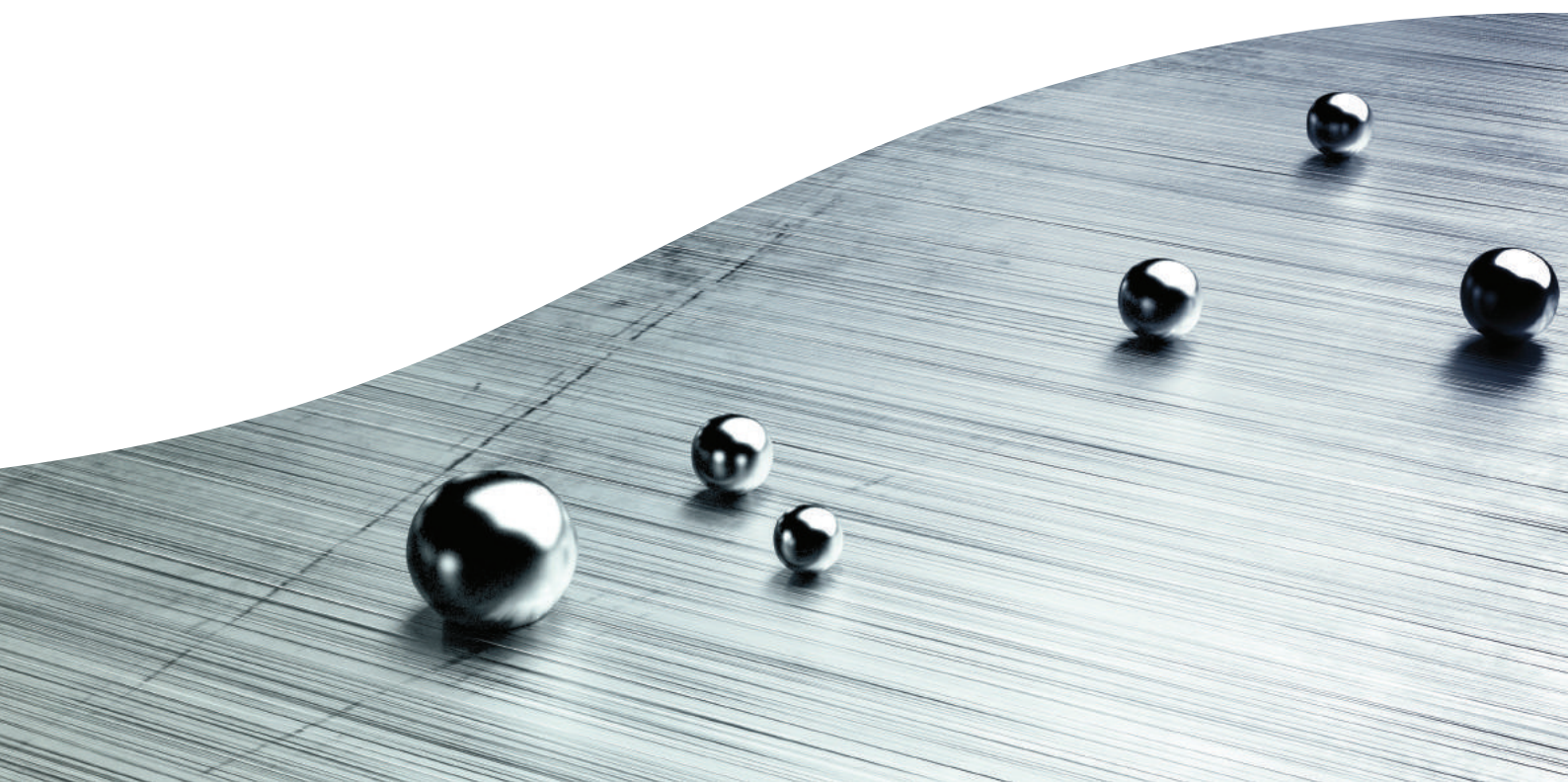
Mercury is a highly toxic metal that is volatile and has global dispersal patterns. It causes damage to the nervous system, may impair the development of the brain and nervous system of the foetus, and can in its organic form accumulate and concentrate in food chains of ecosystems. Due to its extraordinarily 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 the first, second and third sessions of the Conference of the Parties (CoPs-1, 2 and 3) taking place in September 2017, November 2018 and November 2019 respectively.

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 2020, 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. 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 intersessional work, the Conference of the Parties and UNEP expert groups, as relevant);
- Support international projects, mainly in developing countries, assisting the implementation of the Convention as well as on mercury reduction activities including continuation of the work under the skin lightening cream campaign;
- Follow, as relevant, issues related to the implementation of the EU mercury regulation.





INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

In 2020 the EEB will work to improve implementation of the EU's Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) while also advocating for the law itself to be strengthened.

In 2020, we will continue our involvement in the 'Sevilla Process' contributing to the so-called 'Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Documents' (BREFs), which contain binding environmental standards for European industrial facilities. Key BREFs are currently being developed on textiles, ferrous metals processing and the chemical industry. The EEB will actively engage and 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' that allow exemptions to the usual rules. We will continue to take part in the 'Europe Beyond Coal' campaign with the goal of achieving a European coal phase-out by 2030 at the latest. Other important areas include refineries, iron and steel, cement plants and addressing water pollution from industrial activities (e.g. chemical plants and the HAZBREF initiative) but also lignite mining.

A formal 'fitness check' review process for the IED was launched in late 2018 and will gain in importance in 2020. The EEB will pro-actively engage in this process to strengthen the law.

Improving access to information and public benchmarking of industry will also be in the focus throughout 2020, linked to improved access to information at the regional level (UNECE Protocol review), EU level (E-PRTR and IED Registry) as well as at Member State level.

ACTIVITIES

- Continue to organise technical expert input, coordinate and provide active NGO involvement in the 'Sevilla process';
- Maintain our new dedicated NGO Sevilla platform of information about industrial production (www.eipie.eu);
- Support members in enforcement work and proper implementation of industrial standards;
- Subject to funding, work on implementation for specific sectors (e.g. refineries, iron and steel, cement production) or specific media impacts (e.g. water pollution from industrial activities);
- Engage in the IED REFIT process, including by providing input, and mobilising others to provide input, to the public consultation;
- Advocate for improved access to information, including through a database on the biggest polluters, public participation in decision-making on industrial activities and an effective liability system reflecting the polluter pays principle;
- Where relevant, engage at global level work linked to the above activities e.g. OECD and UNECE;
- Organise one EEB industry working group meeting and one larger stakeholder event on the IED Review.



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. The scope of the current Directive only deals with some sources of problematic noise; others also need to be addressed, e.g. noise pollution related to environmentally impacting activities.

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;
- Advocate for the zero-pollution ambition under the European Green Deal to extend to tackling noise pollution;
- Convene a noise working group meeting or webinar, subject to political opportunity and availability of funding;
- Participate in meetings and events, and seek alliances with like-minded stakeholders, as appropriate.


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 have consequences on nocturnal fauna and on human health through affecting the quality of sleep. The spreading of the most cost-effective energy-efficient LED technology with a blue light base may exacerbate the problem, and this has now been acknowledged as an issue by Commission services. Balancing energy conservation and light pollution can be partially dealt with through lighting regulations as set within Ecodesign, Green Public Procurement and Ecolabel policies. However, 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. Retaining energy-inefficient technologies on the market cannot be the long-term solution, and efforts should be made to promote existing technologies and approaches that save on energy while minimising light pollution.

ACTIVITIES

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

- Continue the integration of this dimension when assessing relevant future policy options, e.g. in relation to ecodesign, 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 where members are available, carry out advocacy work at national and local level to address over-lighting and blue light pollution.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Circular Economy is an approach embraced by more and more countries both within and outside the EU in the attempt to reconcile social and economic development with environmental constraints.

It is essential that the EU continues to pave the way in terms of public policies and strives to reduce use of virgin resources and ensure that our economic development is consistent with remaining within planetary boundaries by 2030.

Building on the Circular Economy priority for the new EU Commission, it is essential that the inter-connections between the Circular Economy practices and other environmental dimensions are reinforced, and that the wider “nexus” is addressed and enhanced. Addressing the interfaces is a unique strength of the EEB. We shall particularly create links with low carbon and bio-economy strategies and a non-toxic environment.

In addition, we will as far as possible integrate the fiscal reform dimension in the Circular Economy policy developments and in our related proposals.

We will also promote the Circular Economy as a route for a more inclusive fairer society in line with our environmental justice fundamental which is closely related to social justice and reduction of inequalities in Europe and beyond European boundaries. In that perspective, we will constantly set the Circular Economy as a possible leverage to achieve the 2030 SDGs in collaboration with the Global Policy and Sustainability team, and we will promote sustainable lifestyles and consumption patterns.



As 2020 is a pivotal year to shape the future work of newly elected/nominated EU institutions, we shall react to the EU commission agenda on established policy work, but also try to put on the agenda some new and transformative policy developments through our campaigns (e.g. textiles, right to repair), and continue projects (and possibly trigger new projects) with EEB members to accompany some frontrunning experiences at national level that could influence the EU's work in the coming years (e.g. the setting of resource use reduction targets, repairability labelling).

ACTIVITIES

- Help shape the new Circular Economy Action Plan of the Commission, while consolidating the priority actions initiated under the Circular Economy Action Plan of the Juncker Commission, notably by helping our members to transpose the EU waste laws, by monitoring the development of the Plastics Strategy as part of the Rethink Plastic Alliance and by promoting a more ambitious EU product policy;
- A Coolproducts advocacy campaign on 'right to repair' with an extended community of partners, including beyond the EEB membership, replicating and improving sound precedents obtained under Ecodesign policy in 2019, and engaging towards a repair labelling scheme building on national initiatives (France);
- A 'wardrobe change' advocacy campaign on textiles to convey a transformative vision for the sector and ensure that a policy is set at EU level - ideally as a Textiles Strategy, in the same way that there is a Plastics Strategy - addressing notably fast fashion, chemicals in garments and release of micro-fibres;
- Monitor and influence the development of the EU Strategic Alliance on Batteries to make sure the growing battery market will be circular from the very beginning of its value chain, and link with circular economy and decarbonization in the transport sector;
- Engage in the decarbonization through circular economy of the energy intensive industry sector and link with the embodied emissions in construction materials and the total decarbonization of the building sector, including embodied emissions in construction materials;
- Promote detoxification of our products and advocate for an information system with regard to chemicals in products and materials, most particularly through our work on textiles and electric and electronic products (plastics being also covered by the large coalition Rethink Plastic Alliance that the EEB is member of);
- Embed the Circular Economy perspectives in bio-economy development through projects with national members;
- Set the Circular Economy practices in the perspective of implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development through a campaign on textiles and possible initiation of new projects at global level;
- Engage in promoting sustainable finance policies, making the link to our activities on fiscal reform;
- Promote sustainable consumption patterns, notably through Ecolabel, Green Public procurement and mitigation of environmental claims proliferation;
- Link the work on circular economy, energy savings and climate in the framework of product policies, stressing the relevance of consumption-based emissions in Europe;
- Advocate for the EU to develop EU-wide targets for material reuse/reduction in the new circular economy action plan and promote consumption-based emissions and footprint approaches;
- Hold two integrated circular economy working group meetings, gathering together waste, ecoproducts and Coolproducts campaigners.



GLOBAL POLICIES AND SUSTAINABILITY

The UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the world's highest decision-making body on environmental matters and more and more NGOs participate in the biennial Assembly.

It is important to strengthen civil society's input to and influence on UNEA resolutions to make the Assembly the global forum from where progressive new environmental policies start. Global sustainable development processes have also shown their potential to yield environmental benefits: environmental NGOs discover the value of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda 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 10 years remaining until 2030 during which the UN, the EU and governments have agreed to implement this 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 has been working to facilitate NGOs engagement in the Rio+20 process and – after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda – the process monitoring and reviewing the SDGs. In 2020, the EEB will continue to actively engage in the global and regional processes shaping decisions on the monitoring and review mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda. 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.

- Engage with EEB members through the 2030 Agenda working group to ensure members’ input into national, regional and global SD processes, and to encourage the development or updating of National Sustainable Development Strategies;
- 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;
- 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;
- Work in partnership with relevant umbrella organisations and coalitions in order to further the above objectives and reach out to other sectors in society in order to encourage them to involve the environment in their SDG work.

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;
- Support EEB members and partners in their participation in the regional and global SD process;

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





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 2020, the EEB will engage in the preparatory process for UNEA-5 to be held in March 2021. 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. The initiative to establish a Global Pact for the Environment (GPE), spearheaded by France, suffered a setback in March 2019 when governments refrained from recommending that the UN General Assembly initiate negotiations, though its proponents hope to bring the GPE back on the global agenda in 2022 at the next Earth Summit.

ACTIVITIES

- Seek to organise capacity-building on the UNEA process and to initiate a strategic debate within civil society about lessons learnt and our objectives for UNEA-5 (if funding permits) and involve interested EEB members in the discussions;
- Initiate cooperation with UNEP in organising the Regional Consultation Meeting before UNEA-5;
- Engage in the preparatory process for UNEA-5 in March 2021;
- Maintain regular exchange with UNEP (both through the Nairobi HQ and the Brussels office);
- Engage in the discussions around the stakeholder engagement process for UNEA;
- If the GPE concept gains traction again, contribute to strong civil society input.





GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The EEB will continue its active involvement in the Atlas for Environmental Justice - the world's largest database on environmental conflicts - through the EnvJustice project. The Atlas and the network behind it increase the capacities of communities struggling for environmental justice, connect them to academics, give them cover and outreach potential and make it easier for journalists to find stories on environmental injustice. The EEB will continue to be responsible for the communication part of the EnvJustice project.

Related to the EEB's long-term association with the Atlas, the EEB has obtained funding to work on cases of environment injustice vis-a-vis Roma communities in Eastern Europe.

New since 2018 is the EEB's role as an official Goldman Environmental Prize nominator. We took this role in spring 2018 for the first time and submitted a second nomination in 2019. We aim to make this a permanent yearly task and we are engaging with our members on this initiative. It involves tapping into the vast network of grassroots environmental justice organisations that we are part of in order to identify suitable candidates among grassroots activists to nominate for this prestigious \$100,000 award.

Given these different activities related to grassroots environmental justice activism and conflicts, the EEB is introducing a mailing list for further exchange. In 2020 we hope to secure funding to turn this informal email list on environmental justice activism into a full-fledged EEB working group in line with the Long-Term Strategy and requests from the membership.

ACTIVITIES

- Communication, media articles and social media work around the Environmental Justice Atlas and EnvJustice project outcomes
- Selective engagement in highlighting specific cases of environmental injustice;
- Advocacy work regarding environmental discrimination against Roma communities in Europe;
- Goldman Environmental Prize nomination research work and information exchanges with EEB members on the nomination process;
- Engage through an email list with EEB members on global environmental justice activism, environmental conflicts and harassment and explore viability of a formal EEB working group on environmental justice;
- In cooperation with partners and members in the Aarhus civil society community, organise a workshop to put together a proposal for a Rapid Response Mechanism under the Aarhus Convention to address threats to environmental defenders;
- Support alliances pushing for a legally binding UN treaty on transnational corporations and human rights.



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 and with a project on water management in Turkey and ensuring that Turkish water law is in line with the Water Framework Directive.

The EEB will continue to 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, including new opportunities arising after the closure of the REC in 2019.

In 2020, the EEB will continue to engage and promote NGO involvement in relevant UNECE processes in addition to those already mentioned above (the Aarhus process and the regional meetings on SDG reviews and HLPF consultations), including the Environment for Europe process, where appropriate.

ACTIVITIES

- Organise a strategy meeting for members (and partners) from Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Western Balkans and Turkey to further develop our joint plans and possible projects, to improve EEB membership services for members from these countries and to discuss our future engagement with the European ECO Forum;
- Implement joint projects in the Western Balkans (on waste and energy) and Turkey (on water);
- Seek funding opportunities in candidate and Eastern Partnership countries together with the EEB members;
- Prepare and support EEB members' participation in the preparatory process for the 2021 Ministerial Conference Environment for Europe, based on availability of funding and level of members' interest.

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 2020, the EEB will continue to coordinate the NGO input into the implementation of the OECD's environmental work programme and ensuring the CSO voice is heard in the multi-country discussions.

ACTIVITIES

- Participate in several working parties and working groups of the OECD (such as those dealing with chemicals, biodiversity, industrial emissions and circular economy), the Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC), the Green Growth and Sustainability Forum and SDG work;
- Seek to secure good geographical balance in NGO engagement among all OECD countries.



A VALUE-DRIVEN AND EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION

In 2020, the EEB will implement the first year of its new Long-Term Strategy for 2020-2030.

AN EMPOWERED & CONSOLIDATED MEMBERSHIP

The EEB will implement the final year of its membership expansion plan with the aim of becoming an even more comprehensive umbrella organisation for Europe's environmental NGOs.

ACTIVITIES

- Implement and monitor the EEB 2018-2020 membership expansion plan;
- Consolidate the network by making sure that the membership services and capacity building offer remains relevant and empowers members (old and new) in their advocacy work;
- Explore the interest in and funding opportunities for setting up a) an exchange scheme for EEB staff and members, b) advocacy training projects.

HIGH POLITICAL IMPACT

The EEB has successfully 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.

Building alliances has been an important part of the EEB's modus operandi. We 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 a broader sustainable development agenda.

ACTIVITIES

- Prepare and publicise detailed memoranda for the incoming German and Portuguese Presidencies containing a comprehensive set of demands, summarised in Ten Green Tests, and assessments of the Finnish and Croatian 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;
- Prepare and publicise EEB priorities for the Commission Work Programme for 2021;
- 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;
- 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 European Movement International, EESC, SDG-Watch and the Better Regulation Watchdog.

COMMUNICATIONS: SHARE, SHAPE, SPARK

Our communications team has grown and professionalised in recent years. Under the motto 'share, shape, spark', we will follow the communications principles of sharing information, shaping laws and policy, and sparking greater action to help our planet thrive. We will continue to deliver headline-grabbing stories to major European and international press while striving to improve the overall quality of our work with a diverse range of tools. We will pay particular attention to developing new strategies to ensure that the tactics we employ help deliver our vision and we will continue to build our relationship with members to support our shared communication goals.

ACTIVITIES

- Continue to focus on increasing our reach: we will work to further develop our newsletter list as well as social media following, with our core channels (eeb.org and meta.eeb.org) being a particular focus;
- Develop and implement effective communication strategies tailored to our key work areas as well as a social media strategy to boost our reach and influence over key stakeholders;
- Revisit and reinforce core messaging taking account of our new vision and mission agreed as part of the organisation's Long-Term Strategy;
- Strengthen our internal communication, improving the way we share information with and between members;
- Continue to build meta.eeb.org by experimenting with new and creative content, and explore its transformation from blog-style to a sections-based news homepage.



A SOLID ORGANISATIONAL BASE AND LIVING LONG-TERM STRATEGY

The EEB will implement the first year of its new Long-Term Strategy for 2020-2030 (LTS) and seek to ensure that the operational base is fit for purpose.

ACTIVITIES

- Review the organisation's governance structure to ensure that it remains fit for purpose to deliver on the LTS over the coming decade;
- Draft and agree on a strategy for sustainable, long-term organisational development in line with EEB values;
- Invest in new project management and financial reporting tools to ensure coherence and improve coordination;
- Further develop and implement the EEB's fundraising strategy to ensure adequate financing of the EEB's activities;
- Further develop staff training opportunities and our wellbeing/benefits package where feasible.



2020 BUDGET

| General Costs | € |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Office Costs | 182 600 |
| Office Supplies | 85 255 |
| Communications | 45 000 |
| Depreciations | 146 548 |
| Financial costs | 3 800 |
| Unforeseen expenditures | 10 000 |
| Sub-Total | 473 202 |

| Salary Costs | € |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| President's Secretariat | 10 000 |
| Secretary General's Unit | 238 769 |
| EU Policy Unit | 1 478 901 |
| GPS Unit | 311 381 |
| Information & Communication Unit | 664 244 |
| Accounting & Support Unit | 564 582 |
| Special Campaigns | 156 405 |
| Volunteers and Temporary Staff | 36 000 |
| Other personnel costs | 79 220 |
| Sub-Total | 3 539 302 |

| Activities | € |
|---|------------------|
| Overarching Policy Framework | 107 000 |
| Climate | 54 700 |
| Nature | 55 800 |
| Industry and Health | 333 000 |
| Circular Economy | 100 000 |
| Global Policies and Sustainability | 184 934 |
| A Value-driven and Effective Organisation | 179 000 |
| Sub-Total | 1 014 434 |

| Working Capital | € |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Allocation to Working Capital | 60 000 |

| Total | € |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Total Expenditure | 5 087 137 |



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