

# META



**EEB**  
European  
Environmental  
Bureau

## REPAIR AND RESILIENCE

With a Circular Economy

## A HEALTHIER FUTURE

In car-free cities

## JOBS AND GROWTH

On the farms of the future

The Coronavirus outbreak  
has exposed the fragility  
of 'business as usual'.

We need a vision for how  
things could change.

Time to  
**build  
back  
better**



See inside for a nest full of environmental news from Europe

| **THE POST-COVID STATE**

| **COAL v CULTURE**

| **WILD CITY TRIPS**

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## ON THE COVER

Image: A pair of storks build their  
nest. Ivan Kmit (adobe.stock.com)

**EDITORIAL****It's time to build back better**

The coronavirus has spread fear and anxiety all over the world, exposing the fragility of the lives we had learnt to call "normal". But as restrictions are slowly lifted across Europe, one thing is clear: we don't just need to restart the economy, we need to rebuild it.

A return to business is no longer an option. The world before Covid-19 was already in crisis. While many have welcomed the opportunity to breathe clean air in the heart of normally polluted cities, or the appearance of adventurous wildlife normally deterred by human bustle, turning off the economy and staying indoors forever was never the sustainable future we were looking for.

Of course, it should not have taken a deadly disease before some children could have their first experience of unpolluted air, before flights between cities that are connected by high-speed rail were taken out of our skies, or before nature was able to enjoy a respite from human interference. But now we have experienced these things, do we really want to go back to how it was?

The coronavirus has shown us how quickly things can change when important decisions are made in the public interest, following clear scientific advice. European governments have demonstrated their ability to intervene in an emergency and for the most part seen their crisis measures enjoy overwhelming levels of public support.

Now is the time to invest in and reinforce the European Green Deal as the 'greenprint' to rebuild an economy that serves our health and environment. We owe it especially to all young people to ensure democratic accountability in decisions that will have far reaching consequences for their futures. We cannot allow money borrowed from the next generation to be wasted on technologies of the past.

The pandemic emergency is proving to be a test not only of the resilience of individuals, societies and economies, but also of European solidarity - within and between Member States. Failing that test could fuel a resurgence of the Euroscepticism that led to Brexit.

In this edition of META we present a selection of stories about how the world could emerge from the current pandemic. How leadership now can deliver better jobs, healthier people, a safe climate and cleaner air and water, and allow nature to flourish. Because now, more than ever, we need a vision for a better future where people and nature thrive together.



**Jeremy Wates**  
Secretary General

# META

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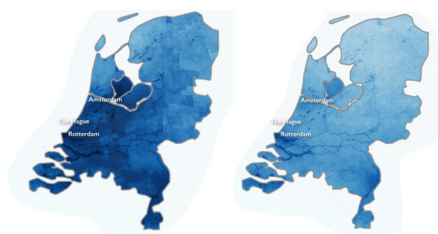
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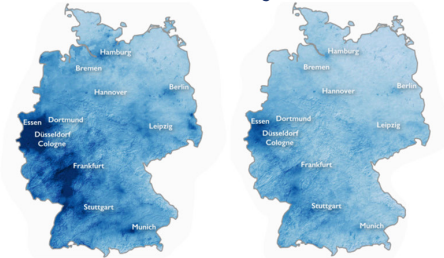
The Netherlands



2019

2020

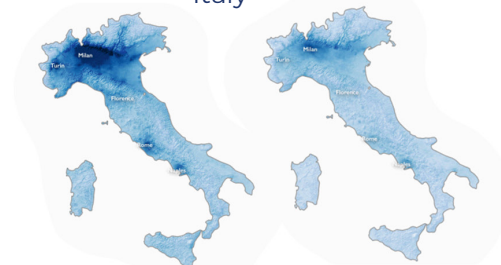
Germany



2019

2020

Italy



2019

2020

*NO<sub>2</sub> emissions during the same period in each year (21 March - 9 April)  
Darkest blue represents 160 ppm.*

# A BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR THE WORLD AFTER COVID



If poor air quality can make us more vulnerable to pandemics such as Covid-19, taking on air pollution today will help us make the post-corona world of tomorrow more resilient, writes Roberta Arbinolo.

**A**s researchers across the world investigate the link between air pollution and the spread of Covid-19, a growing body of evidence suggests that people living in polluted cities are more at risk from the coronavirus.

Long-term exposure to toxic air compromises our health and make us more vulnerable. Breathing polluted air can cause serious medical conditions including respiratory diseases, heart disease, and cancer, thus impairing our capacity to fight-off lung infections.

Now more than ever, cleaner air is key to make us more resilient, and help the most vulnerable in their fight against this and future challenges. This is why scientists and campaigners are calling on governments and public authorities to enforce existing air quality regulations with no further delay, and make clean air part of their vision for the world after Covid-19.

"It's important that we already plan for a future beyond this crisis. We cannot afford to go back to business as usual, our governments must cut harmful air pollution at the source" said EEB air quality expert Margherita Tolotto.

Interestingly, as traffic slows down in our cities due to the measures taken to contain the spread of the pandemic, citizens across Europe are now breathing

fresher air. The satellite imagery revealing the remarkable drop in NO<sub>2</sub> pollution in Northern Italy since Italians restricted their movements following the coronavirus outbreak have gone

**"We shouldn't have had to wait for a dangerous pandemic to experience cleaner air"**

around the world, and the same trend can be observed with particulate matter, one of the most dangerous forms of air pollution. This temporary drop proves how quickly the quality of the air we breathe can improve, if pollution sources are addressed.

"We should consider this a wake up call. We shouldn't have had to wait for a dangerous pandemic to experience cleaner air" commented Tolotto. "When our economy and everyday life start running again, we cannot go back to 'business as usual' pollution. Economic recovery programmes must match the ambition of the European Green Deal and the zero-pollution strategy, and help build a more resilient future, where clean air is guaranteed for everyone, everywhere."

Effective measures to improve air quality are not only available, they have clear financial advantages. Air pollution is

the biggest environmental health risk in Europe, with a health-related economic cost estimated at €330-940 billion every year. This is from one to three times the GDP of a country like Denmark. Besides affecting people's health, toxic air threatens ecosystems and damages crops. This is why addressing air pollution at source will bring important gains for society as a whole

Action is required at all levels, including as part of the EU's Green Deal. Authorities will need to choose clean power over dirty energy sources, swiftly phasing out the most polluting source: coal, and prevent energy waste. Good farming practices must be supported to produce quality food while protecting people and nature, and food waste must be reduced. We need to invest in greener and smarter mobility, to cut emissions, while ensuring that our cities are built for people and around people, instead of cars. It is about rethinking the way we experience our cities, organise our work, produce and distribute our food, and the way we engage with our communities.

Cleaner air must be placed at the heart of our vision for a world after Covid-19. Decision makers at all levels can start by implementing the measures laid out on the following page.





*The contrast between car-clogged streets and a cycling paradise is laid bare by a Critical Mass event in Brussels*

## Measures by source and by level of governance

From energy to agriculture and mobility, every sector has a role to play to cut harmful air pollution. Here is what the EU and our national and local governments can do to make it happen.

	Clean power and less wasted energy	Sustainable production and consumption of food	Greener, smarter mobility
<b>EU LEVEL</b>	Set ambitious eco-design standards for domestic heating appliances; promote building insulation, heating pumps and district heating	Set ambitious reduction targets for ammonia and methane emissions in EU legislation, and cap livestock density	Quickly agree on Euro-7 vehicle standards, move towards zero-emissions mobility, and establish new emission control areas for ships
<b>NATIONAL LEVEL</b>	Implement EU laws to cut emissions and save energy, avoid biomass burning for domestic heating, and phase out fossil fuels	Implement EU laws and promote measures to cut emissions at farm level, including correct manure management and fertiliser use	Implement EU laws, phase-out internal combustion engines, end short haul flights, make train journeys more convenient, and support new emission control areas for ships
<b>LOCAL LEVEL</b>	Establish district heating infrastructures; assess and promote building insulation	Promote short supply chains	Establish car-free zones, and boost bike lanes and clean public transport



# AGROECOLOGY

## FARMING FOR A BETTER FUTURE?



**In the midst of a global pandemic causing empty supermarket shelves, there's never been a better time to consider where our food comes from.**

Asger Mindegaard explores how 'agroecology' can make food production more resilient, rebuild healthy ecosystems and perhaps even prevent future outbreaks like Covid-19.

**B**iting into a delicious sandwich is – literally – like biting into one of the major challenges of our time. The flour of the bread, the lettuce and tomatoes, creamy avocado, the spread, perhaps a slice of meat or a good cheese. All of it affects the world around us in intricate and often hidden ways.

The ways food is produced, processed, packaged, transported, traded, sold, consumed and wasted has an enormous impact on the environment and the people along the chain, from farm to fork. And according to scientists and many farmers, this impact is negative – for our climate, soil, water and biodiversity, for rural livelihoods and for our health.

As the world faces an unprecedented global crisis, experts are linking the emergence of Covid-19 to global habitat and biodiversity loss. Researchers at University College London have found that species in degraded habitats are likely to carry more viruses which can infect humans.

Agricultural expansion is a major driver of this trend, but agriculture need not mean ecological disruption. It is, in fact, entirely possible to farm with rather than against nature.

### **We need different farming**

We need a paradigm shift in the way food is produced in the world. This is recognised by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and by numerous other agencies and scientists.

The industrial farming model is not fit for purpose. Its insatiable use of finite resources, its countless adverse impacts on the health of humans and ecosystems and its dependence on fossil fuels and chemical inputs render it fundamentally unsustainable. And it cannot be fixed by some tweaks in the margins and better technology. An essentially different paradigm for how we think about farming is urgently needed. And this could well be agroecology.

### **Roots of good farming**

Agroecology is the practice of "applying ecological concepts and principles to optimise interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment", as defined by the FAO. Agroecology is an approach that relies on, and maximises, ecological processes to support production systems; it is a way of thinking holistically about agronomy, ecology and biology. To produce food in harmony with nature, not against it.

The FAO lists 10 elements of agroecology. Diversity, recycling, synergies, resilience and efficiency are core to this production paradigm, but also respect, co-learning, food culture, and governance are emphasised for the food system surrounding agriculture. To acknowledge and learn from traditional knowledge and from natural processes is key, but this does not exclude the strategic mobilisation of digital technology and other technological innovations.



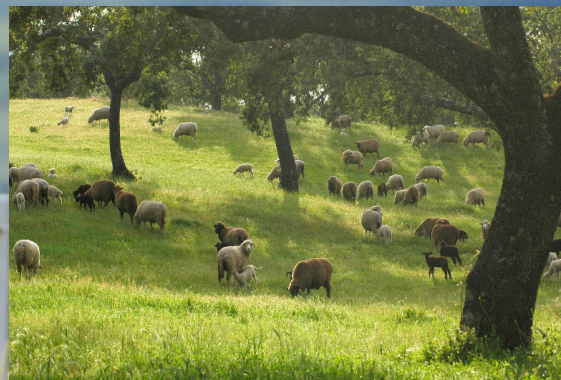
**Across Europe, there are already many farmers working hard for a better future.** Often they are doing this without financial support from the EU, with European funding going to large, polluting industrial agriculture instead. *De Boer Company* in Belgium and *Freixo do Meio* in Portugal are two examples of community farms that feed and employ local people while taking care of nature.

### Community supported agriculture in Belgium



Read this story at  
[meta.eeb.org/future-farming1](https://meta.eeb.org/future-farming1)

### Agroforestry in Portugal



Read this story at  
[meta.eeb.org/future-farming2](https://meta.eeb.org/future-farming2)

### Next step: agroecology

Agroecology provides answers to the countless environmental issues emanating from the food we eat. In an agroecological future, we would also naturally eat more healthily. We would eat more plant-based foods and less but better meat, seafood, eggs and dairy, which will be good for our health.

Transitioning to agroecology in Europe and worldwide can also improve our food security. Research has shown that Europe can feed itself based on fully agroecological agriculture. In developing countries, moving towards agroecology could actually increase yields and contribute to climate change adaptation. In addition, agroecology can benefit our health by reducing pollution and lowering the risk of new diseases.

Recent European research provides

evidence that agroecology is economically viable. Apart from generating higher farm income, agroecological farms in Europe “also provide more employment per hectare (thus supporting regional economies), use less fossil fuel and make positive contributions towards the maintenance of scenic landscapes and biodiversity,” one study found.

### Rocky road ahead

One of the biggest obstacles to the roll-out of agroecology in Europe is the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, the CAP. The CAP distributes roughly €60 billion per year, or around 36% of the entire EU budget, to agricultural businesses and farmers. Although the CAP has integrated some environmental concerns over the years, strong voices from science, civil society and think tanks sharply criticise the policy's failure to shift EU agriculture towards

true sustainability.

European agriculture ministers and MEPs are discussing the reform of the CAP for the period 2021-2027 and this summer, the European Parliament will vote on the proposal. This is a crucial event which will define European agriculture for most of the coming decade.

Even before then, we have an opportunity to set the direction of travel for EU agriculture. The European Commission recently published its Farm to Fork Strategy which aims to make our food system more sustainable. The EEB argues that this strategy must commit to moving the EU towards a sustainable food system based on the principles of agroecology.

*This article, part of our series on agroecology, can be found in full and with links at [meta.eeb.org/agroecology](https://meta.eeb.org/agroecology)*



# TIME TO TAX POLLUTION, NOT LABOUR



As the Covid-19 crisis highlights the need for a reshuffle of priorities in our economy, green groups are pushing for a revamp of fiscal rules that would put people and nature first, writes Mauro Anastasio.

**A** radical tax reform across the EU could help drive the transition to a climate-neutral continent and deliver benefits for people and nature.

In a response to a public consultation launched by the European Commission on the bloc's Energy Tax Directive, the EEB has called on the EU executive to increase minimum tax rates on fossil fuels while pushing for an end to government subsidies to polluting industries.

Direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies cost EU taxpayers over €260 billion in 2017, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Barbara Mariani, the EEB's Senior Policy Officer for climate said: "EU institutions and national governments should work

together to cut tax breaks and exemptions for fossil fuels in some of the most polluting sectors, like aviation, and drive a faster uptake of renewables".

As EU leaders announce major investments to stem the fallout from the Covid-19 crisis, taxing polluters may provide an alternative source of revenue while ensuring continued progress in decarbonising the economy.

Mariani added: "It's important that decision makers act to reduce inequalities, rather than topping up profits or compensating losses in dividends. Taxes should be shifted away from labour and onto polluters, in order to avoid any further negative impact on people."

The share of environmental taxes – which include but are not limited to energy

taxes – in the total revenues collected across the EU in 2017 amounted to just 6.1 percent. In comparison, labour taxes, which weigh heavily on citizens, continue to account for 50 percent or more of the total tax revenue in many EU countries. That's approximately eight times the share of revenues from green taxes.

The power to introduce and approve taxes is in the hands of national governments, but the EU can set harmonised minimum rates through, for example, the Energy Tax Directive, which has been unchanged since 2003.

The European Commission is now gathering feedback on its own directive with the aim of aligning the taxation of energy products and electricity with the EU's energy and climate objectives.



# A NEW STATE OF MIND FOR THE POST-COVID STATE



**Governments must learn from the disastrous bank bailouts during the financial crisis and design rescue packages that serve people and the environment,** writes Nick Meynen.

**T**he global economy has taken a battering. Trillions have evaporated on the financial markets and millions have lost their jobs. This makes saving the economy a matter of great urgency. However, we must not repeat the mistakes of yesteryear with badly designed bailouts.

In times of crisis, states are indispensable, but they must act for the greater good. Therefore, the very same crisis logic that has led governments to take control of healthcare systems should ensure adequate funding is allocated to our equally acute social, ecological and economic crises. For example, governments that are feeling compelled to renationalise airlines and railways should now prioritise trains over planes, by, for example, phasing out short-distance flights, investing more in rail

infrastructure and helping workers in the airline industry to retrain.

Another leap towards a sustainable economy can be made by making more intellectual property open source, especially in critical areas such as medicine. Global supply chains have become exceedingly long, complex and unsustainable. This is not only bad for the environment but makes our modern economies vulnerable to disruptions anywhere on the planet, as the coronavirus pandemic demonstrates.

This is nowhere more apparent than in our food system, which relies on environmentally destructive industrial agriculture, monoculture and transportation of foodstuffs over vast distances.

First and foremost, local production needs a boost, for example through locally embedded Community Supported

Agriculture farms (see page 7). Secondly, regional trade within the EU needs to be strong and resilient.

Too much free market globalisation has made us weaker, not stronger. Going forward, we must strike a careful balance. Now is also the time for sovereign money creation, i.e. to let state-run central banks make money instead of private banks, to put public gains before private profits.

Finally, we need European solidarity. Corona bonds and stronger intra-European collaboration can get us through this.

*This article is the abridged version of a longer essay. To read Nick Meynen's vision in full, go to: [meta.eeb.org/states-helm](https://meta.eeb.org/states-helm)*



# A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD NEEDS CIRCULAR PRODUCTS

**The disruption to global supply chains and the way we produce and sell goods caused by Covid-19 has only bolstered the case for a resilient, circular economy that gives back more than it takes from our natural world.**



Emily Macintosh looks at how the economy could be rebuilt, so it works for the health and wellbeing of people and the natural world.

The EEB has long advocated for replacing the growth-obsessed economy with a circular one, where we reduce the amount of natural resources the economy guzzles up as well as how much waste is produced. These three circular principles should be used to rebuild an economy that cares about more than GDP growth.



## 1

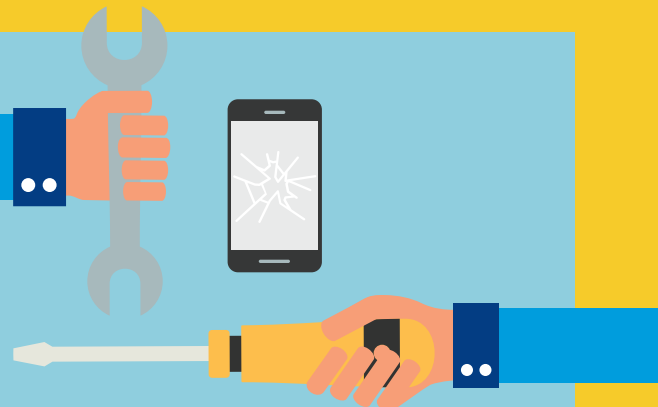
### **Making resources count to regenerate nature and stop future pandemics**

Overproduction of goods such as clothes, phones, and household appliances means felling trees, mining land, and disrupting and destroying biodiversity. Half of global greenhouse gas emissions and 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress occurs as a result of resource extraction and processing.

In the EU, we are consuming as if we had three planets available to produce the resources we use and absorb the waste we produce.

With reports suggesting that biodiversity destruction contributes to the emergence of viruses, regenerating nature by using fewer natural resources in absolute terms will make us more resilient to the effects of climate change and future pandemics.

To save resources, business models should be based on the reuse, remanufacture and repair of products rather than on the constant churning out of new products made from virgin resources.



## 2

### **The right to repair = a resilient future**

Social distancing and the closure of non-essential shops means it's unlikely you'll have been able to pop out to repair your broken smartphone in recent weeks.

But even if repair shops were all open, most products are either impossible or too expensive to repair due to manufacturers not making spare parts available or because current designs prevent the disassembly of faulty components.

Companies even knowingly withheld information on how to repair ventilators vital for treating Covid-19 patients.

Designing products from the outset so they are repairable and ensuring the infrastructure is in place to actually repair them is vital. The good news is that after a successful campaign from civil society, the European Commission has committed to back the 'right to repair' products.





# 3

## A Just Transition

Not only is the extractive linear 'take, make, waste' system bad for our environment, it has also meant decades of exploitation of some of the world's most vulnerable workers.

Now Covid-19 has laid the realities of our global economic system bare for all to see. In the textile industry, for example, millions of the world's garment workers, most of them women and without social protections, were left with no revenue when brands cancelled orders on mass.

A truly 'Just Transition' in the post-corona world will mean moving away from an 'ever more product at ever lower prices' mentality to business models that promote both resource sufficiency and decent work through fairer distribution of wealth to the workers who power the production of products around the world.



The **#WardrobeChange** campaign calls on the EU to champion a radical textile industry transformation to change how clothes are made, sold, worn – and reworn.

More info at:

[meta.eeb.org/  
wardrobe-change](https://meta.eeb.org/wardrobe-change)



**RIGHT TO  
REPAIR**

The **#RightToRepair** campaign believes that products should last longer and, when broken, should be repaired.

More info at:

[repair.eu](https://repair.eu)

## European wildlife takes a trip to the city



Life in lockdown is hard for humans, but other species appear to be enjoying their brief respite from our activities,



writes Gemma Bowcock.

**We've all seen the videos - whether fake or real - on social media, usually captioned with something like: "Earth is healing. Nature is amazing!"**

Often these videos are of large animals sauntering casually into urban areas made safe in the absence of human activity, particularly traffic. We've seen wolves in Flanders, beavers in Berlin, jellyfish in Venice, condors in La Paz and whales in Wellington.

Surprising and entertaining as these appearances are, it also gives us pause to consider our direct impact on wildlife. These large animals caught on camera are human-shy from years of hunting, persecution, habitat loss and pollution from chemicals, light and sound. Over the last weeks, they've been given a small reprieve.

The quiet and confinement of lockdown has also meant that we are more aware of birdsong, more interested in the passing bumblebee, more drawn to watching spring unfurl and bloom from our windows.

Perhaps we can use this as an overdue reminder that we are not the only species on this planet, and that we do not exist in isolation. Instead, we are a part of nature, as influenced by our environment as it is by us. A healthy human population relies on a healthy planet.

Policy-making in a post-corona world should recognise this. The green recovery must encourage the restoration of natural spaces - through the EU's Biodiversity strategy, for instance - so that the animals we treasure and the environments that inspire us are protected long into the future.



# Coal industry undermines Europe's cultural and historical heritage

From the coal mines eating up archaeological sites to the cathedral wiped out by a coal giant's bulldozers, the most polluting of fossil fuels is laying siege to our cultural heritage.



But not all is lost, writes Roberta Arbinolo.

Viminacium, Serbia

**C**oal miners in Drmno, Serbia, recently dug up a surprise. A few weeks ago, three ancient ships, probably dating back to the Roman era, emerged from the Kostolac open pit mine.

The ships had been buried in an ancient riverbed under several metres of mud and clay which preserved them for centuries, till mining machines reached them and seriously damaged the largest one.

## Cultural goldmines

The Kostolac mine and coal-fired power plant lie near the ancient Roman city of Viminacium, which was larger than Pompeii.

In 2015, Viminacium was added to UNESCO's tentative list to be considered for nomination as a World Heritage Site. However, the extension of the Drmno mine and the construction of a new plant unit (Kostolac B3) are threatening the integrity of the site. The environmental impact assessment (EIA) carried out for Kostolac B3 acknowledged that construction work may damage or even destroy archaeological sites and recommended that Electric Power Industry of Serbia coordinate its operations with the authority responsible

for cultural heritage. However, the mine expansion is already happening without any impact assessment, which is currently the subject of a complaint to the Energy Community Secretariat by Serbia's Centre for Ecology and Sustainable Development (CEKOR) and Bankwatch.

"New groundbreaking archeological findings are reported in Viminacium every other year, this is an invaluable cultural site and should be an important tourist destination. It would be criminal to let it be devoured by a coal mine," Ioana Ciuta, Energy Coordinator with CEE Bankwatch Network, told META.

## Invasive diggers

On the other side of the Bosphorus, highly symbolic sites for the Mediterranean civilisation are under siege too. In the Turkish province of Muğla, 880 archaeological sites lie within the impact zone of the Yatağan, Yeniköy and Kemerköy coal-fired power plants, in an area that was licensed for lignite extraction. The most endangered sites are the ones located between Stratonikeia and Lagina. The ancient city of Stratonikeia is also a UNESCO World Heritage candidate, while Lagina is a major sanctuary visited by tourists, not to mention 100,000 pagan

pilgrims every year.

Elif Gündüzyeli, Senior Coal Policy Coordinator at CAN Europe told META: "If the coal extraction fields within the archaeological site area become operational, they will disrupt the relationship between archaeological sites and their natural environment, and destroy the region's social and cultural memory."



In the heart of Turkey, 500km away, the archaeological sites around Konya had been downgraded by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to allow the construction of coal basins for the Ilgın thermal power plant. Thanks to a legal case mounted by activists and archaeologists to

protect the site, the government's decision was recently annulled and the sites are protected again.

While celebrating the victory, Ecology Collective Association warned that, despite the court decision, applications for mining permits in the area continue, and coal companies are trying to take advantage of exemptions in the environmental impact assessment regulation.

Meanwhile, the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan released on 1 May 2020 by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources explicitly aims to speed up the processes for issuing mine permits and licenses and increase the installed capacity of local coal by 4 GW.

Duygu Kutluay, a campaigner with Europe Beyond Coal, told META: "It is worrisome to see that Turkey insists on locking its energy future in fossil fuels instead of planning for a just transition out of them and capitalising on its high wind and solar potential."

### **Razing churches and towns**

Ancient Roman cities and archaeological sites are not the only victims of coal greed. In Germany, entire villages risk being wiped off the map to make way for the expansion of the Garzweiler lignite mine, and, for the first time in over 200 years, a German church was deliberately torn down.

The symbolism of a sacred building being demolished to extract a polluting fuel that destroys the climate spread quickly on social media and raised a wave of indignation in Germany and beyond.

According to Europe Beyond Coal, the plan to destroy the villages is rendered even more absurd by the fact that the coal beneath them needs to stay in the ground if Germany is to respect its climate commitments and undertake a just transition towards a greener future. For Werner Rombach, pastor of the destroyed St Lambertus church, a rapid energy transition is the miracle we need to save churches and homes. Yet campaigners insist that it does not require a miracle to ensure a swift and fair coal phase out. All it needs is the political willpower to put communities and their heritage above outdated business interests.

*Read the full article at [meta.eeb.org/heritage-under-siege](https://meta.eeb.org/heritage-under-siege)*

# LEADING

## in a time of crisis

META speaks to the new EEB president

**Johanna Sandahl**

### **About Johanna Sandahl**

46 years old  
Lives in Stockholm with her family  
President of SSNC since 2014  
Elected as President of EEB in November 2019  
Agronomist  
Background in different environmental and developmental NGOs  
Editor and writer of reports and books  
Lecturer at Swedish universities



### **How are you experiencing the current crisis as the president of two NGOs?**

The impact of this virus on people across Europe has been heartbreaking and we need to remain united in these difficult times. As for everybody, the crisis has changed the way of working and meeting. Many of SSNC's and EEB's local groups and member organisations can no longer arrange activities or annual meetings and need to find new ways to function.

### **There are calls to change our societies' models, specially the economic model. Do you think politicians are now ready to look at the economy differently and prioritise human and natural wellbeing?**

The crisis has made it clear that our societies are vulnerable. It is time for politicians to realize that we need to do as much as we can to prevent other crises in the future. As we emerge from this crisis, we don't just need to restart the economy, we need to make sure that all measures taken also contribute to lower the pressure on our ecosystems.

Our shared EEB vision is of a better future where people and nature thrive together - that vision is more important now than ever before.

### **What do you think should be the role for civil society in times of crisis, today with Covid-19, tomorrow with climate change?**

Properly functioning civil society is at the roots of every healthy democracy, it's important this role is protected and strengthened.

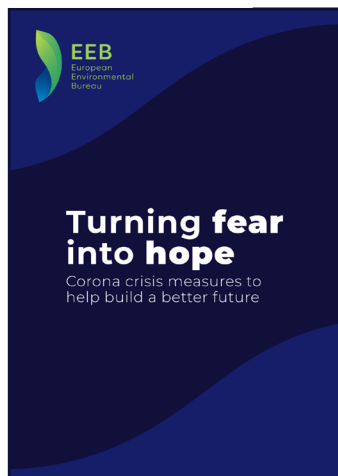
In fighting the effects of the coronavirus, we have seen so many examples of people coming together to support one another in heartwarming ways.

Climate breakdown, the loss of biodiversity and the problems we face with pollution must all still be addressed, civil society has a major role to play here.

### **2020 was the start of a new decade, what do you think the world will be like in 2030?**

By 2030 we will have learnt that we cannot take our current lifestyles for granted and have reflected on what is really important. Despite the decade having started with a global crisis, it is my strong belief that by 2030, we will have managed to build a more resilient world.





## Turning fear into hope: Corona crisis measures to help build a better future

With governments starting to think beyond the corona crisis, it is time to decide what we value the most, and to share a vision for a better future. Read our vision for the future and how we can get there.

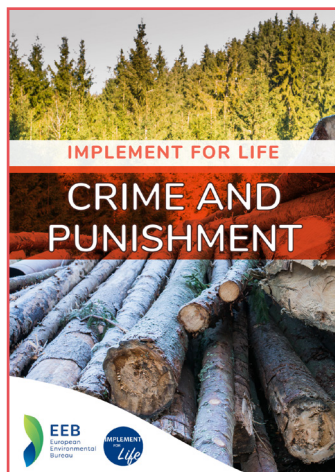
*Published April 2020*



## Boosting Ecological Restoration for a Wilder Europe

This briefing provides policy priorities and solutions aimed at restoring Europe's nature and shaping the EU ecological restoration agenda, through rewilding principles and the creation of a coherent 'Ecological Network in Europe'.

*Published March 2020*



## Implement for LIFE: Crime and punishment

This report finds that vague legal definitions and gaps in enforcement allow for crimes to be perpetrated without a suitable punishment. Three factors why: problems in investigating the guilty parties, corporate liability of environmental crimes and the level of sanctions.

*Published March 2020*



## Reprotecting Europe: The EU Green Deal v The War on Regulations

In this report we make the case for reforming the European Commission's Better Regulation programme, which has made it harder to get important new regulations off the starting blocks.

*Published January 2020*

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### Joining the EEB



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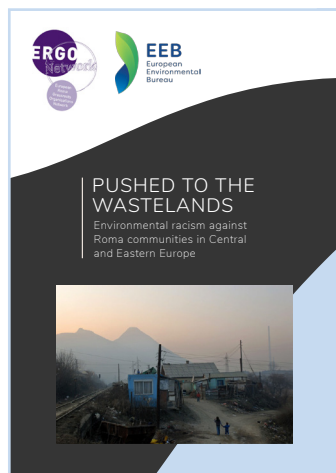


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**Interested in joining our team?**

[eeb.org/opportunities](https://eeb.org/opportunities)



## Pushed to the wastelands: Environmental racism against Roma communities in Central and Eastern Europe

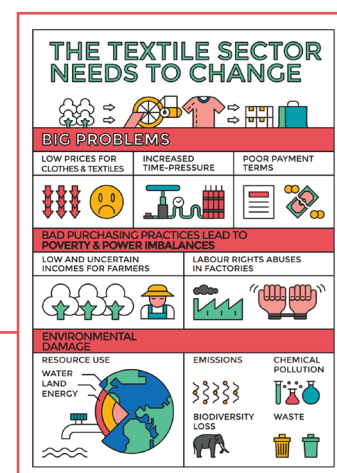
This report highlights a pattern of systemic and systematic discrimination against many Roma communities which pushes them out into marginal and polluted lands and neighbourhoods, and deprives them of access to basic environmental services and public utilities.

*Published April 2020*

## European Civil Society Strategy for Sustainable Textile, Garments, Leather and Footwear

We call on the EU to promote and support the development of a strong circular Textiles industry that respects human rights, creates decent jobs and adheres to high environmental and responsible governance standards throughout its value chain, in the EU and beyond.

*Published April 2020*



These and more at

[eeb.org/library](http://eeb.org/library)

# EVENTS

We're holding a range of webinars over the coming weeks.

More information at

[eeb.org/events](http://eeb.org/events)

12 June	Thirsty for justice: Enforcing EU Water Laws to Defend Communities from Coal
15 June	A Budget to Address the Climate Crisis and Post-Covid-19 Recovery
16 June	Lessons learned: Tackling Pollution for a Green Recovery
30 June	Launch of the Paris Agreement Compatible (PAC) Scenario for Energy Infrastructure
30 June	Cooling Down Europe's Heating System



The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is the largest network of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe with 160 member organisations from 36 countries.

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## Leaving the EEB



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**Anton Lazarus**  
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**Darko Bizjak**  
Project Officer,  
Implement for Life



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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