



**EEB**

European  
Environmental  
Bureau



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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



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The European Environmental Bureau brings together citizens' groups from across Europe. Together with over 170 members from 36 countries we work on all kinds of environmental issues – from ecology to economy, biowaste to biodiversity and incineration to insulation. We speak up for people and nature to help shape policies for a sustainable future.

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# 2020: A YEAR TO REMEMBER

By any standards, 2020 was an extraordinary year. The COVID-19 pandemic that struck Europe in early March transformed many aspects of our lives, propelling us into a largely virtual reality.

In the policy sphere, the pandemic arrived just three months after the Commission had unveiled its European Green Deal (EGD) roadmap, threatening to knock it off course. As was perhaps to be expected, certain business interests seized the opportunity to lobby for weakening or deferring environmental measures. Yet, for the most part, the commitment to the EGD within mainstream politics remained remarkably resilient and took the form of a demand for a green recovery.

Throughout 2020, the EEB continued to fulfil its lighthouse function, shedding light onto problem areas requiring political attention and action. We published numerous reports, organised events, brought on board new allies and quickly adjusted our operations and messages to reflect the new reality brought about by a global pandemic.

Despite the challenges that came with our increasingly virtual reality, we managed to organise 17 Working Group meetings and 23 high-level online events; we had the pleasure of engaging with 560 active users during our Annual Conference and added yet more substance to our library catalogue with an impressive 177 new publications, including the [Escaping the Growth and Jobs Treadmill](#), [Turning Fear into Hope](#) and the [Mind the Gap](#) reports).

In the political arena, we succeeded in having many of our key recommendations considered and taken forward. Our **#protectwater** and **#wardrobechange** campaigns, the lobby work in the context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the Council Conclusions on clean air, or the

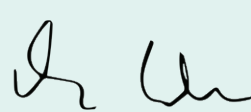
8th Environment Action Programme (EAP) are but some of the examples of successful advocacy.

Further, our ability to coordinate civil society organisations to amplify our impact did not go unnoticed. We were able to ensure a strong coordination of advocacy efforts both with allies and through the continuous mobilisation of members of our Working Groups, for example around the CAP and Farm to Fork with the EEB Agriculture Working Group, or, in the case of the Aarhus Convention, with the 24th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties.

The pandemic seemed to herald an inevitable and forcible slow-down, and many were quick to dismiss 2020 as a year to forget. But they could not have been more wrong. With a small recalibration, our work continued, unabated.

EEB staff adjusted remarkably quickly to the new requirements, and continued growing, closing the year with a team of 68. Donors could not have shown more solidarity, adjusting deadlines and reporting obligations to cater for the new constraints. Similarly, members, partners and other stakeholders all pulled together to meet obligations and ensure that we do not miss the opportunity to build back better.

Together, we turned a challenge into an opportunity, making 2020 a year to remember. I thank our staff, members, funders, partners and allies for their dedication, support and resilience.



**Jeremy Wates**  
Secretary General





# EU POLICIES

The launch of the European Green Deal (EGD), just eleven days after the Von der Leyen Commission took office, confirmed a very significant and welcome change of direction. Yet, as the roll-out of the EGD began, it became clear that not all of its elements were 'made equal'.





At the onset of the pandemic, the Commission was pressured by some business interests to dilute the European Green Deal, embrace deregulation and focus on funding business-as-usual. Yet, it resisted a knee-jerk response and recognised that the EGD was a blueprint for the needed recovery.

Once launched, however, [the long-awaited European Green Deal](#) met with mixed reviews: For instance, while the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability lived up to the EGD's overall ambition, the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Circular Economy Action Plan were of mixed quality, and the Industry Strategy and Climate Law proposals were disappointing.

Although vested business interests led to attempts to undermine the EGD, using the pandemic as a subterfuge, our efforts ensured that the EGD remains a central priority for the Commission.

Despite the positive developments, other processes, such as the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) negotiations, have gone in a direction that directly undermines the EGD. Our work to ensure that the ambitions of the EGD are not diminished by lack of political will or industry interference will continue.

In a bid to hold decision-makers to account and set a benchmark for environmental ambition, we engaged with the EU presidencies on the EGD. We evaluated the performance of both the Croatian and German presidencies against the EEB's 'Ten Green Tests'. This took the form of an assessment of both presidencies ([Croatia](#) and [Germany](#)), as well as a [mid-term review of the German Presidency](#).

We further integrated policy asks into the EEB's memoranda for both the [German](#) (June) and [Portuguese](#) (December) presidencies respectively. Letters were addressed to all Ministers of Environment in advance of the December Environment Council meeting, and concerted action around the publication of the memoranda helped trigger media uptake in national and international outlets.

As a result of our political advocacy, the 8th Environment Action Programme (EAP), launched in October, takes on board a number of the EEB's asks, recognising the need for a system change, accepting well-being as a central consideration, integrating the SDGs and pledging to abide by the oath to 'do no harm'.

The EEB's EU Policy Director has been appointed to the Commission's [Fit for Future Platform](#). This platform will have a consultative role in relation to the 'better regulation' agenda. Our presence will ensure civil society representation to promote a better regulation agenda that is compatible with the European Green Deal. It will also serve to counter possible deregulation pressures, manifesting in the platform's opinions on simplification, burden reduction and the modernisation of legislation.

*"Member states that take on the presidency of the European Council have a major responsibility – and opportunity – to promote and get agreement on potentially transformative policies. In systematically engaging with the presidency teams, the EEB contributes to increasing the ambition and impact of council outcomes, as well as member state buy-in."*

**Patrick ten Brink, Deputy Secretary General and Director of EU Policy**

**€1.8 trillion**  
is the total of the EU budget and the Recovery and Resilience Plan

**30%** are promised for climate action in the EU's €1.073 billion Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.


**37%** are promised for 'the green transition' in the National Recovery and Resilience Plans under the €672.5 billion Recovery and Resilience Facility funding that runs until 2026.

*\* quoted amounts in 2018 prices (more details [here](#))*





# CIRCULAR ECONOMY



In 2020, the EEB played a central role in influencing the development of the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan, also known as Europe's masterplan to transition to a less wasteful, less destructive and more resilient economy.



The world's resources are limited, yet we live as if they were not. Our current economic system is based on extracting raw materials from the Earth, creating products with a built-in lifespan and discarding them only to replace them with new ones.

As demand for material-intensive products such as electric vehicles and digital technologies increases, the situation is only going to get worse. Firm action is needed to reduce the extraction of raw materials and to make the most of those materials that are already on the market by increasing repair, reuse, upcycling and recycling of existing products.

This is the goal of the EEB's Circular Economy team, which in 2020 held several meetings with EU officials to help draft the [Circular Economy Action Plan \(CEAP\)](#) and to push for the inclusion of circular economy measures in other EU strategies planned under the European Green Deal. These include the Industrial Strategy, the Climate Law, the Zero Pollution Action Plan, the Built Environment Strategy and the Chemicals Strategy.

The work of the EEB and its member organisations led to a number of unprecedented victories. Although not perfect, the CEAP is one of the most ambitious environmental strategies ever put forward by the European Commission. From repairable smartphones and [durable clothes](#), to rules against toxic supply chains and greenwashing, there is a lot to look forward to in the coming years and the EEB will continue to monitor every step of the plan. Since April 2020, the EEB has also influenced the European Commission's proposal for the revision of the Batteries Directive, setting the scene for the development of laws and minimum requirements for recycled content and due diligence alongside the batteries' supply chain.

Working closely with its members, the EEB also continued to monitor [the national implementation of the EU's anti-waste laws](#).

The Circular Economy team produced several documents to brief national authorities on the legal requirements put forward by the EU to address issues spanning from plastic pollution to incineration and recycling.

One of the hottest topics in 2020 was the decarbonisation of heating systems across the EU. In the context of the [Coolproducts campaign](#), the EEB produced several reports to highlight the need to shift production and subsidies from climate-wrecking gas boilers to sustainable solutions like heat pumps, and monitor existing phase-out plans at the national level. Towards the end of 2020, the EEB's advocacy targeted the development of new Ecolabel criteria for cosmetics and financial services. We challenged a weak proposal by the Commission which led to the reassessment of its position and the postponement of a key vote.

Finally, our policy officers pushed for the inclusion of key circular economy and climate measures in the draft Energy Performances of Building Directive, set to be revised in 2021. Notably, we made the case for the disclosure of information and performance relating to embodied carbon emissions and carbon footprinting of construction products and materials within the supply chain. These are just some of the highlights from a very busy and exciting 2020.

As the EEB continues to grow and expand its membership and portfolio of projects, its advocacy on the circular economy front will continue playing a central role.

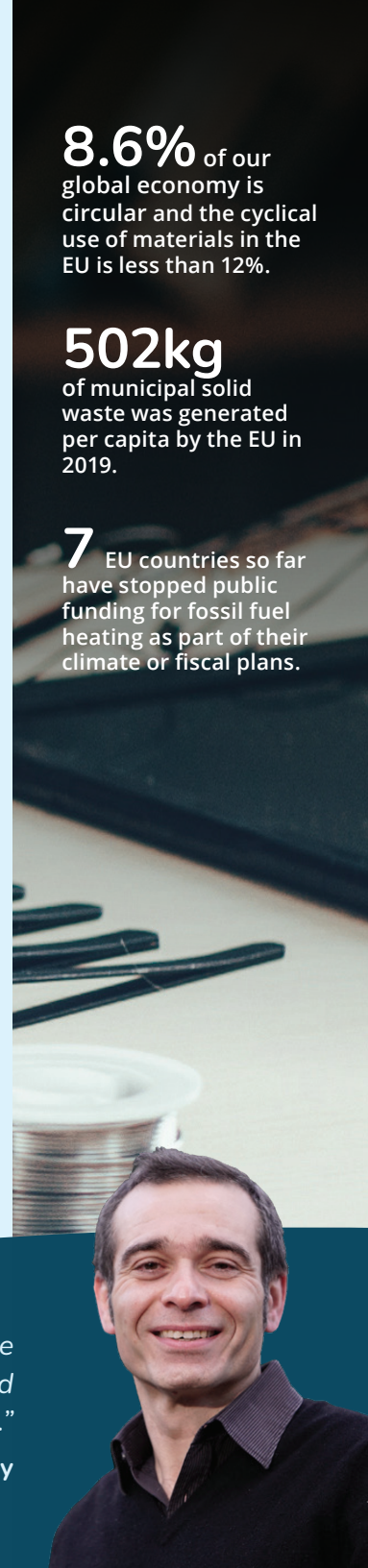
**8.6%** of our global economy is circular and the cyclical use of materials in the EU is less than 12%.

**502kg** of municipal solid waste was generated per capita by the EU in 2019.

**7** EU countries so far have stopped public funding for fossil fuel heating as part of their climate or fiscal plans.

*"2020 was the year policymakers realised Europe needs a more circular and resilient economy to respond to future shocks. We now must ensure that they walk the talk."*

**Stephane Arditi, Director of Policy Integration and Circular Economy**



# FISCAL REFORM & GREEN FINANCE



The Investor-State Dispute Settlement, an obscure legal mechanism, enables companies to sue governments for introducing policies that could affect their future earnings – regardless of whether these policies seek to protect citizens or the environment.



As EU leaders announced major investments to stem the fallout from the COVID-19 crisis, taxing polluters could well provide an alternative source of revenue while reducing labour taxation and ensuring continued progress in decarbonising the economy.

The EEB closely followed the developments and negotiations of the EU Budget, also known as the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), and the Next EU Generation Fund, which included the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). We organised Green Budget Working Group webinars on the MFF, RRF and National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs), as well as joint meetings between civil society organisations and EU institutions (e.g. EC RECOVER Task Force, European Parliament) to discuss the NRRPs and push for an effective methodology that ensures that Member States' spending meets climate and biodiversity targets – and does not support polluting industries. We drew attention to the crucial areas the [EU's multi-billion euro 'green recovery' falls short in](#) and reiterated the urgency to make funding dependent on the achievement of climate, environmental, and societal targets.

The EEB [responded to the consultation on the revision of the Energy Taxation Directive](#) by stressing the need to align current energy taxation with the objectives of decarbonisation set out by the Commission in the European Green Deal.

Another [public consultation, on the EU Taxonomy Delegated Acts, also benefitted from our input](#), and we closely monitored the work of the sectoral technical groups developing sector-specific criteria to be included in Delegated Acts.

The recourse to the [controversial](#) legal mechanism known as [Investor-State Dispute Settlement \(ISDS\)](#), was strongly contested: The EEB joined a global coalition of over [600 organisations from 90 countries demanding the suspension of all ISDS cases](#) arising from actions taken to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing economic crisis.

The [EEB's position paper 'Towards a Carbon Border Adjustment in Europe'](#), published in October, outlines the policy recommendations for the Carbon Border Adjustment mechanism, which would set a carbon price on imports of certain goods from outside the EU.

Even as the year drew to a close, our efforts continued to ensure that the post-pandemic recovery is as green as possible: in the run-up to the final inter-institutional agreement on the Recovery and Resilience Facility, [we pushed for civil society engagement in the drafting of national recovery plans](#) and for effective EU Budget spending to meet climate and biodiversity objectives.

We continue to encourage the Commission to push for measures to increase taxes on fossil fuels and remove exemptions for sectors like aviation, while reducing the fiscal pressure on renewable electricity.

## +1.6 million

EU citizens signed [petitions](#) calling for a healthy, just and green recovery.

## 5.9%

of the total government revenue from taxes and social contributions came, in 2019, from [environmental taxes](#).

In comparison, labour taxes accounted for [52% of the total tax revenue](#), i.e. almost *nine times* the revenue from green taxes.

## 52%

of the Commission's climate spending over the last six years was on agriculture. Yet, this is the only sector to have *increased emissions* since 2012.

*"Polluting corporations are waging a quiet war against climate action that cost taxpayers billions by deploying obscure extra-judicial instruments contained in trade treaties."*

Nick Meynen, Senior Policy Officer for Economic Transition





# NATURE, WATER & AGRICULTURE



In 2020, the pandemic highlighted the complexity of the relationship between humans and the natural world, as links could be drawn between habitat degradation and the evolution and transfer of new pathogens.



Across the globe, we are losing wild places and species at an alarming rate. It is clear that in addition to protecting nature, there must be a monumental shift towards nature restoration and sustainable use.

The science shows that to put biodiversity on a path to recovery, at least 15% of Europe's land and sea must be restored by 2030. Yet, damaging practices, such as intensive farming through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), continue to be supported by EU policy and funds.

Creating a future where people and nature thrive together has never been so necessary and will help prevent future pandemics. Over the course of 2020 our work on nature including biodiversity, water and agriculture saw both successes and setbacks. The [#protectwater campaign](#), that had already started in 2019, brought together citizens, scientists, NGOs and corporate organisations to stand up for the Water Framework Directive, making the case that it [needs to be properly implemented and financed](#) to make our rivers, lakes and groundwater healthy again. In June 2020, we [celebrated the decision of the European Commission](#) that this flagship water law will not be weakened.

2020 was also an encouraging year for biodiversity, as the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 offers hope that loss of biodiversity and destruction of nature can be reversed. [We worked to influence its content](#), cooperating with partners to offer solutions on how nature can be protected and restored across Europe. This message was well-received, and the Biodiversity Strategy incorporates a commitment for the EU to adopt [a new nature restoration law](#).

And another of our asks was heard: for the first time, a portion of the EU's budget was earmarked for spending on biodiversity, 10% by 2027.

For agriculture, however, the picture was at best mixed. We actively engaged in the Farm to Fork Strategy process, encouraging and supporting the Commission to be as ambitious as possible. We shared the inspiring stories of environmentally-minded farmers in a series of 12 articles on our [META website](#). We intensively engaged with the Common Agricultural Policy reform process, holding MEP meetings, writing articles, hosting events and pushing our messages on social media, together with partners, our Agriculture Working Group and other allies. We also developed and launched a policy vision in collaboration with our members for the new governance model for agriculture and agriculture-related land use emissions, proposing solutions for a [CAP for a climate-neutral Europe](#).

Our efforts throughout the CAP reform contributed to the mobilisation of many members of the public, and messages trended on Twitter, calling on the Parliament to [#VoteThisCAPDown](#) and then to [#WithdrawTheCAP](#), as the reform failed to show an environmental ambition in line with the European Green Deal. Our work to positively influence the CAP process and improve the uncertain future of Europe's farmed land continues.

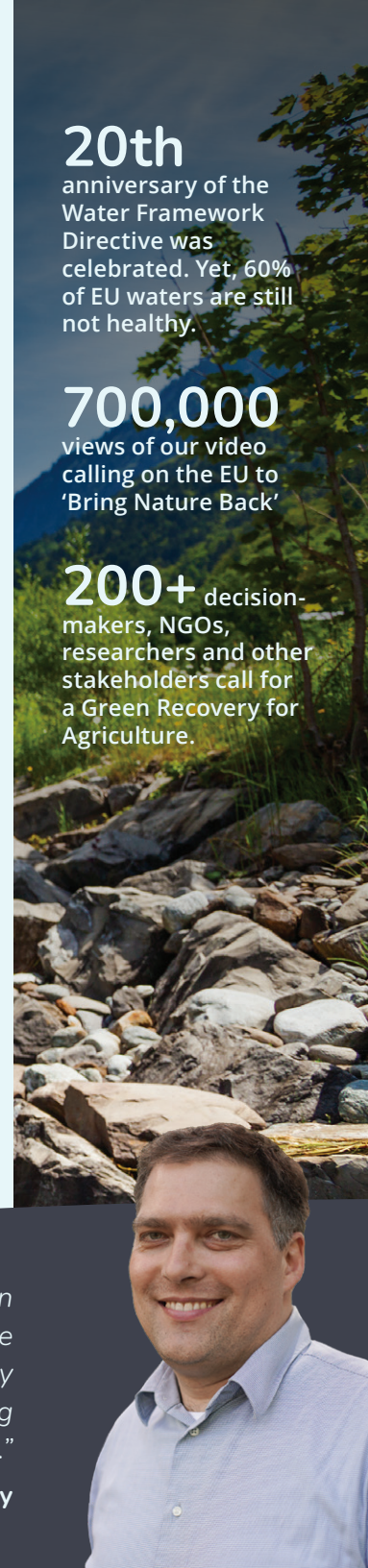
**20th**  
anniversary of the  
Water Framework  
Directive was  
celebrated. Yet, 60%  
of EU waters are still  
not healthy.

**700,000**  
views of our video  
calling on the EU to  
'Bring Nature Back'

**200+** decision-  
makers, NGOs,  
researchers and other  
stakeholders call for  
a Green Recovery for  
Agriculture.

*"2020 has seen biodiversity and nature restoration higher on the political agenda than ever before. This is welcome and much needed – our survival depends on it. Unfortunately, the key threat to biodiversity, intensive agriculture, remains unreformed, undermining the required commitments to nature and the European Green Deal overall."*

**Sergiy Moroz, Policy Manager for Water and Biodiversity**



# CLIMATE & ENERGY

Carbon emissions dropped by 8% in 2020, the first decline ever since the Industrial Revolution. The COVID-19 crisis struck our lives, but also proved to be a major opportunity to build a better future away from fossil fuels.





With the European Green Deal (EGD) already in place, 2020 was meant to be a year of defining policy pathways towards climate neutrality.

The EEB's Climate and Energy team has advocated for steering the EU towards an ambitious climate roadmap in line with the Paris Agreement's target of keeping global warming to 1.5°C.

With the launch of the [Paris Agreement Compatible \(PAC\) energy scenario](#) we showed that a 100% renewable energy grid is already possible by 2040 - and not only by 2050. It would merely require a wide deployment of solar and wind power and a full uptake of the 'energy efficiency first' principle to reduce energy consumption across all economic sectors. The success of this first-ever PAC scenario - developed by civil society organisations in cooperation with industry representatives, economists and researchers - has placed the EEB as a lead expert in the field of energy modelling and paved the way for future work, especially with a view to decarbonising heating and industry.

Accordingly, the EEB played a major role in challenging the EU institutions towards more ambitious climate goals. In September 2020, the European Commission presented a new [Climate Target Plan](#) proposing that Europe should step up its climate ambition and cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 55% by 2030 to ensure it stays on track to achieve climate neutrality.

A month later, the European Parliament endorsed a 60% emissions reduction target for 2030 and strengthened the Commission's proposal by including numerous provisions

to ensure a strong and coherent policy and governance framework, an outcome of our successful advocacy efforts.

Finally, Heads of State and Governments reached a landmark political agreement in December to increase the EU's GHG emissions reduction target to -55% net by 2030 compared with 1990 levels. By the end of the year, EU institutions also endorsed the largest green investment plan ever seen, aimed at recovering Europe's economy. The Commission established that each National Recovery and Resilience Plan must contribute to the climate target by at least 37%.

Calls for a phase-out of fossil fuels subsidies have also intensified in Europe and reached a critical mass bringing together the wider NGO community and multiple stakeholders, including EU institutions and governments.

The EEB has mapped out subsidies in the heating and cooling sectors, showing that they work against the carbon neutrality target. In addition, we contributed to effectively counteracting the hydrogen hype by strongly opposing the '[gas as a transition fuel](#)' narrative and raising science-based arguments on its costs and wider environmental impacts.

A number of EEB press quotes (national and EU-wide) about policy issues on climate and energy (e.g. hydrogen, the 2030 target, State Aid) contributed to an increased visibility and strengthened our role in public debates.

**126** countries  
all over the world  
have net-zero goals  
covering 51% of global  
GHG emissions

**110** million tons  
of CO2 emissions  
could be saved each  
year through to 2050  
by phasing out new  
gas and oil boilers by  
2025

**-15** gigatons of  
CO2 emissions are  
needed for us to even  
envisage reaching the  
climate objective of  
the Paris Agreement

*"A net -55% emission target is way below what is needed to avoid the the worst consequences of climate breakdown and guarantee a safe future for millions of young Europeans."*

Barbara Mariani, Senior Policy Officer for Climate





# HEALTH & INDUSTRY

In 2020, the COVID-19 crisis and lockdowns shed a spotlight on human health and wellbeing, and it reminded us that preventing the contamination of our air, water and soil is crucial to protect people and nature and allow them to thrive.





While the EU took important steps towards a healthier future, including the adoption of a comprehensive Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability and the progress towards a Just Transition, much more needs to be done to clean our industry and achieve the zero-pollution ambition.

In 2020, our Industry team stepped up its role within the [Europe Beyond Coal campaign](#), and led the efforts to bring iconic fights to the attention of EU institutions. Our work to leverage the Turów mine's transnational water grab as an EU struggle resulted in the acknowledgement by the European Commission that the mine is indeed operating in breach of EU laws. Our recommendations against the use of state aid to subsidise coal corporations and to steer EU funds towards the regions that commit to move beyond coal were incorporated into communications by the Commission and into the [Just Transition Mechanism](#), while our advocacy work alongside partner NGOs resulted in the International Commission for the Oder river recognising lignite mining as a "significant water management issue".

To help fill the dramatic transparency gap in EU industrial emissions reporting, we launched the [Industrial Plant Data Viewer](#), which allows users to access and compare data from over 3,000 large combustion plants across the EU, and check whether they are doing their job to prevent pollution. Our inputs to the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) were also taken on board, and we successfully engaged in strengthening EU BREF standards on ferrous metals and textiles.

We continued to push for a reduction of air pollution from all sources, including agriculture, with our members and partners and through our engagement in the [Clean Air Farming project](#). The Council Conclusions on air quality adopted in March reflected our main recommendations, and our

push to tackle methane emissions from all sources resulted in a more comprehensive EU Methane Strategy. Our [report on the National Air Pollution Control Programmes](#) shed light on the implementation of the EU air quality laws in member states and provided recommendations to both governments and the Commission.

Within the framework of the European Green Deal, the Commission adopted a comprehensive [Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability](#) that includes a new approach to chemical control and a clear zero-pollution ambition for the regulation of chemicals. Our Chemicals team had intense negotiations on the Strategy and gave input into [REACH](#)-related processes, strengthening our exchange with national governments, the Commission, MEPs, and EU agencies. Toxic and persistent chemicals known as PFAS are also being addressed and set to be phased out.

Our high-level event on the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability highlighted the issues around mercury use and featured the author and director of the movie [Minamata](#), documenting the devastating effect of mercury poisoning in a coastal community in Japan. We participated in the intersessional process of the Minamata Convention and were accepted into an expert group aiming to expand the list of products and processes to be phased out. In addition, we provided input to the review of the [Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive](#), particularly with regard to lamps.

**3/4** of EU city dwellers breathe air that is dangerous to their health.

**4,600** tonnes of heavy metals are released each year by coal-fired power plants into the air, water and soil, including arsenic, lead and mercury.

**3.5** million sites in Europe are contaminated by hazardous substances and a growing number of hazardous chemicals are found in human bodies as well as in ecosystems.

*"At a time when public health is rightly at the top of the agenda, responsible industry actors should be looking to be part of the solution, and playing their part in building a cleaner, greener future for everyone."*

**Christian Schaible, Policy Manager for Industrial Production**



# GLOBAL POLICIES & SUSTAINABILITY

The global pandemic which brought the world to its knees in 2020 highlighted not only the interconnected reality of humanity but also threw into sharp relief the underlying conditions ailing the world: from global and local inequalities to the ongoing destruction of ecosystems.



BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER



"I CAN'T  
BREATHE"



COVID-19 confirmed the urgency and importance of joined-up and coordinated global action, as reflected in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which entered their final decade of action this year.

Much of the EEB's actions and initiatives related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) occurred in the context of the [Make Europe Sustainable for All](#) (MESA) project, which ended in late 2020. Other, new projects have taken up some of the slack, including the EU-funded [Climate of Change](#). Over its three-year lifespan, MESA reached tens of millions of citizens, thousands of NGOs and hundreds of policymakers through events, stunts, outreach, research and reports.

In 2020, with initial support from MESA, the EEB launched its [Wardrobe Change](#) campaign, which seeks to draw attention to the devastating impact of the textile sector on the fabric of our environment and to demand it be recut from sustainable cloth. In addition to a [campaign video](#) in 13 languages, the EEB, in collaboration with MESA partners, premiered a major [documentary of textile waste](#). The campaign made it into major news outlets, including [The Guardian](#) and [Politico](#). With the backing of MESA and in collaboration with [SDG Watch Europe](#), the EEB released the first civil society-driven [SDG monitoring report for the EU](#). The hard-hitting document found that, [contrary to the EU's own statistics](#), Europe is falling behind on its SDG commitments.

The EEB also organised and attended numerous international and European fora related to the SDGs to make the civil society case. In addition, Patrizia Heidegger, the EEB's Director of Global Policies and Development, was elected as a Regional Facilitator for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders in Europe at

the United Nations Environment Programme. Patrizia was also elected to the board of European Movement International. COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement sparked a wide-ranging public debate about systemic racism in 2020. This made the EEB's work on environmental racism all the more relevant and urgent. We published a [report on the environmental discrimination endured by Europe's Roma communities](#).

The virtual launch event, the first of its kind organised by the EEB during the pandemic, was popular and well-attended. The report was covered by leading media outlets, such as [The Guardian](#), [Al Jazeera](#) and [NPR](#). The report and related advocacy events and outreach resulted in the new European Roma Strategic Framework referring to the environment justice concept – a first time for any European policy. The COVID-19 pandemic also underscored the inequalities plaguing society and how the coronavirus crisis was primarily hurting the poor and vulnerable. Our economic transition work helped highlight these issues and propose blueprints for a wellbeing economy that couples human prosperity with protecting the environment and nature.

One key example of this was the major report we produced, in collaboration with the European Youth Forum, on the [future of work](#). The virtual launch of the report was well attended, a spin-off event for youth was organised and the report appeared in some major outlets, including [Al Jazeera](#).

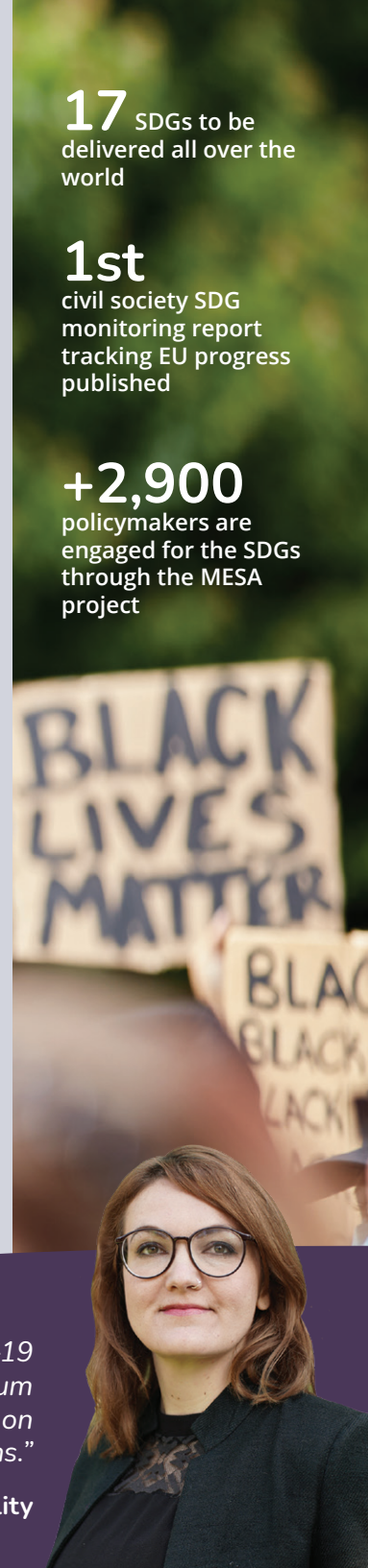
**17** SDGs to be delivered all over the world

**1st** civil society SDG monitoring report tracking EU progress published

**+2,900** policymakers are engaged for the SDGs through the MESA project

*"2020 was expected to be a pivotal year for nature, but COVID-19 delayed many crucial decisions. Still, we worked to keep up the momentum around the SDGs, and amplified the voices of environmental NGOs calling for a curb on plastic production and pollution, protect biodiversity and promote ecosystems-based solutions."*

Patrizia Heidegger, Director of Global Policies & Sustainability





# GOVERNANCE





In 2020, the EEB Board met in person in Zagreb (2-3 March) and online (26-27 May and 8 November). Between Board meetings, direction and guidance was provided by our Executive Committee, composed of the President and Vice-Presidents.

In 2020, the EEB Board was composed as follows:

## **PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS AND TREASURER**

**Sweden** - Ms. Johanna SANDAHL (President), Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

Mr. Axel JANSEN (Treasurer), individual member

**Austria** - Mr. Bernhard ZLANABITNIG (Vice-President), Umweltdachverband

**Croatia** - Mr. Toni VIDAN (Vice-President), Zelena akcija - Green Action

**Germany** - Ms. Bjela VOSSEN (Vice-President), DNR - Deutscher Naturschutzring

**Ireland** - Ms. Attracta UI BHROIN (Vice-President), AN TAISCE

## **NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

**Belgium** - Mr. Danny JACOBS, Bond Beter Leefmilieu (BBL)

**Bulgaria** - Ms. Maria VELIKOVA, "Europe and We" Association

**Cyprus** - Mr. Lefkios SERGIDES, Terra Cypria

**Czech Republic** - Mr. Jiri DLOUHY - SSL - Society for Sustainable Living (STUŽ)

**Denmark** - Mr. Jens LA COUR, Danish Society for Nature Conservation

**Estonia** - Ms. Tuuli STEWART, Club of Rome Estonia

**Finland** - Mr. Jouni NISSINEN, Finnish Association for Nature Conservation

**France** - Mr. Jerome Partos, FNE - France Nature Environnement

**Georgia** - Ms. Kety Gujaraidze, Green Alternative

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**Hungary** - Mr. Gabor Bendik, CAAG - Clean Air Action Group

**Italy** - Mr. Mauro ALBRIZIO, Legambiente

**Latvia** - Ms. Selina VANCANE, Green Liberty

**Lithuania** - Mr. Edmundas GREIMAS, Lithuanian Fund for Nature

**Luxembourg** - Ms. Karima HAMMOUCHE, Natur&Emwelt

**Malta** - Mr. Hubert THEUMA, Nature Trust

**Netherlands** - Mr. Patrick NUVELSTIJN, Natuurmonumenten

**North Macedonia** - Ms. Ana Colovic Lesoska, Eco-Svest

**Norway** - Ms. Siv Elin ÅNESTAD, Future in our Hands

**Poland** - Mr. Wojciech SZYMALSKI, ISD - Institute for Sustainable Development

**Portugal** - Ms. Ana BRAZAO, GEOTA

**Republic of Moldova** - Mr. Ilya TROMBITSKY, ECO-TIRAS

**Romania** - Ms. Irina DAIA, CEDD - Centrul de Excelenta pentru Dezvoltare

**Serbia** - Ms. Lazarija ŠOJIC, ALHEM

**Slovakia** - Mr. Daniel LEŠINSKÝ, CEPTA\*\*

**Slovenia** - Mr. Andrej MOHAR, Dark Sky Slovenia

**Spain** - Ms. Monica VIDAL, ECODES

**Turkey** - Ms. Deniz ATAC, TEMA Foundation

**Ukraine** - Mr. Andriy ANDRUSEVYCH, RACSE

**United Kingdom** - Mr. Lloyd AUSTIN, RSPB - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

## **EUROPEAN NETWORK REPRESENTATIVES**

**WECF - Women Engage for a Common Future** - Ms. Anke STOCK

**FSE - Fédération Spéléologique Européenne** - Mr. Jean-Claude THIES

**Youth and Environment Europe (YEE)** - Mr. Nathan METENIER

**ClientEarth** - Ms. Anna HESLOP

**AirClim** - Mr. Christer ÅGREN

**Eco-Union** - Mr. Alejandro GONZALEZ DOMINGO

**ChemSec** - Mr. Stefan SCHEUER

*\*\*Sadly, Daniel passed away in October 2020.*

# 560

active users for  
our virtual Annual  
Conference and over  
2.000 Youtube views

**Picture:** Johanna Sandahl, EEB President at the 2019 AGM

*\*This EEB Board took office at the 2019 AGM and completed its mandate at the 2020 AGM.*

# A FLOURISHING NETWORK

At the end of 2020, we counted a total of **169 members** in **36 countries**. At our online Annual General Meeting in November, we welcomed six new members.

## EUROPEAN NETWORK

**Women Engage for a Common Future**

*Changing Markets Foundation*

**Federation Speellogique Européenne**

Coastwatch Europe

**CEEweb for Biodiversity**

European Land and Soil Alliance

**European Compost Network**

**YEE - Youth and Environment Europe**

**J&E - Justice and Environment**

**UECNA**

**\*IFLA Europe\***

**PAN**

**Seas At Risk**

**Bellona Europa**

Carbon Market Watch

**EFCF**

**\*EUMA\***

**NFI**

**Eco-Union**

**International Chemical Secretariat**

**Air Pollution and Climate Secretariat**

**CHEM Trust**

**CIWF - Compassion In World**

**Farming**

**Client Earth**

**FERN**

## UNITED KINGDOM

Green Alliance

**Keep Britain Tidy**

**LINK - Scottish Environment Link**

Population Matters

**RSPB**

**Woodland Trust**

**The Restart Project**

## IRELAND

**An Taisce**

**Friends of the Irish Environment**

Irish Environmental Network

**Irish Wildlife Trust**

**Sustainable Water Network**

**VOICE**

**Zero Waste Alliance Ireland**

## FRANCE

**Agir pour l'Environnement**

**ASPAS**

**France Nature Environnement**

**SEPANSO**

**SOS Loire Vivante**

**Zero Waste France**

## SPAIN

**AV Chueca**

**Ecology and Development Foundation**

**Ecologistas en Accion**

Ecoserveis

**EdC - Ecologistes de Catalunya**

**FNCA**

Fundación Vivo Sano

**IIDMA**

*Xarxa per a la Conservació de la Natura*

## PORTUGAL

**GEOTA**

**Liga para a Proteção de Natureza**

**Quercus**

**ZERO**

## NORWAY

**Future in Our Hands**

## NETHERLANDS

**Mondiaal Alternatief**

**Natuurmonumenten**

**NSG**

**SNM**

**Friends of the Earth Netherlands**

**Landschappen**

## BELGIUM

**Bond Beter Leefmilieu**

**Inter Environnement Bruxelles**

**Inter Environnement Wallonie**

**stRaten-Generaal**

## GERMANY

**BBU**

**BHU**

**BUND**

**Bundesverband Boden**

**Deutsche Umwelthilfe**

**Deutscher Naturschutzring**

**Grüne Liga**

**HEI Support**

**Licht und Natur**

**Living Rivers Foundation**

**NABU**

**Runder Tisch Reparatur**

**Öko-Institut**

**SDW**

**\*Testbiotech\***

**UVP Gesellschaft**

**Verband Der Deutschen Höhlen**

**Umweltinstitut München**

## SWITZERLAND

**Noé21**

## KEY

**Full member**

Associate member

Affiliate member

\*New member in 2019\*





# STAFF



A group of our staff attending one of the many online meetings that took place during 2020



Secretary General

Jeremy Wates

## Global Policies and Sustainability

Director of Global Policies and Sustainability

Patrizia Heidegger

Nick Meynen	Senior Policy Officer for Economic Transition
Nadège Lharaig	Project Coordinator
Sonia Goicoechea	Project Officer for Global Policies and Sustainability
Eva Izquierdo	Project Officer for Global Policies and Sustainability
Katharina Wiese	Associate Policy Officer for Environmental and Economic Justice
Agata Meysner	Global Policies and Sustainability Intern
Diego Marin	Assistant for Environmental Justice
Fintan Mckenna	Intern for EU Neighbourhood Policies
Richard Filcak	Advisor, EU Neighbourhood Policies

## Finance and Admin

Finance, Personnel & Administration Director

Isabel de Jesus Fonseca

Aleksandra Kolodziejska	Senior HR Officer
Carmen Benner	Senior Finance Officer
Anita Klecha	> Senior Finance Officer
Alessia Bialsioli	Events Coordinator
Andrea Gonzalez	Internal Communications Officer
Abraham Lombrana	Events Coordinator
Quentin Monsieur	IT Officer
Julie Verdier	Bookkeeper
Sandra Cambule	Associate HR Officer
Giacomo Bianchi	Finance and Administrative Assistant
Eline Kesti	Finance and Administrative Assistant
Rita Laranjeira	Finance and Administrative Assistant
Martina Miglioranza	Events Assistant
Zsafia Mohacsi	Administrative Assistant
Julia Rosowiecka	Finance and Administrative Assistant

## EU Policy

Deputy Secretary General and Director of EU Policy

Patrick ten Brink

Stéphane Arditi	Director of Policy Integration and Circular Economy	Sergiy Moroz	Policy Manager for Water and Biodiversity
Tatiana Santos	Policy Manager for Chemicals & Nanotechnology	Christian Schaible	Policy Manager for Industrial Production
Elena Lymberidi-Settimo	Project Manager for 'Zero Mercury' Campaign	Piotr Barczak	Senior Policy Officer for Waste
Bérénice Dupeux	Senior Policy Officer for Agriculture	Elise Vitali	Project Officer for Chemicals
Goran Kovacevik	Technical Expert	Alikri Kriekouki	Senior Technical Officer for Industrial Production
Blanca Morales	Coordinator for EU Ecolabel	Jean-Luc Wietor	Senior Policy Officer for Industrial Production
Jonathan Bonadio	Coordinator: Energy Generation BREF, Industry and Climate	Francesca Carlsson	Legal Officer
Célia Nyssens	Policy Officer for Agriculture	Morgan Reille	Policy Officer for Agriculture
Davide Sabbadin	Policy Officer for Climate and Circular Economy	Jean-Pierre Schweizer	Policy Officer for Circular Economy & Product Policy
Andreea Popa	Policy Associate for Industrial Production	Valentina Weiskopf	Policy Associate for Industrial Production
Margherita Tolotto	Senior Policy Officer for Air and Noise	Emily Macintosh	Policy Officer for Textiles
Anita Willcox	Project Officer for Mercury	Darko Bizjak	Circular Economy Assistant
Laura Hildt	Associate Policy Officer for Biodiversity and EU Affairs	Jean Pierre Schweitzer	Policy Officer for Circular Economy & Product Policy
Simone Lilliu	Intern for Biodiversity and Water	Jai Krishna	Senior Policy and Researcher: Industrial Production
Barbara Mariani	Senior Policy Officer for Climate	Dolores Romano	Senior Policy Officer on Chemicals
Blaine Camillieri	Policy Officer for Fiscal Reform and Circular Economy	Sara Johansson	Policy and Researcher for Industrial Production
Riccardo Nigro	Campaign Coordinator, Coal Combustion and Mines	Tricia Pacifico	Circular Economy and Trade policy Assistant
Gonzalo Sanchez	Policy Officer for Circular economy and Carbon neutrality in the Building sector	Coralie Boulard	Intern Climate Policy

## Communications and Membership

Director of Communications

Denise Godinho

Communications Manager

Anton Lazarus

Khaled Diab	Senior Comms Officer
Jack Hunter	Senior Comms Officer
Mauro Anastasio	Comms Officer
Roberta Arbinolo	Comms Officer
Gemma Bowcock	Comms Officer
Marie-Amélie Brun	Comms Officer
Asger Mindegaard	Comms Officer

Director of Membership and Development

Emma Ernst

Tessa Jansoone	Development Officer
Alessia Belluomini	Membership Assistant

## Key

Job title	Left the EEB in 2020
Job title	Joined the EEB in 2020

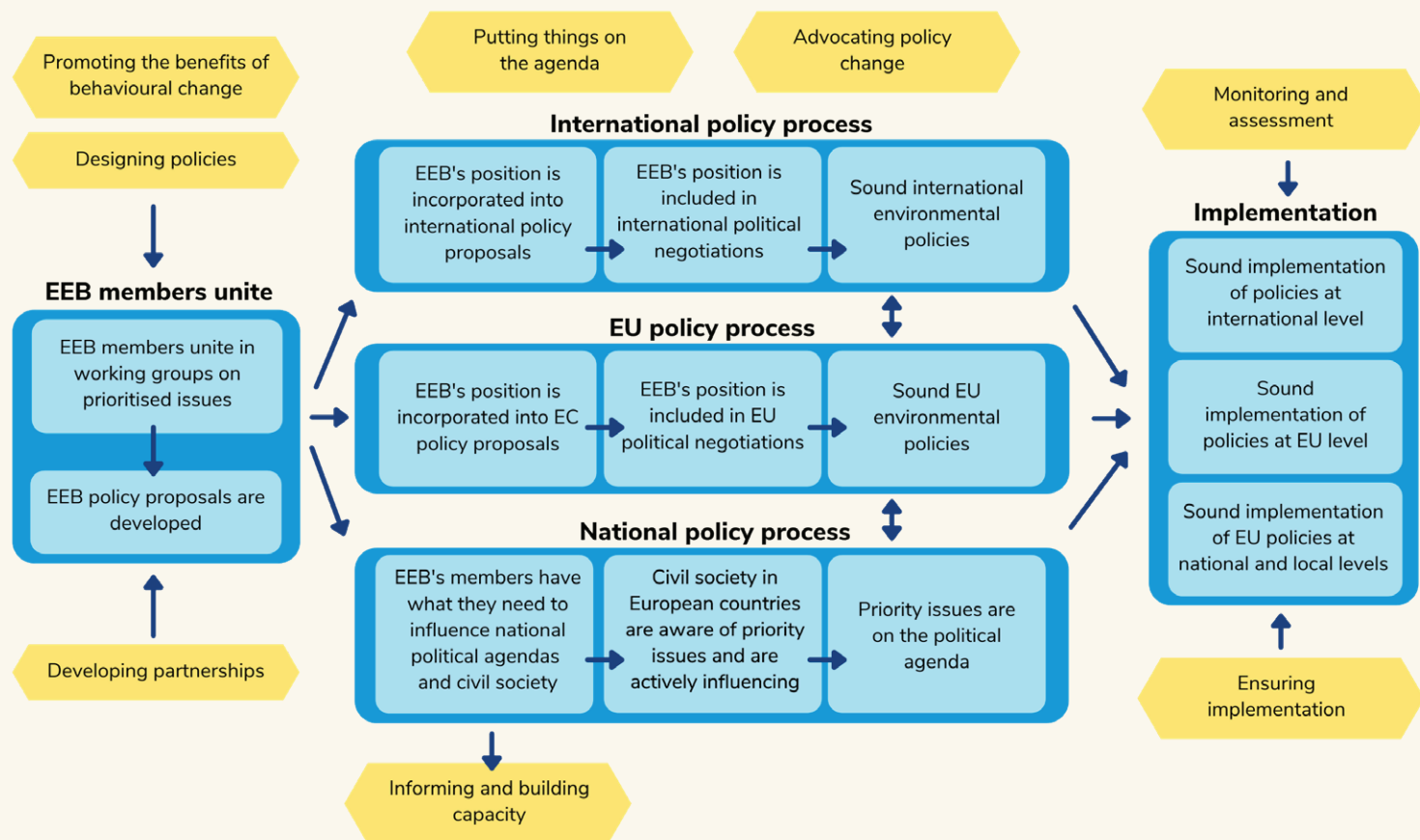
# A CRUCIAL DECADE

## OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

The Theory of Change diagram provides an overview of the causal links and impact we aim to achieve with our work in the next ten years. It should be read from left to right as a sequence of cause and effect.

## OUR WORK AREAS

To help deliver the change we need in the coming ten years we have identified eight work areas of change and dedicated strategy. Alongside the six work areas included in this report, we have added Economic Transition and Environmental Law and Justice. Full details of our Long-Term Strategy are available on our [website](#).





## OUR WORK “CLUSTERS”



EU GOVERNANCE  
AND INSTITUTIONS



GLOBAL AND REGIONAL  
POLICIES



HEALTH AND  
ENVIRONMENT



CLIMATE



ECONOMIC  
TRANSITION



ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW AND JUSTICE



CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY



NATURE

### Just transition

Decreasing threats to  
the environment and  
people in Europe and  
beyond

Creating opportunities  
for the environment  
and people in Europe  
and beyond



Promoting  
opportunities



Healthy  
environment

Human wellbeing for  
current and future  
generations

## THE DIAGRAM

The impact of our work on the environment and society is contained in the green and blue circle. This occurs as a result of the intermediate results (blue boxes) caused by our actions (yellow hexagons).

### KEY

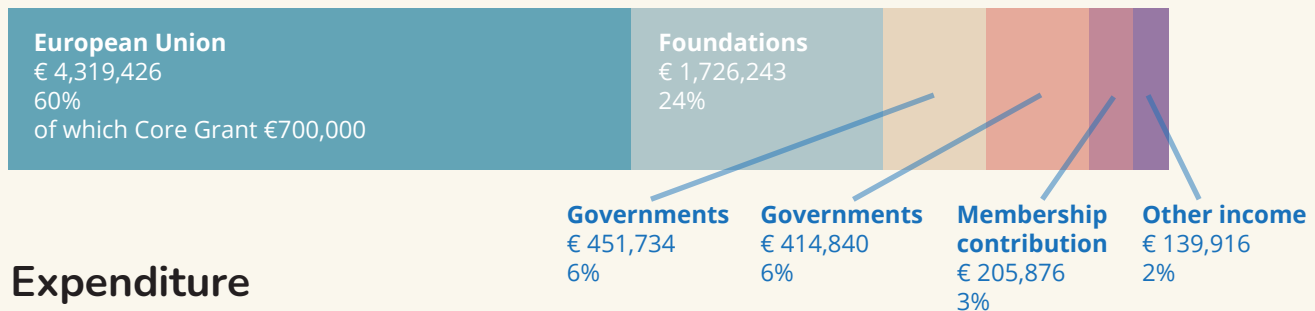
Blue box	Intermediate result
Yellow box	Actions

# ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

In 2020, our total income increased by over 35% from the previous year. This was due to significant increases in grants from the European Commission, philanthropic foundations and governments, with some increase in income from EEB membership fees. In combination, these substantially outweighed a fall in contributions from organisations. As a result, the EEB was able to put €11,994 into the reserves at the end of the year.

## Income

€ 7,258,036

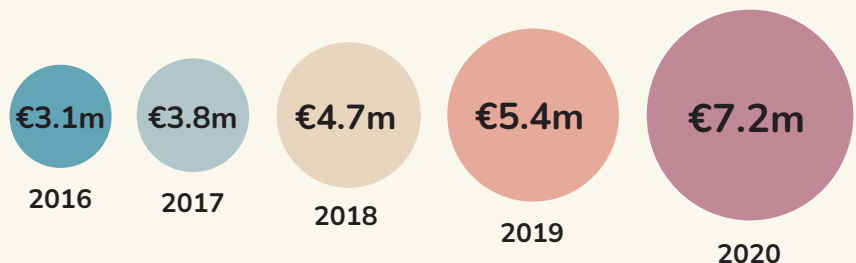


## Expenditure

€ 7,246,042



**Total reserves end 2020 :** € 544,826 (of which € 11,994 added in 2020)



**Total annual income 2016-2020**



# 2020 Donors

The EEB gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the following for 2020:

## European Union through the European Commission

- DG DEVCO Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) Programme
- DG DEVCO Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) Programme through WeWorld Italy
- DG DEVCO EuropeAid Programme through the Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion (TEMA)
- DG DEVCO European Development Fund (EDF) through the United Nations Environment Programme
- DG Environment Service Contracts
- DG Environment LIFE Programme
- DG Environment LIFE Programme through Carbon Market Watch, Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH), and Umweltbundesamt
- DG NEAR EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) through Co-PLAN
- DG RTD FP7 through University of Barcelona
- DG RTD Horizon 2020 Programme, i.e. through Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung, Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems (ISINNOVA), Wageningen University & Research and the University of Valladolid

## Governments

- Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
- Belgian Federal Public Service for Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment
- Danish Ministry of the Environment
- Finnish Ministry of the Environment
- French Ministry of Ecology and Solidarity Transition
- German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy through REN 21

- German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), including through the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) and Umweltbundesamt (UBA)
- Grand-Duchy Luxembourg Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development
- Irish Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency through the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

## Intergovernmental Organisations and Agencies

- OECD – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

## Foundations and other Organisations

- Adessium Foundation
- Clean Air Fund
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Environmental Defense Fund Europe (EDF)
- European Climate Foundation (ECF)
- European Environmental Health Initiative (EEHI) through the Jenifer Altman Foundation
- Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI)
- Goldman Environmental Prize
- Laudes Foundation
- MAVA Foundation
- Oak Foundation
- Plastic Solutions Fund, Oak Foundation and MAVA Foundation through Zero Waste Europe
- Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA) through the Plastics Solutions Fund
- Tides Foundation

With special thanks to our top four donors in 2020:



European Commission  
Directorate-General  
for Environment



European Commission Directorate-  
General for International  
Cooperation and Development



European Climate  
Foundation



MAVA  
Foundation





**EEB**  
European  
Environmental  
Bureau

