



EEB

European
Environmental
Bureau

2021 Annual Report



EUROPE'S LARGEST NETWORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENS' ORGANISATIONS



The European Environmental Bureau (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. Our vision is a better future where people and nature thrive together. We advocate for progressive policies to create a better environment in the European Union and beyond.

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Responsible editor: Patrick ten Brink

Design & Layout: Sarah Abou-Chleih

European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Rue des Deux Eglises 14-16
1000 Brussels, Belgium
+32 (0)2 289 1090

EEB website: www.eeb.org

EEB news channel: meta.eeb.org

Twitter: [Green_Europe](https://twitter.com/Green_Europe)

LinkedIn: [European Environmental Bureau](https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-environmental-bureau)

Facebook: [European Environmental Bureau - EEB](https://www.facebook.com/European-Environmental-Bureau-EEB)



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2021: DIRECTION? FUTURE-BOUND

COVID-19 pushed many previous priorities aside, raising far-reaching questions about our health, our environment, our economy and our society – indeed, our way of life.

The European Green Deal (EGD), for the most part, remained on course, with its relevance more broadly recognised. The EU and its Member States reacted to the pandemic not only by attempting to mitigate its immediate short-term impacts but also by embracing - at least in theory - the need to 'build back better' through a green recovery. While this important shift in narrative yielded some positive results, challenges in delivering on it have increased, with examples of specific policy initiatives failing to live up to EGD principles. Throughout 2021, the EEB continued to participate in legislative processes to ensure that its voice is heard in relevant fora and that policy recommendations are duly considered.

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 in order to build support for, or at least reduce resistance to, progressive positions in the Council. The German Presidency was evaluated on its performance against the EEB's ['Ten Green Tests'](#) and served as a yardstick for the incoming [Portuguese Presidency](#). Further, the [EEB Priorities for the 2022-2023 Presidency Trio](#) drew attention to the key environmental issues needing to be addressed during the three presidencies. The [French Presidency Memorandum 2022](#), published ahead of France taking the reins, aimed at guiding the French presidency and providing a framework for its assessment at the end of its term. Maintaining momentum in the rollout of the European Green Deal thus remained a central focus in the EEB's work.

2021 also saw us successfully conclude old projects, while securing funding to fulfil our [strategic vision](#) through new projects. Placing our members at the heart of our work has translated into a consistent growth of our membership, with a total of 171 members in 36 countries by the end of 2021.

Institutionally, we continued pursuing avenues to ensure that our organisation remains future-proof. Successful fundraising allowed us to stay on a growth trajectory, a positive trend that equips us better than ever to face the major environmental challenges we face. Naturally, this growth also calls for an adaptation of structures and processes and we have consequently prioritised organisational development, fundamental to support the growth of the EEB. An EEB growth strategy that provides a blueprint for sustainable growth was drafted, project and resource management tools were developed and capacity-building of staff to accompany these changes is being ensured through a series of trainings.

Notwithstanding the 'covid fatigue' felt by so many of us, the EEB managed to remain on course, delivering on its [Work Programme](#) and doing its part to work [towards a wellbeing economy that serves people and nature](#).



Jeremy Wates
Secretary General



EU POLICIES



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.

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) entered into force in February 2021, countries drafted and negotiated their National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs), and by the end of the year, disbursements had started flowing. The EEB worked with its members and civil society partners to make the final NRRPs markedly better than the initial drafts. While many could be improved, final plans were mixed in ambition and weaker than needed, especially on investments for energy savings, climate mitigation, and environment. Most failed to commit to much needed policy reform.

Recognition of the need for new EGD legislation faced headwinds from interests in deregulation under the guise of 'better regulation' that still focuses on short-term economic costs as a burden, even though the reduction of pollution is a responsibility. The EEB continued to engage in the Fit for Future Platform, [criticised its communication](#) with a focus on the 'one-in-one-out' approach, arguing that 'better regulation' should become *responsible* regulation.

The 2021 EGD measures included some successes: the Zero Pollution Action Plan commits to zero pollution ambition; the Social Climate Fund (SCF) within the Fit for 55 package has a welcome focus on helping poorer households in the energy transition;

the EU's Soil Strategy commits to protect soil and promises a dedicated Soil Health Law by 2023; the Environmental Crime Directive revision proposes a welcome extension of the list of offences and minimum rules on sanctions; and the Aarhus Regulation revision extends possibilities for NGOs to challenge decisions taken by EU institutions that affect the environment. This adds hope.

Yet, there were also missed opportunities, as well as a range of developments undermining the confidence in a genuine ambition for a transformative Green Deal. The most egregious case is the inclusion of gas and nuclear power in the list of sustainable investments. While the EU Taxonomy was intended as a science-based instrument to counter greenwashing and ensure investments contribute to a green transition, political interests trumped science-based approaches and experts' advice. The EEB and partner NGOs worked to develop ambitious and science-based standards in the EU Taxonomy, so this was doubly disappointing, despite positive features being included in other chapters.

The EEB will continue to push for a transformative EGD and a future that Europe's youth and future generations deserve.

€1.8 trillion

is the total of the EU budget and the Recovery and Resilience Plan.

40%

 of NRRP

spending were allocated by Member States on climate measures across the first 22 recovery and resilience plans that were approved, compared to a minimum target of 37%.

49

 proposals and +300 measures building on inputs from 800 randomly selected citizens was the outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

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

“ 2021 was a year of a bold leaps forward, 100 half-hearted steps, and deeply disappointing moves dragging Europe off-course. We need a radical shift in ambition for the EGD to be Europe's 'person-on-the-moon moment' and not remain stuck in the gravitational grip of the status quo.

Patrick ten Brink, Deputy Secretary General & Director of EU Policy



CIRCULAR ECONOMY



The 'take, make and throw away' economy has had its time. In 2021 we kept advocating for a circular and fair economy that allows us to reduce our footprint and make the best use of the Earth's precious resources.

Over the year, we called for better product and waste prevention policies to reduce resource use and carbon emissions across the EU, while promoting new production and consumption models that will allow us to boost our wellbeing within planetary boundaries.

We welcomed the introduction of innovative policy routes, such as the proposal for a digital product passport to help people choose the best option in terms of repairability and durability, the carbon footprint and due diligence provisions, as well as the mandatory integration of recycled critical raw materials.

As Europe's digital and green transitions increase the demand for batteries, we demanded for all batteries to be sustainable, long-lasting, replaceable, repairable and recyclable, and we saw most of our ambition reflected in the European Parliament's amendments to the Commission's proposal for a revised battery law. We also raised awareness of the environmental and social impacts of runaway mining for metals and minerals, outside of the EU as well as within.

Furthermore, Members of the European Parliament called for EU legislation to hold companies accountable for human rights abuses and environmental damage, paving the way for better due diligence and corporate governance rules to be tabled in 2022.

On product policy, we made the case for the development of ambitious rules to protect consumers and the planet, by making sustainable products the norm, fostering responsible supply chains and pushing back against greenwashing.

We also advocated for a ban on the wasteful destruction of unsold and returned goods, and we brought together members and partners to design recommendations for ambitious EU action on fast fashion and textiles overconsumption, feeding into the EU Sustainable Product Initiative to be released in 2022.

At the same time, we kept working closely with our partners. Within the Coolproducts campaign we called for sustainable heating and cooling and exposed the impacts of ecodesign implementation delays, while with Right to Repair Europe we demanded product repairability.

Within the Rethink Plastic Alliance, we campaigned for reusable packaging, toxic-free plastics and an end to waste exports beyond the EU. Some of our demands were taken on board by the European Commission in its Waste Shipment Regulation proposal, which bans waste exports to non-OECD countries as well as the shipment of waste for disposal.

Concerning buildings, we pushed the sufficiency narrative onto the EU policy agenda to unleash the saving potentials linked to a lower demand for energy and materials, alongside circularity principles, and a whole-life cycle approach to address embodied emissions in buildings beyond the use stage.

6% of the world's population live in the EU, yet they account for the consumption of 25-30% of metals produced globally.

1.5 x the Earth's circumference is the distance all clothing and electronics shipments destroyed in Europe in 2020 would cover if they were lined up.

The equivalent of
10 million tonnes
of emissions - as much as 5 million cars - will be caused annually by delays to the implementation of ecodesign.

“ From product sustainability to waste policies, in 2021 we welcomed a range of innovative developments that took Europe closer to a fair and circular economy. It is now time to step up the game and truly make sustainable products the norm.

Stéphane Arditi, Director of Policy Integration & Circular Economy



FISCAL REFORM & GREEN FINANCE



In February 2021, the Council adopted the €672.5bn Recovery and Resilience Facility to help Member States deal with the economic and social impact of COVID-19, on the condition that at least 37% of the expenditure at the national level is directed to the green transition.

By the end of the year, 22 Member States were approved to start implementing reforms. The EEB, however, expressed concerns about the limited focus of most recovery plans, calling on the European Commission to urge Member States to produce more transformative and long-term proposals. We published a [position paper](#) outlining priorities that go beyond greenwashing and allow for systemic change.

Turning economies into well-being economies remains one of our key policy asks. In partnership with Oxfam Germany, we published the report “[Towards a Wellbeing Economy that Serves People and Nature](#)” to provide evidence on how the obsession with economic growth is not only harming the environment and society, but also driving global warming. The report was launched at an online event where we also streamed, for the first time, the ‘[25% Revolution](#)’ documentary, produced in collaboration with the Belgian NGO Broederlijk Delen. The documentary, which comes with subtitles in 13 languages, has been watched/ downloaded 6,624 times.

Throughout the year, the EEB produced 160 publications, including reports, position papers, and briefings. ‘[Green mining is a myth: the case for cutting EU resource consumption](#)’ is another major report we launched, calling on the EU to “use the green transition as an opportunity to tackle the root causes of the broader climate and environmental crises — an economic system which drives overconsumption and social inequities in all sectors.”

As part of our larger efforts to work closely with the academic community, we organised two LOCOMOTION webinars to present science-based policy recommendations for the EU’s green transition. Around 135 participants from various stakeholder groups joined, providing valuable feedback.

We also continuously provided support to civil society stakeholders to build and strengthen their capacities to advocate for the reform of the EU’s Economic Framework. We initiated an [open letter](#) to EU leaders, together with the Fiscal Matters coalition that the EEB is a driving partner of, demanding to reshape the current fiscal framework to a more responsible policy. The letter was signed by more than 170 individuals from NGOs, think tanks, foundations, trade unions, and academia.

Responsible and sustainable fiscal policies remain crucial as Member States look to recover from the COVID-19 crisis. EEB’s submission on the [review of the EU Economic Governance Framework](#) highlights how a new framework can be formed to promote a more resilient and just political-economic system. The EEB will further continue to closely monitor the National Recovery and Resilience Plans, promoting the positive integration and implementation of environmental issues at the national level.

€520 billion

per year is the EC’s most recent [estimate](#) of the ‘green investment gap’ with other estimations being much higher.

Only **5.4%** of the total government revenue from taxes and social contributions came, in 2020, from environmental taxes. Taxation on pollution and resources only accounts for 3.7% of the total environmental taxes.

9 in 10

Europeans consider a social Europe to be important to them personally ([2021 Eurobarometer survey](#)). The [Porto Declaration](#) is a crucial step toward a wellbeing economy that aims to look beyond GDP.

“A return to business as usual is (simply) not an option. Recovery measures must address the root causes of our unsustainable systems through transformative policies that tackle both environmental and social crises together.

Katharina Wiese, Policy Officer for Economic Transition



NATURE, WATER & AGRICULTURE



From biodiversity to water, forests, and sustainable agriculture, the protection of nature continued high on our agenda. Alliance-building with civil society organisations and a broad stakeholder group crucially allowed us to leverage influence in key decision-making processes.

We [advocated for a targeted law setting legally binding nature restoration targets](#) and collaborated with civil society organisations to [mobilise 104,000 citizens](#) to respond to the consultation on this nature restoration law. We called for ambitious targets, supporting a [Parliamentary letter](#) and a [scientists' declaration](#), as well as coordinating a [joint letter](#) alongside 150+ NGOs. We [pushed](#) for the European Parliament (EP) to endorse the Biodiversity Strategy 2030; a [successful effort](#), with the report that was adopted including key priorities.

To ensure that the Commission's proposed actions on the EU Forest Strategy were not weakened, we appealed to the EU presidency via a [joint letter](#) and [article](#). Meanwhile, we also launched an updated [NGO assessment of the draft River Basin Management Plans](#) and launched, alongside WWF, the [NGO Hydropower Manifesto](#), which we defended in meetings in the EP and with stakeholders.

On agriculture, we continued advocating for a transformation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to facilitate a transition to agroecology. Often partnering with other NGOs, we called on the EU institutions to align the future CAP with the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies via high-level meetings, a briefing setting out [10 Tests for a Green Deal-compatible Farming Policy](#), a [joint letter](#) to the CAP negotiators, strategic communications, and speaking at external events. We reviewed the [final outcome of the CAP reform](#) and raised awareness among the press of its [drastic shortcomings](#).

A snapshot analysis of over 20 CAP National Strategic Plans, was showcased in the article [The Empty Green Tin of the New CAP](#), while the assessment of eco-schemes of over 20 countries, was presented in [a report](#) and subsequently picked up by several media outlets.

Our efforts to push for a truly [ambitious Farm to Fork Strategy](#) continued unabated, particularly in light of the EP's opinion on the Strategy, which was the object of a major, but unsuccessful, [attack by industrial agriculture lobbies](#).

We set out the EEB position on the [new governance model for agriculture and land use emissions](#), while in an EEB study we demonstrated the feasibility of [reaching net-zero emissions for agriculture](#) by mainstreaming agroecology alongside shifting to healthier and more sustainable diets. Our [Carbon Farming report](#) calls for a holistic policy approach for climate, nature, and farmers and attracted [media interest](#). Furthermore, we sent a [joint letter](#) on the issue, raising our concerns ahead of the Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles in an [op-ed](#) and [assessing the final communication](#).

We further helped steer the work of the EU Food Policy Coalition, being re-elected as member of the coalition's executive board for a second two-year term, and as co-lead of two new task forces, on the Sustainable Food Systems Law and on Climate and Agriculture Policy.

104,000 citizens

demanded that the EU adopt an effective law to restore EU nature.

A mere

2 out of 21 river basins

analysed across the EU are likely to return to health in 2027, as required by the EU's flagship water law to restore EU nature.

For the
1st anniversary

of the Biodiversity and Farm to Fork Strategies, the European Parliament fully endorsed both strategies.



“Despite some positive developments, the urgent need to reform the Common Agricultural Policy and put EU's agriculture on a nature-friendly path is still wilfully disregarded, presenting a major barrier to reach European Green Deal goals.

Célia Nyssens, Senior Policy Officer for Agriculture & Food Systems

CLIMATE & ENERGY



2021 was meant to be the year in which the European Green Deal would move from climate pledges to climate action with the Fit For 55 package. This comprehensive legislative reform, together with the energy prices crisis, has brought the climate issue into the spotlight.

The EEB's Climate and Energy team has intensely advocated for higher ambition and stronger policy coherence in the Fit for 55 Package. The outreach started before the European Commission's adoption of the proposal by responding to public consultations and sending letters, position papers and [our main asks](#) to the institutions. Once the Commission unveiled the Fit For 55 package on 14 July, the EEB stressed that the proposal was [unfit and unfair](#). Our position was covered by several international, European and national media, and taken up by the [Greens in the European Parliament](#).

With the aim of aligning this comprehensive policy reform with the Paris Agreement's goals, the EEB has been advocating for: higher climate and energy targets; phase-out of fossil fuels in the heating sector; phase-out of free allowances to Emissions Trading System (ETS) industry sectors; higher Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) targets with a specific target for agriculture emissions; polluter pays principle to be applied in energy use; extending carbon pricing to all economic sectors; and a strong social package.

We have also advocated for the phase-out of fossil fuels in the [second Fit For 55 package](#) introduced in December and covering crucial policy files for the green transition of buildings, such as the Energy Performance Building Directive and the Gas Package.

The energy crisis triggered by rising gas prices after summer has been a wake-up for more climate action to break free from fossil fuels. Through various [articles](#) and [policy letters](#), the EEB has effectively refuted the

arguments of vested interests blaming the EU's green agenda for higher energy prices. Similarly, together with other NGOs, we have been countering the flawed narratives on the inclusion of gas and nuclear power in the [EU's taxonomy](#) for green investments — two energy sources that have proved to be far from being sustainable or temporary.

Another important milestone this year has been the submission of National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs) and the first allocation of the EU Next Generation funds. To ensure all this massive [green funding was in line with the EU climate and environmental goals](#), the EEB carried out multiple dialogues with stakeholders, playing a pivotal role between the EU institutions and the civil society sector, especially with civil organisations of [Central and Eastern Europe](#).

Heating decarbonisation has been one of the EEB's priority topics this year. We analysed both fossil and renewable heating subsidies and the [climate plans of heating manufacturers](#), outlining the needed extra mile to make this transition [affordable for all](#). To unlock the full climate potential of the heating transition, the EEB started a campaign to substitute global-warming HFC gases with natural refrigerants in renewable heating systems.

Finally, the EEB has actively contributed to the net-zero discussions, challenging hyped solutions with dubious climate credentials, such as [hydrogen](#) or [carbon capture technologies](#) (CCS, CCU, DAC, etc).

Climate neutrality by
2040

can be achieved by using energy-saving potential, ramping up domestic renewable energy use, electrifying industrial processes, heating and transport, and through circular economy measures.

A **55%** EU emissions reduction target for 2030 is still well below the 65% science tells us we need to ensure global equity and European historical responsibility.

2030 must be the year to abandon coal, **2035** the year to virtually eliminate fossil gas, and **2040** to reach a fossil-fuel-free energy grid based on renewables.

“ Politics is the art of the possible and the Fit for 55 package demonstrates low confidence as to what is possible, despite the growing cries of citizens for more ambition and despite new records being broken on climate impacts. We have missed another historic opportunity this year to phase out fossil fuels, and time is less and less on our side.

Barbara Mariani, Policy Manager for Climate



HEALTH & INDUSTRY



The COVID-19 pandemic accompanied the ever-growing urgency of the climate crisis, with both challenges underlining the need to prevent pollution at the source and stop industry players contaminate Europe's air, water and soil, to protect the health of both people and nature.

We continued drawing attention to the hidden subsidies the coal industry receives from low or non-existent water fees and advocated for a coal phase-out. With Europe Beyond Coal we supported the campaign for a 2030 Czech phase-out of coal and to stop the ongoing illegal activities of the Turów lignite mine, with the Czech Republic successfully suing Poland on this matter.

The inhouse [RESET](#) (Reference Environmental Standards for Energy Techniques) project was concluded, a multi-stakeholder initiative to identify impacts and propose the best techniques to generate energy with lower environmental impact, helping us move towards a cleaner energy mix. This tool aims at supporting civil society and policy-makers in their delivery of national and local solutions to better understand the impacts of energy generation and move towards a cleaner energy mix.

€40.2 billion of air pollution damage costs for a mere four years of operation could have been avoided, had it not been for delays and a laxist approach, dealing leniently with lignite power plants instead of applying Best Available Techniques. The EEB sent a high-level letter regarding the action of the Commission on the Large Combustion Plant (LCP) Best Available Techniques Reference document (BREF) re-vote and consequently secured the tightening of national implementation in Germany with regards to the mercury limits for lignite, while

also drawing attention to the Modernisation Fund and state aid cases in Romania.

On the [LCP BREF](#), we published [factsheets](#) and [articles](#) revealing negligent implementation and proposing recommendations for its improvement. Meanwhile, we also raised the ambition in the finalisation of the BREFs for the [textiles industry](#) and on waste gas for the [chemical industry](#).

We led the way by securing Best Available Techniques (BAT) on the use of electricity from non-fossil sources for ferrous metals processing industry - the first of its kind. Further successes were in relation to pollution prevention within the EU Taxonomy on various activities, including the substitution of chemicals of concern and the cut of pollution by 50% - stricter than new BAT standards for chemicals production, and improved ambition in regards to Textiles and Furniture as well as Waste Management.

Further, we called out the lax approach of Member States that allowed lignite power plants to operate to standards below the Best Available Techniques (BATs) and to wait until the last minute to comply with pollution limits.

+90%

of biodiversity loss and water stress come from resource extraction and processing.

60-70%

of soils in the EU are unhealthy and almost two thirds of point-source soil pollution in Europe can be traced back to industrial and commercial activities, as well as waste disposal and treatment.

Only **12%** of the materials used by EU industry come from recycling.

“Polluting industries want to promote the falsehood that regulatory standards are fit for purpose, a myth that is costing us the environment, the climate and our health. It's high time that the Commission prioritises pollution prevention at source over industry profits.

Christian Schaible, Policy Manager for Industrial Production



GLOBAL POLICIES & SUSTAINABILITY



Throughout 2021, the EEB worked hard to ensure that the objectives behind the European Green Deal also shape Europe's engagement in the world. We facilitated international consultations with hundreds of CSOs to ensure powerful, detailed input to the 5th UN Environment Assembly.

In March, the EEB took part in the [UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](#); we led a preparatory meeting on the environmental side of the Sustainable Development Goals, coordinating CSOs position in the region, we spoke at an official roundtable on [Partnerships for a sustainable recovery](#), and attended the official high-level segment.

With SDG Watch Europe, the EEB provided support and capacity-building for CSOs around the 2030 Agenda through workshops for national-level SDG coalitions and networks on the Voluntary National Review process (VNR) and the SDGs in the European Semester.

In 2021, the EEB acted as one of the leading eNGOs in coordinating and supporting civil society input to the [5th UN Environment Assembly](#). Throughout the year, we hosted widely attended international consultations for civil society to prepare for the assembly. We facilitated the drafting process for a Joint Statement of Global Major Groups and Stakeholders for UNEA 5.1 and later co-organised the Regional Consultation Meeting for Major Groups and Stakeholders in preparation for UNEA 5.2. The consultation ensured, for the first time in the history of UNEA, that civil society was able to provide joint positions on all the substantive UNEA resolutions.

In 2021, the EEB continued to serve as the CSO interface at most important meetings

organised by the OECD's Environment Policy Committee (EPOC) and Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee (CBC). In November 2021, we co-organised with EPOC for the first time a capacity building webinar for Environmental Civil Society organisations.

We used the Green Agenda for the Balkans as a hook to drive discussion on better environmental protection and climate action in the Western Balkans and Turkey, as well as the Eastern Partnership countries. The EEB contributed to conferences on the European Green Deal in Eastern Europe, spoke at the Balkan Youth Council, contributed to the new EuroMed Strategy and actively participated in the 1st Forum of Non-governmental Organizations on the implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. In 2021, the EEB prepared a new pan-regional project to work with eNGOs across the Western Balkans and Turkey on their accession to the EU.

We continued our work on global climate justice through our Climate of Change project with three major events: a [Tedx talk](#) which gathered over 30,000 online views; the Pan-European Debate Contest, with three days of debates around the links between climate change, migration and the current economic system; and, a circus show that ran for four days with the aim of engaging the public, young people in particular, in such topics.

The 5th

UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 5) was held in two parts virtually and in person.

40+

OECD events and meetings attended by the EEB

500+

participants registered for our 3-day international consultation for civil society to prepare for UNEA 5.2

“ The global agenda in 2021 was still dominated, and slowed down, by the pandemic. COVID-19 widened the gap between rich and poor. Yet, bold policy choices and investments in long-term sustainability can accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

Patrizia Heidegger, Director of Global Policies & Sustainability



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & JUSTICE



2021 brought important progress for human rights and the health of the environment in the Commission's development of the Sustainable Corporate Governance initiative and plans to review the Environmental Crime Directive.

The Aarhus community drew together to stand up for environmental rights in the face of EU hypocrisy and Belarus's outright attack on environmental defenders. After years of work to amend the EU's Aarhus Regulation, in October 2021 the EEB and wider NGO community celebrated the entering into force of a new regulation which took on board some of our main asks and addressed the biggest barrier for the public to challenge decisions taken by EU institutions that contravene environmental law.

The EEB continued to coordinate the ECO Forum - the coalition of NGOs that participate in the UN processes of the Aarhus Convention - and the Forum's input to the 7th Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (MoP7) in October.

At MoP7 we took the floor and engaged with representatives of state parties to advocate against the non-endorsement of the compliance decisions on the European Union and on Belarus, as well as for the adoption of the decision on the Rapid Response Mechanism for environmental defenders. Thanks to the strong NGO involvement and coordination, the outcomes of the Meeting reflected the NGOs position.

In 2021, we also secured funding for 2022 to work on Access to Justice in new EU legislation, with particular focus on the need to guarantee this right in the Fit for 55 package and related legislation.

In the context of our work on accountability and liability, we continued to advocate for a strong revision of the Environmental

Crime Directive, participating in a panel discussion in March, contributing to the Commission's targeted stakeholder consultation and workshop in April, and engaging as the EESC expert on the opinion on the proposal.

With EEB members, we mapped issues on environmental liability in preparation for the possible review of the Environmental Liability Directive, and to assess the interlinkages with other relevant legislations and initiatives (e.g. Environmental Crime Directive, liability under due diligence and others).

We joined a coalition of human rights and environmental NGOs to work on due diligence in preparation for the proposal on Sustainable Corporate Governance expected in 2022.

In October, we contributed to the SLAPPs (strategic lawsuits against public participation) stakeholder consultation as well as to the joint submission from the CASE (Coalition Against SLAPPs in Europe).

Finally, we continued fighting for environmental justice for Roma communities. On International Roma Day in April, we published 'Pushed to the Wastelands', a report on Environmental racism against Roma communities in Central and Eastern Europe. For the Parliament's Romani Week in September, we organised an online Environmental Justice Conference to raise awareness around the issue. Later in the year, we participated in the 8th International Roma Women Conference as a rapporteur.

Around

300 NGOs

were liquidated by the Belarus government by July 2021.

After more than

10 years

of advocacy by the NGO community, the EU's Aarhus Regulation was finally amended in October 2021, allowing wider opportunities to challenge EU decisions.

The **7th** Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention took place in Geneva.

“When people and communities are denied their rights to participate in decisions that affect their health, their future and their environment, democracies are at risk. As Europe recovers from one crisis and tries to manage another, it must ensure that the burden is not disproportionately borne by some communities and that their rights are upheld.

Francesca Carlsson, Senior Legal Officer & Lead on Trade & Due Diligence



EVENTS

In 2021 COVID-19 restrictions meant that meetings were still predominantly held virtually. Conferences, workshops, webinars, launches and Working Group meetings added up to 81 online opportunities to learn about and exchange on a number of topics. The grand total of online participation was 6,041. The 2021 [EEB annual conference](#) “Charting the Path to a Healthy Planet” took place online on 11 October and brought together civil society leaders from across Europe to discuss strategies for a transformation of European and national policies and governance systems affecting our planet and our health and wellbeing.

JANUARY

Workshop: Measuring the success of the CAP in achieving sustainability
Towards phasing out mercury-added products

Agriculture and biodiversity in the context of a European recovery

Webinar: #Right2Repair – The French reparability index: challenges and opportunities

FEBRUARY

Green budget Working Group meeting

Webinar: Making Europe work for young people

LOCOMOTION: The power to model sustainable futures in your hands

EEB Economic Transition Working Group meeting

Growth without economic growth

EEB Board Meeting

MARCH

Agri Working Group on CAP
Waste/Ecoproducts Working Group with a special focus on batteries
Sharepair Webinar

Plan UP Project event

RESET project kick off meeting

ECT Webinar

Revision of the Aarhus regulation

APRIL

EEB Circular Economy Working Group
CAP workshop North-West European countries

CAP workshop Mediterranean countries

How did COVID-19 impact public consultations?

CAP workshop Central and Eastern European countries

Post-growth and the built environment

CAP workshop Scandinavian and Baltic countries

EEB Climate and Energy Working Group

MAY

EEB Advocacy Training for Members & Staff

EEB Chemicals Working Group

EEB Agri Working Group

EEB Board Meeting

Annual General Meeting

Agri meeting on trade opportunities

Green Budget Working Group – National Recovery and Resilience Plans

The water footprint of renewable and fossil hydrogen

Europe's PFAS problem – Session 6

Session: Extended producer responsibility

Session: Gender and environment

Workshop: Conference of the Future of Europe

JUNE

Lunch Webinar on NRRPs

Europe's PFAS problem – Session 7

Webinar Net zero emissions ≠ zero pollution

Workshop: Population matters

EEB Air Working Group

EEB Agriculture Working Group

Carbon Pricing and Green Taxation in Europe

High Level Conference National Energy and Climate Plans

EEB Law Working Group

What “Fit for 55” means for National Energy and Climate Plans

EEB Biodiversity Working Group

JULY

Press Conference Beyond Net-zero emission in agriculture

Webinar Enhancing the gender-environment nexus

Gender Report launch event

AUGUST

SITRA Virtual Meeting - People in the heart of sustainable change

SEPTEMBER

A sustainable food transition for a climate-neutral Europe

UNEP Consultations

EEB Climate and Energy Working Group

Regenerative agriculture in the EU and UK

MEP debate on the EU Economic Governance Framework

What if there is no fault in default?

Restore nature

EEB Clean Air Working Group

Webinar: Sufficiency and buildings

OCTOBER

Report Launch Green mining is a myth

EEB Annual Conference

EEB Board Meeting

Entering the digital age for industrial activities

Carbon Farming: hot air or system change?

Refrigerants: the missing leg of the Fit for 55 Package

RESET meeting

NOVEMBER

NGOs' input for a sustainable energy-intensive industries (EII) ecosystem

Decarbonising Europe's building stock

Climate of change

Economic Transition Working Group

The OECD and environmental policy

Launch: European Regenerative Agriculture Community

NGO screening reveals new CAP national plans out of sync with Green Deal objectives

DECEMBER

Webinar: Get ready for the economic governance review

Chemicals Working Group meeting

1st Capacity-building webinar on the Transparency of chemicals in products

Scan4Chem app: Know about toxics in products



GOVERNANCE



In 2021, the EEB Board met online on 23-24 February, 10 May and 12 October. Between Board meetings, direction and guidance was provided by our Executive Committee, composed of the President and Vice-Presidents.

In 2021, the EEB Board was composed as follows:

PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS AND TREASURER

Sweden - Ms. Johanna SANDAHL (President), individual member

Belgium - 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 U 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. Olli TURUNEN, Finnish Association for Nature Conservation

France - Mr. Jerome PARTOS, FNE - France Nature Environnement

Georgia - Ms. Kety GUJARAI DZE, Green Alternative

Greece - Ms. Margarita CHONDROU KARAVASIL, ECOCITY

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 - Ms. Maria WEBER, Polish Ecological Club

Portugal - Mr. Francisco FERREIRA, ZERO

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

Romania - Ms Irina DAIA, CEDD

Serbia - Ms. Aleksandra MLADENović, Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development

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Turkey - Ms. Deniz ATAC, TEMA Foundation

Ukraine - Mr. Andriy ANDRUSEVYCH, RACSE

United Kingdom - Mr. Lloyd AUSTIN, Scottish Environment LINK

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. Anaïs BERTHIER

AirClim - Mr. Marko REINIKAINEN

CHEMTrust - Mr. Stefan SCHEUER

A THRIVING NETWORK

At the end of 2021, we counted a total of 171 members in 36 countries. At our online Annual General Meeting in May 2021, we welcomed **six new members**.

EUROPEAN NETWORK

Naturefriends International
European Union Against Aircraft Nuisances
Seas At Risk
Pesticide Action Network Europe
International Federation of Landscape Architects
European Union of Mountaineering Associations
European Federation of City Farms
Carbon Market Watch
Bellona Europa
Youth and Environment Europe
Justice and Environment
European Compost Network
European Land and Soil Alliance
CEEweb for Biodiversity
Coastwatch Europe
Fédération Spéléologie Européenne
Women Engage for a Common Future
Changing Markets Foundation
Eco-Union
ChemSec International Chemical Secretariat
Air Pollution and Climate Secretariat
FERN
Client Earth
Compassion In World Farming
CHEM Trust
Carbon Market Watch

Full members

Associate members

Affiliate members

New members

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

SPAIN

AV Chueca
Ecology and Development Foundation
Ecologistas en Accion
Ecoserveis
Ecologistes de Catalunya
Fundación Nueva Cultura del Agua
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
Nederlandse Stichting Geluidhinder
Stichting Natuur en Milieu
Friends of the Earth Netherlands
Landschappen

BELGIUM

Bond Beter Leefmilieu
CATAPA
Inter Environnement Bruxelles
Inter Environnement Wallonie
stRaten-Generaal

GERMANY

Bundesverband Bürgerinitiative Umweltschutz
Bund Heimat und Umwelt in Deutschland
Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland
Bundesverband Boden
Deutsche Umwelthilfe
Deutscher Naturschutzring
Forest Stewardship Council - FSC IC
Grüne Liga
HEJSupport
Licht und Natur
Living Rivers Foundation
NABU
Runder Tisch Reparatur
Öko-Institut
Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald
Testbiotech
UVP Gesellschaft
Verband Der Deutschen Höhlen- Und Karstforscher
Umweltinstitut München

SWITZERLAND

Noé21

SWEDEN

MKG

Naturskyddsföreningen

DENMARK

Danmarks Naturfredningsforening

Rådet for Grøn Omstilling

CZECH REPUBLIC

Arnika Association

Frank Bold Society

Society for Sustainable Living

Zeleny Kruh - Green Circle

AUSTRIA

ÖAL

ÖKO-BÜRO

Umweltdachverband

LUXEMBOURG

Mouvement Ecologique

Natur & Umwelt

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Green Istria

SUNCE

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SLOVENIA

Dark Sky Slovenia

Umanotera

ITALY

CieloBuio

Cittadini per l'Aria

Eliante

Federazione Nazionale Pro Natura

Free Rivers Italia

Genitori Antismog

Legambiente

Società Speleologica Italiana

MALTA

Nature Trust Malta

FINLAND

Natur och Miljö

Suomen Luonnonsuojeluliitto

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Estonian Society for Nature Conservation

Club of Rome Estonia

Let's do it foundation

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Green Liberty

Latvian Fund for Nature

LITHUANIA

Environmental Coalition

Circular Economy

Lithuanian Fund for Nature

SLOVAKIA

Centre for Sustainable Alternatives

HUNGARY

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EMLA

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MTVSZ

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Eco-Tiras

SERBIA

Environment Engineering Group

Safer Chemicals Alternative

Sredina - Association of Citizens

Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development

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Go Green

Eko-Svest

GREECE

ECOCITY

Elliniki Etairia

Enaleia

Organization Earth

POLAND

Centrum Prawa Ekologicznego

Eko-Unia

Institute for Sustainable Development

Nowa Idea

Polish Zero Waste Association

Polish Ecological Club

Pro Terra

UKRAINE

MAMA-86

EPL - Environment People Law

Resource & Analysis Center 'Society and Environment'

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2Celsius

Romanian Environment Association

CEDD

Ecoteca

Focus Eco Center

Fundatia ADEPT Transilvania

GEC Bucovina

Green Planet

National Centre for Sustainable Production and Consumption

BULGARIA

Europe and We

Za Zemjata

GEORGIA

CENN

Green Alternative

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Cyprus Center for Environmental Research and Education

Federation of Environmental Organisations

Friends of the Earth Cyprus

Terra Cypria

STAFF

Jeremy Wates

Secretary General

EU Policy Team

Patrick ten Brink

Deputy Secretary General and Director of EU Policy

Aliki Kriekouki *Senior Technical Officer for Industrial Production*

Jean-Pierre Schweitzer

Senior Policy Officer for Circular Economy and Product Policy

Andreea-Elena Popa *Policy Associate for Industrial Production*

Jonathan Bonadio

Coordinator: Energy Generation BREF, Industry and Climate

Barbara Mariani *Policy Manager for Climate*

Laura Hildt

Policy Officer for Biodiversity and EU Affairs

Bérénice Dupeux *Senior Policy Officer for Agriculture*

Margherita Tolotto

Senior Policy Officer for Air and Noise

Blaine Camillieri *Policy Officer for Fiscal Reform and Circular Economy*

Mary Hallaert

Circular Economy Intern

Blanca Morales *Coordinator for EU Ecolabel*

Morgan Reille

Policy Officer for Agriculture

Caroline Heinzl *Climate and Energy Intern*

Piotr Barczak

Senior Policy Officer for Waste

Célia Nyssens *Policy Officer for Agriculture*

Riccardo Nigro

Campaign Coordinator, Coal Combustion and Mines

Charline Cheuvart *Policy Officer for Mercury*

Rina Guadagnini

Policy Officer for Mercury

Christian Schaible *Policy Manager for Industrial Production*

Sara Johansson

Policy and Researcher for Industrial Production

Coralie Boulard *Intern Climate Policy*

Sergiy Moroz

Policy Manager for Water and Biodiversity

Davide Sabbadin *Senior Policy Officer for Climate and Circular Economy*

Sophia Caiati

Policy Assistant for Agriculture

Dolores Romano *Deputy Policy Manager for Chemicals*

Stéphane Arditi

Director of Policy Integration and Circular Economy

Elena Lymberidi *Project Manager for 'Zero Mercury' Campaign*

Tatiana Santos

Policy Manager for Chemicals & Nanotechnology

Elena Marro *Carbon Pricing Intern*

Tricia Pacifico

Circular Economy and Trade policy Assistant

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Jai Krishna *Senior Policy and Researcher: Industrial Production*

Jean-Luc Wietor *Deputy Policy Manager Chemicals/Sustainable Production and Best Available Techniques*

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Patrizia Heidegger

Director of Global Policies and Sustainability

Daniela Marques Branco	<i>Intern Environmental Justice</i>
Diego Marin	<i>Associate Policy Officer for Environmental Justice</i>
Elena Puig Basilio	<i>Assistant for Economic Transition</i>
Emma Rouspy	<i>Global Policies and Sustainability Intern</i>
Eva Izquierdo	<i>Project Officer for Global Policies and Sustainability</i>
Fintan McKenna	<i>Intern for EU Neighbourhood Policies</i>
Francesca Carlsson	<i>Senior Legal Officer & Lead on Trade and Due Diligence</i>
Frederik Hafen	<i>Environmental Democracy Policy Officer</i>
Katharina Wiese	<i>Policy Officer for Economic Transition</i>
Marguerite Culot	<i>Assistant for Economic Transition</i>
Nadège Lharaig	<i>Senior Policy Officer Sustainable Development & Gender Expert</i>
Nick Meynen	<i>Senior Policy Officer Economic Transition</i>
Sonia Goicoechea	<i>Civil Society Engagement Officer</i>
Victoria Chartier	<i>Environment & Gender Justice Support</i>

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Alessia Biasioli	<i>Events Coordinator</i>
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Anita Klecha	<i>Finance Manager</i>
Elena Bonfiglio	<i>Finance Assistant</i>
Eline Kesti	<i>Associate Finance Officer</i>
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Quentin Monsieur	<i>IT and Office Coordinator</i>
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Sandra Cambule	<i>Associate HR Officer</i>
Zsafia Mohacsi	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>

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Director of Communications

Jack Hunter	<i>Senior Comms Officer</i>
Khaled Diab	<i>Senior Comms Officer</i>
Alberto Vela	<i>Communications Officer</i>
Andreea Anca	<i>Communications Officer</i>
Aymori Duncan	<i>Communications Officer</i>
Roberta Arbinolo	<i>Communications Officer</i>
Gemma Bowcock	<i>Communications Officer</i>
Marie-Amélie Brun	<i>Communications Officer</i>
Lucia Fabbri	<i>Visual Communications Intern</i>
Mauro Anastasio	<i>Communications Officer</i>
Samuel Gregory-Manning	<i>Communications Officer</i>
Asger Mindegaard	<i>Associate Communications Officer</i>
Sarah Abou-Chleih	<i>Associate Communications Officer</i>

Emma Ernsth

Director of Membership and Development

Andrea Gonzalez Rodriguez	<i>Membership Officer</i>
Tessa Jansoone	<i>Development Officer</i>

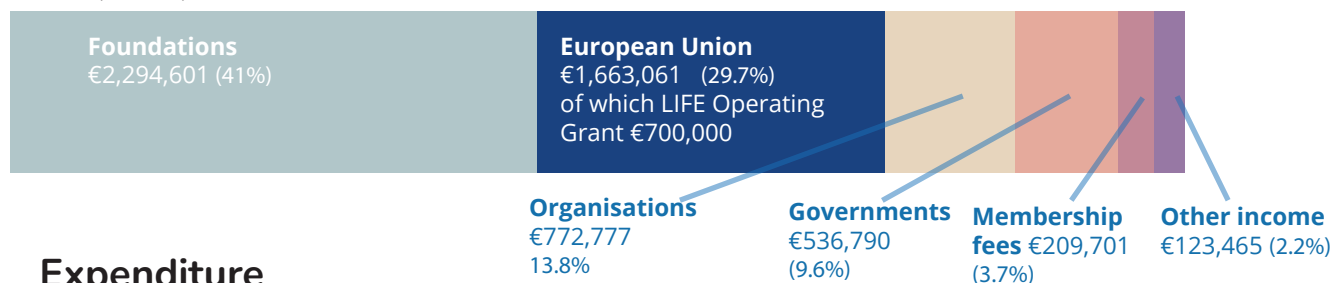
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The EEB's turnover reached €5,600,394 in 2021. The EEB was able to increase grants from philanthropic foundations, governments and international organisations as well as its income from EEB membership fees.

The 22% difference compared with the 2020 turnover is linked to the fact that the EEB/SDG Watch Europe [‘Make Europe Sustainable For All’](#) DEAR project, which included significant funds for project partners, came to an end in 2020.

Income

€ 5,600,394

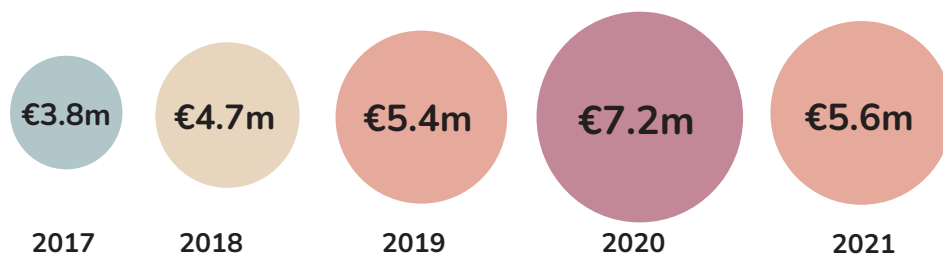


Expenditure

€ 5,596,448



Total reserves end of 2021: €548.771 (of which €3.946 added in 2021)



Total annual income 2017-2021

2021 Donors

THANK YOU!

The EEB gratefully acknowledge financial assistance from its funders in 2021:

European Union through the European Commission

- DG INTPA Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) Programme through a project led by WeWorld Italy
- DG Environment Service contracts
- DG Environment CINEA LIFE Programme including via projects led by Deutsche Umwelthilfe eV (DUH), Umweltbundesamt (UBA)
- DG RTD Horizon 2020 Programme including via projects led by Umweltbundesamt (UBA), Stichting Wageningen Research (WUR), Universidad de Valladolid (Uva), Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems (ISINNOVA), GILab

Governments

- Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
- Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection channeled via Umweltdachverband (UWD)
- Belgian Federal Ministry of Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal
- Danish Ministry of the Environment
- Finnish Ministry of the Environment
- French Ministry of Ecology and Solidarity Transition
- German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) via direct funding as well as channeled via the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) and EURENI, including a project led by HEJSupport, channeled via EURENI
- Irish Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Luxembourg Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development
- Royal Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment

- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) channeled via the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) channeled via the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI)

Intergovernmental Organisations and Agencies

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), via direct funding, as well as channeled via the European Development Fund (EDF)

Foundations and other Organisations

- Bloomberg Philanthropies channeled via European Climate Foundation (ECF)
- Broad Reach Fund channeled via the Tides Foundation
- CLASP
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- European Climate Foundation (ECF)
- Open Society Foundations (OSF)
- Laudes Foundation
- MAVA Foundation
- New Economics Foundation (NEF)
- Oak Foundation
- Swiss Philanthropy Foundation
- Air Pollution and Climate Secretariat
- Clean Air Fund
- Plastic Solutions Fund
- Tides Foundation
- Wellspring Philanthropic Fund channeled via the Environmental Investigation Agency UK (EIA UK)

With special thanks to our top five donors in 2021:



European Commission
Directorate-General
for Environment



European Commission Directorate-General
for International
Cooperation and Development



European Climate
Foundation



MAVA Foundation



Laudes Foundation





EEB
European
Environmental
Bureau

