



WORK PROGRAMME 2024





**We are Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations.
We bring together over 180 civil society organisations from 40 countries.
Together, we work for a better future where people and nature thrive together.**

The EEB is an International non-profit association /
Association internationale sans but lucratif (AISBL).
EC register for interest representatives:
Identification number 06798511314-27
BCE identification number: 0415.814.848
RPM Tribunal de l'entreprise francophone de Bruxelles

Published: February 2024
Responsible editor: Patrick ten Brink

European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
Rue des Deux Eglises 14-16
1000 Brussels, Belgium
+32 (0)2 289 1090
eeb@eeb.org
eeb.org
meta.eeb.org



With the support of the LIFE Programme of the European Union
Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those
of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or
CINEA. Neither the European Union nor CINEA can be held responsible for them.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	02
ABOUT THE EEB.....	03
INTRODUCTION TO THE 2024 WORK PROGRAMME.....	04
DONOR OVERVIEW.....	07
POLICY PRIORITIES.....	09
EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE.....	10
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND JUSTICE.....	14
GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PROCESSES.....	17
ECONOMIC TRANSITION.....	20
NATURE – BIODIVERSITY, WATER, SOIL.....	23
NATURE – AGRICULTURE AND FOOD.....	27
CIRCULAR ECONOMY.....	29
CLIMATE AND ENERGY.....	33
HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – MERCURY.....	37
HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – CHEMICALS.....	41
HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – ZERO POLLUTION INDUSTRY.....	43
HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – AIR QUALITY AND NOISE	46
COMMUNICATIONS.....	49
MEMBERSHIP, PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS.....	52
STAFF, ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE.....	55
BUDGET 2024.....	59



ABOUT THE EEB

The EEB is the largest network of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe. It currently consists of over 180 member organisations in 40 countries, including a growing number of European networks, and representing some 30 million individual members and supporters.

Vision

“A better future where people and nature thrive together.”

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

Mission

The EEB is the largest and most inclusive European network of environmental citizens' groups – and the only one that works on such a broad range of issues. It advocates for progressive policies to create a better environment in the European Union and beyond.

Values

The EEB stands for sustainable development, environmental justice, global equity, transparency and participatory democracy and promotes the principles of prevention, precaution and 'polluter pays'.

The EEB's values:

- **Democracy:** The EEB is a representative and inclusive organisation.
- **Fairness:** The EEB is committed to justice, equality and non-discrimination.
- **Respect:** The EEB provides an enabling, nurturing work culture that inspires excellence.
- **Integrity:** The EEB advocates policies based on science and communicates with honesty.
- **Sustainability:** The EEB strives to practice what it preaches, applying green principles to its work.

INTRODUCTION TO THE 2024 WORK PROGRAMME

The European Environmental Bureau brings together a highly motivated, engaged and committed set of 180 environmental citizens' groups from across Europe and beyond, sharing decades of insights into the challenges, needs for improved environmental policy, and solutions from across all EU Member States. We articulate the views and concerns of a wide and diverse group of people who care deeply about the natural world and the environment we all share and on the wellbeing of people and communities.

The EEB's key strengths are our broad and diverse membership base, in-depth expertise on a wide array of environmental and sustainability issues, committed and qualified staff and extensive collaborative partnerships. These strengths have made us an effective force in influencing EU environmental policies and politics, as well as contributing to key global processes.

2024: changing EU institutions and changing geopolitical context

2024 will be a unique year from multiple perspectives – both through EU developments and repercussions from geopolitical events. The current Commission European Green Deal package will be “completed” with many, unfortunately, far from all promises were delivered by the time the current Parliament and Commission college complete their mandates. The 2024 initiatives will include those in the Commission 2024 Work Programme, other commitments including spillovers from the 2023 WP, complementing the ongoing trilogues of measures already launched, with a particularly important role for the Belgian Presidency.

A New Strategic Agenda will be set up by Heads of State, and Political Guidelines committed to by the new Commission President following the EU elections in June. These together will articulate a new strategic direction for the EU. The Strategic Agenda will be influenced by the Granada Declaration of Heads of State and finalised during the Belgian presidency term.

The European Parliament elections in June and the new European Parliament will influence the choice of the new Commission President and College. The elections will be a pivotal moment with 400 million citizens having the potential to vote, including 16–17-year-olds in five countries, enabling more youth to vote for their future. There is a real risk of low voter turnout and the increasing support for anti-democratic, anti-European, and anti-environmental political forces. At the same time, there is an opportunity to mobilise progressive, pro-European voters and those who are concerned about the environment and long-term sustainability.

Furthermore, the ongoing Russian war in the Ukraine led not only to a complete reappraisal of EU's sense of geopolitical mission and identity, but to a change of political appetite for EU enlargement, with Ukraine and Moldova being granted candidate status, and the processes with other countries again higher up on the political agenda. It has also relaunched debates on governance changes needed to enable the EU institutions to function with wider membership. This and the European Political Community (EPC) initiative will have major potential influence on EU's strategic direction and decision-making power over the coming decade.

Regarding the situation in Israel and Gaza, questions about the use of EU's political leverage to address the situation have been heatedly debated. There is a risk that the EU's, its Member States' and other European powers' actions or lack thereof, may undermine their credibility as actors for democracy, human rights, and freedom globally. There will inevitably be critical attention on whether the EU will follow its founding values as laid out in the the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and demonstrate respect for international law. The respect of those being prerequisites for long-lasting peace, justice, and sustainable development in the Middle East and in other conflicts around the world, will determine how the EU and its policies will be perceived internationally.

The geopolitical context, with concerns about over-dependence on China, itself a staunch ally of Russia, has led to calls for more strategic autonomy, strengthened further by the US Inflation Reduction Act with its measures favouring their domestic manufacturers. This is having repercussions on EU policy priorities and policy design.

The EU and global agendas will also be influenced by the state of reality. The floods, fires, droughts, storms, and temperatures in 2023 have broken records and sown misery and underlined the fundamental need for fossil-fuel independence. Pollution and toxic impacts are being shown to lead to an ever longer list of health and environmental impacts. And species loss and ecosystem change are, step by step, changing the reality within which society lives, the ecosystems upon which we depend, and raises fundamental question of humankind's ethics and responsibilities. Just as EU's response to Covid, to the Russian war in Ukraine and other conflicts is defining what the EU is. The EU's response to the climate, biodiversity and pollution-toxics crises and which responsibilities are embraced is defining the EU and how the EU is perceived internationally.

EEB's work programme

In 2024, the EEB will continue to push for greater ambition in the concrete policies being rolled out under the European Green Deal (EGD), now in its fourth year, and advocate for other policies needed to achieve its objectives. Despite the many political and lobbying pressures looking to drop, delay or dilute files being tabled and negotiated, the EEB firmly believes that the EGD should and can still be the transformative agenda to a just transition we need. If done well, the EGD will be a peace project supporting independence from Russian fossil fuels and strengthen EU's ecological, societal, economic resilience.

While much progress is being made within the EGD; it will be far from enough. There will be important gaps in legislative coverage, emerging issues requiring new legislation, ever-stronger evidence underlining the need to strengthen existing files, as well as implementation challenges and investment needs. The role of the EU in its European neighbourhood and in the global dimension needs strengthening. Preparations and support for the EU enlargement and partnership processes need to be made, as does progress on EU institutional roles and governance for an enlarged EU. EU's responsibility for global impacts should be manifest in its laws and programmes, diplomatic partnerships need to be built to advance together towards a sustainable future, and efforts made to grow the level of buy-in for change across nations. Disinformation should not be headed, science should.

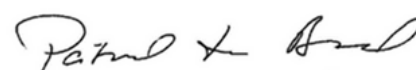
We will therefore continue work on developing a vision for an EGD2 that moves commitments from incremental to system change, that implements promises, and that works as a just transition vision that gets buy-in from across stakeholders and society, creating a core part of the new social contract that is needed between people and governments for a sustainable future. Through co-creation of this vision with partners and through consultation, we hope for a strong buy-in for our recommendations, such that they are picked up by the new Commission President's in their political guidelines and hence help set the agenda of the next Commission and the next five year legislative cycle.

The EEB sees the EGD and the eventual new European Pact for Our Future (EGD2), as essential to address climate and environmental challenges, as well as being fundamentally helpful for the EU's energy and materials independence from Russia and other regimes who do not share EU's values. The EGD and future new deals must result in increased resilience to price rises, in face of resource constraints. They must reflect the strong interconnections between ecological, social, and economic systems. And they need to promote a just transition to tackle the widespread and deepening inequalities in our societies. Environmental and social progress go hand in hand. The transition needs to be an opportunity for all Europeans.

To this end, the EEB will engage with the Commission, the Parliament, and the Council, in the latter case working closely with the Belgian and Hungarian and, in anticipation of 2025, the Polish and Danish EU Presidencies, to channel input from the EEB's membership into EU decision-making processes. EEB will also engage in the European Parliament elections with our members and partners as the outcomes of this will decide whether the new European leadership embraces a future-orientated transformative agenda that creates conditions for a sustainable future or whether fear, short-term self-interests, and ideology put power and wealth of the incumbent few above wellbeing and sustainability, above the prospects of sustainable industry in 2050, above hope for creating a fair basis for future generations.

Among the specific policy files that will be in focus in 2024 are the co-decision processes for, inter alia, the Nature Restoration Law, Industrial Emissions Directive, CLP reform, Priority Substances Directive, Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, Ambient Air Quality Directives, circular economy instruments, including the Sustainable Product Policy Initiative and Waste Framework Directive, the Economic Governance Review, the Critical Raw Materials Act, Right to Repair, Green Claims, Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence Directive and possibly still the Environmental Crime Directive; to mention but a few. There will also be new measures, including the initiative on water resilience, the 2040 climate target and the European wind power package. The Sustainable Food Law and REACH revision are currently politically blocked, but these remain necessary, and EEB will push for these and other shelved proposals to be tabled as early as possible, and prepare the ground for this, including through integration of associated concerns in other policies

The EEB's growth has accelerated significantly over the past four years. Managing the implications of that growth in a sustainable way is therefore a new, albeit positive challenge. Consolidating the progress and prioritising work in light of the specific opportunities in the policy cycle across themes is an additional challenge. The implementation and further roll-out of a major overhaul of the EEB's financial and project management systems will continue to be a key focus in 2024. The EEB will also be further upgrading its communications tools and methods. The EEB will continue its internal restructuring and strengthening, promoting staff empowerment, learning and development, as well as ever-stronger links between policy, communications and membership to further strengthen impacts on environmental policy. This Work Programme sets out, area by area, what we aim to achieve in the coming year to ensure that we – Europe and the EEB – move towards a better future, where people and nature thrive together.



Patrick ten Brink
Secretary General, EEB

DONOR OVERVIEW: I

The EEB could not do what it does without the generosity of its donors and partners. Through their support, the EEB has been able to continue to be a strong voice for environmental protection in the EU and beyond. The EEB gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the following donors for 2023:

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)* and *Umweltbundesamt (UBA)*
- DG RTD Horizon Programme including via projects led by *Stichting Wageningen Research (WUR)*, *Universidad de Valladolid (Uva)*, *Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems (ISINNOVA)*, *GILab*, *Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)*, *Southeast Technological University (SETU)*, *Fundacion Circe de Centro de Investigation de Recursos y Consumos Energeticos (CIRCE)*, *Forschungszentrum Julich GMBH (JÜLICH)*, *European Network of Living Labs IVZW (ENOLL)*

Governments

- The Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
- The Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection through a project led by *Umweltdachverband (UWD)*
- The Belgian Federal Public Service for Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment
- Danish Ministry of the Environment
- The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH through a project led by *CEEweb for Biodiversity* and another project lead by *Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs)*
- The Finnish Ministry of the Environment
- The German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action through a project led by *Renewables Grid Initiative*
- The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) via direct funding as well as channeled via the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) and EURENI, including through projects led by *HEISupport*, *CHEM Trust* and *Environmental Action Germany (DUH)* channeled via EURENI
- The Luxembourg Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development
- The Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment
- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) channeled via The Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI), and The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)
- The French Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion

DONOR OVERVIEW: II

Intergovernmental Organisations and Agencies

- [OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#)
- [UNEP – The United Nations Environment Programme](#) via direct funding as well as channeled via the European Development Fund (EDF) and [the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury \(MC\)](#).
- [European Economic Area \(EEA\)](#). Grants financed by Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein via a project led by [Társadalomtudományi Kutatóközpont \(TK\)](#).

Foundations and other Organisations

- [Adessium Foundation](#)
- [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#) channeled via [European Climate Foundation](#)
- [CLASP](#)
- [Clean Air Fund](#)
- [ClientEarth](#)
- [European Climate Foundation \(ECF\)](#).
- Europe Beyond Coal Campaign channeled via [Climate Action Network Europe Headquarters \(CAN Europe\)](#).
- [Minor Foundation](#) channeled via Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe)
- [Esmee Fairbairn Foundation \(EFF\)](#) channeled via [CHEM Trust](#)
- [Fondation Hans Wilsdorf](#)
- [Laudes Foundation](#)
- [Tiina and Antti Herlin Foundation](#)
- [Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union \(NABU\)](#).
- [New Economics Foundation \(NEF\)](#).
- [ClimateWorks Foundation](#)
- [Open Society Foundations \(OSF\)](#).
- [Plastic Solutions Fund](#)
- [Swiss Philanthropy Foundation](#)
- [Tides Foundation](#)
- [Wellspring Philanthropic Fund](#) channeled via the [Environmental Investigation Agency UK \(EIA UK\)](#).
- [Laudes Foundation](#) channeled via Circle Economy Foundation
- [Sigrid Rausing Trust Foundation](#)
- [Open Philanthropy Action Fund](#)
- [Stichting The Flotilla Charitable Foundation](#) channeled via [WWF European Policy Programme \(WWF EPO\)](#).

We would like to extend a special thanks to our top five donors in 2023:

European Climate Foundation
European Union
Laudes Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Fondation Hans Wilsdorf





POLICY PRIORITIES

The following are the criteria that the EEB applies when deciding on policy priorities:

- High impact on the environment
- Potential to make a difference on policy level
- Achievable with reasonable effort
- Strategic political opportunities and/or commitments
- Public and media concern
- Unique role, niche or gap
- Potential to get funded
- Expertise & support within the network & secretariat

When deciding whether to set up thematic working groups, we consider all of the above as well as the interest of members to engage in an [EEB working group](#).

Where appropriate, the EEB will promote its objectives on a given topic by collaborating with, supporting and/or being advised by one or more of its member organisations which is/are active or specialized on that topic, rather than by recruiting new staff capacity to deliver the work.



EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE



EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE: I

DESCRIPTION

The engagement in the elections for the European Parliament and appointment of a new Commission will dominate the political agenda in 2024. The elections are foreseen for 6 to 9 June 2024, with a new EP in place in the third quarter and a new Commission, potentially with new priorities, expected for the fourth quarter of 2024. While this will create a focused effort on getting climate and environment into the public campaigns and election manifestos, the EEB will advocate for a European Green Deal 2 (a new European Pact for Our Future, EGD2) before and after the European Parliament elections, presenting the new Commission and MEPs with a detailed plan. The EEB will encourage improved implementation (across thematic areas) and based on the adequacy of progress under the EGD, advocate for stronger measures under an eventual EGD 2.

Next to the European Parliament elections, the European Institutions and Governance Team will follow the timeline determined by the rotating EU presidencies and the timing of the Council formation meetings that occur regularly across presidencies, the European Parliament votes and trilogues as negotiations advance. EEB engagement with the Council will be a priority with a different leadership every six months (Belgium and Hungary in 2024). Hence the EEB's prime interlocutors and target groups change. The EEB develops 'Ten Green Tests' for each six-month presidency (and uses these to assess performance) and Presidency Trio Memoranda and associated 'EEB Dozen Demands' ahead of each Presidency Trio. The EEB will write and send two letters to all EU Environment Ministers per presidency ahead of the Environment Council meetings and letters to other ministers ahead of other Council formations on priority files and it will also organise Green 10 coalition-Minister meetings once per presidency.

The EEB remains committed to the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the SDGs in and by the EU. The EEB is hosting the SDG Watch Europe Coordinator and the coalition's secretariat. Through a large project on citizens' deliberation and participation around the European Green Deal (EGD), titled 'REAL DEAL – Reshaping citizens' deliberation for the European Green Deal', the EEB is engaging with SDG Watch Europe members and its own membership in monitoring and following EGD developments from a broader sustainability perspective. In 2024, the UN will convene the Summit of the Future which is meant to give a boost to the SDGs and 2030 Agenda and will hence provide an interesting opportunity to engage the new Commission in a discussion on the EU's implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

European Green Deal (EGD); Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); 8th Environment Action Programme (8EAP); Better Regulation and Better Law-making; the European Council's Strategic Agenda 2019-2024 and the reform of the EU's democratic structures.



EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE: II

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB has succeeded through policy advocacy in improving the understanding of the need for transformative change by the EU institutions – notably the European Commission (EC), the European Parliament (EP) and Council – and this is manifested in increased ambition and delivery of high-level policy frameworks and governance announced by the newly elected EC and EP in 2024 – ensuring an ever stronger follow up to the European Green Deal, implementation of the 8EAP and SDGs – despite the instrumentalising of the Russo-Ukrainian war by certain interest groups. The EEB will do this through engagement with the new Commission and its Political Priorities, the newly elected European Parliament and – in the second half of 2024, the first Commission proposals, European Parliament positions and votes, Council Conclusions, supporting trilogues and wider engagement in public narratives for ecological transformation and the European project in a changing global context. Looking ahead at the 2024 European Parliament elections, the EEB by the end of 2024 has had an impact on election manifestos and has shaped the EU-wide debate on the European Green Deal 2.

ACTIVITIES

1. Advocating for a strong European Green Deal 2 (EGD 2) and new EC Political Priorities around the European Parliament elections 2024.

Around the European Parliament elections in June 2024, the EEB will advocate for the promotion of the EGD's follow up, that is, a new European Pact for Our Common Future (EGD 2) that closes legislative gaps, sets or improves targets towards 2050 (and through 2040), and includes policy measures that ensure the right framework for the socio-ecological transition, honouring the Green Oath of 'Do no harm' and progressing towards zero pollution and zero carbon commitments (see also descriptions in other teams in this Work Programme for thematic elements). Considering the war waged against Ukraine and its instrumentalisation by vested interest to undermine aspects of the objective of and policies under the EGD, the EEB will continue to argue against false information and false solutions and promote an EGD 2 as an essential tool for both ecological transition and political independence from autocratic regimes, and hence as an essential "peace and security project". We will do that together with our membership across the regions and through strong partnership, for instance, through the Green 10, Civil Society Europe and other networks campaigning around the elections.

The EEB will also engage in helping implement the 8EAP to ensure EGD progress is monitored, discussed and responded to. This includes engaging with the mid-term assessment of the 8EAP. The EEB will continue to engage in the Fit-for-Future platform and other high-level platforms and expert groups eventually to be created by the new Commission (see other thematic chapters), seeking to push for fair representation, transparency and good governance. The EEB will continue to push for both improved policy coherence and better implementation across policy files.



EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE: III

2. Strengthening commitment to the European Green Deal 2 and sustainability in the European Parliament.

The EEB will advocate for an ambitious completion of the EGD through engagement in the trilogues across files and assessing the EGD performance and what policy needs remain. The EEB will continue its close work with a range of parliamentary committees and MEPs, supporting amendments, votes and promoting progressive amendments in the Council trilogues. The EEB will do this directly and by encouraging its members to engage with MEPs from their countries. The EEB will work on a strategy plan and demands, including leading on a multi-stakeholder Manifesto of Hope for ensuring that environmental and climate issues are strongly reflected in political agendas in preparation for the European Parliament elections. The EEB will also engage with the newly elected MEPs to promote ambition towards and recommendations for needed policy change.

3. Increasing Council commitments to the European Green Deal 2 and sustainability

The EEB will continue to intensively engage with the Member States holding the rotating Council presidency, pushing for ambition, complemented by engagement with other Member States to encourage proactive ambition and discourage those trying to slow progress, by debunking false arguments used, and by demonstrating the need and benefits of progress. Explicit recommendations will be crafted across files, eventually part of an EGD 2, and wider decisions tabled at the Council meetings, and before that at Working Party meetings. The EEB's Ten Green Tests, Memoranda to the EU Presidencies, Council letters, organisation of Green 10 Ministers meetings, engagement in Informal Council meetings, together with close working relationships with Permanent Representatives and presidency teams, together with EEB national members, will help nudge Member States towards embracing transformative agendas.

4. Putting the Sustainable Development Goals centre-stage

The EEB will continue to promote the importance of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and their implementation. Hosting the SDG Watch Europe Coordinator, the EEB together with its allies in the EU's largest coalition advocating on the 2030 Agenda will build on its network with MEPs and step up its collaboration with the SDG Alliance in the EP to ensure the EP becomes a stronger voice in monitoring progress towards the SDGs. The EEB will contribute to the further improvement of Eurostat's annual monitoring report, building on its work on SDG indicators and a first shadow SDG monitoring report for the EU. It will also work with the Council Presidencies to give higher priority to the implementation of the SDGs. In 2024, the UN Summit for the Future creates an opportunity for the EEB, through SDG Watch Europe, to engage the Next Commission in a new start around the EU's implementation of the SDGs.

5. Stepping up citizens' deliberation on the green and just transition

The EEB will contribute, together with a range of civil society organisations, to the Commission's new commitment to European Citizens Panels, including on topics regarding the transition. Through a dedicated project, funded by Horizon 2020 as part of the EU's Democracy Action Plan, launched in February 2022, the EEB will present recommendations for the citizens deliberation processes to be institutionalised at EU-level and to improve participatory environmental democracy while reaching out to disenfranchised groups.

**TIME IS
RUNNING
OUT!**



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND JUSTICE

 **ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND JUSTICE: I****DESCRIPTION**

The work done by the Environmental Law and Justice Team will focus on promoting strong EU environmental democracy, governance and participatory rights. The EEB will fight for the rule of law including full compliance of the Aarhus Convention rights in EU laws pertaining to the Member States and those governing the EU institutions. The EEB will lead the coordination of civil society in the Aarhus Convention processes and promotion of the Convention. Furthermore, the EEB will stand up for ambitious accountability, liability and enforcement in the EU and the maintenance of high standards of protection despite permit acceleration and for stronger implementation of EU law with less deregulation.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Environmental Liability Directive (ELD); Aarhus Convention and legislation to implement it, including the Aarhus Regulation and Governance Regulation; Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and its implementing legislation; Environmental Crime Directive (ECD); Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and related due diligence rules in products and certain sectors; De-regulation efforts and fast-tracking of permitting procedures.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB has successfully coordinated civil society in the Aarhus Convention processes and meetings; vigorously advocated for an ambitious revision of the Environmental Crime Directive with an expanded scope and protection for environmental defenders and for a strong new Directive on Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence with mandatory environmental and climate due diligence obligations throughout value chains and proper access to remedies; actively engaged with the Commission to revise the Environmental Liability Directive to ensure that there truly is accountability for environmental damage and that the polluter does pay; critically assessed permit acceleration procedures and promoted the implementation of environmental laws and opposing deregulation, aligning the EU legal framework with progressive policies; raised the profile of the deregulatory efforts in the EU and of the stress the fast-tracking of permitting procedures is placing on the EU Environmental acquis.

ACTIVITIES **1. Ensuring strong EU environmental governance and participatory rights**

Throughout 2024, the EEB will continue fighting for the Rule of Law including strong access to justice and public participation provisions in environmental and climate legislation. The EEB will also assess and possibly test the implementation of the Aarhus Regulation by the EU institutions and advocate for a legislative solution to the non-compliance of the EU with the Aarhus Convention in the area of access to justice in EU state aid decisions. The EEB will advocate for the protection of environmental defenders in relevant dossiers and support EEB members facing rule of law challenges, including discrimination, intimidation and criminalisation. In order to work on strong environmental governance and participatory rights, the EEB will explore new co-working methods in the Law Working Group (WG) including inter alia the possibility of a working group co-chair from the membership.



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND JUSTICE: II

2. Ensuring maintenance of high standards of protection with less deregulation and stronger implementation

The EEB will highlight the benefits of regulation and advocate for the new Commission to reframe the Better Regulation Agenda as a “reprotection agenda”. It will emphasise the need for better implementing EU environmental laws at national level by demonstrating good practices and highlighting gaps and will liaise with the Commission on enforcement at Member State level. The EEB will also continue to combat pressures to reduce environmental standards in permitting procedures at all levels and raise the profile of deregulatory efforts in environmental policy.

3. Coordinating civil society in Aarhus Convention processes and promotion of the Convention

The EEB will continue to lead the coordination of the ECO Forum at the Aarhus Convention, including liaising with the Convention Secretariat; it will support the Special Rapporteur under the Aarhus Convention Rapid Response Mechanism for the protection of individuals exercising their rights under the Convention and advocate for more resources for the Convention with emphasis on the Compliance mechanism; explore options of establishing a supporting framework for communicants to the Convention’s Compliance Committee; engage in the implementation of the Convention’s Work Programme during the intersessional period (2022-2025) and bring the voice of civil society to the attention of the Parties so they can have a meaningful impact.

4. Demanding ambitious accountability, liability and enforcement in the EU

The EEB will push for stronger governance in EU environmental law via greater accessibility, transparency, accountability and liability provisions in EU law. Specifically, it will do so through influencing the expected revision of the Environmental Liability Directive to ensure a broad but reliable definition of environmental damage, respect for the Polluter Pays Principle, and broad standing. The EEB will also finalise its work on the Environmental Crime Directive and the Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence Directive if the legislative process is still ongoing in 2024 and if finalised, the EEB will work on the implementation of these files at Member State level. The EEB recognises the global scale of many negative environmental impacts that arise from the EU’s current consumption and production models.

5. Promoting environmental justice throughout EU policies and practices

The EEB will continue to promote and raise awareness of the concept of environmental democracy and justice by providing further analyses of situations in which vulnerable groups suffer from disproportionate environmental burdens and impacts. The EEB’s work focussed on affected Roma communities will continue and will be further expanded through an extended network of Roma-rights groups and the cooperation with the ERGO network. Lastly, the EEB will also seek to ensure that environmental justice initiatives are further integrated into EU policies and practices, e.g., the National Strategies to be presented and implemented as a result of the 2020-2030 EU Roma Strategic Framework, and issues related to environmental justice regarding refugee communities where appropriate.



GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PROCESSES

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PROCESSES : I

DESCRIPTION

The EEB will build on its strong experience in being an important voice in the regional and global processes set up to ensure the strengthening and implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It will further build its capacity and its coordination role in making the EU and its Member States drive decision-making at the global level, e.g., through the 6th UN Environment Assembly taking place in February 2024. Furthermore, the EEB will collaborate, as far as resources permit, with the European Commission and Member States in negotiations on new international instruments, e.g., on plastic pollution. It will coordinate civil society's input to OECD-led environmental policy processes and ensure strong participation in the Environment for Europe process.

The work by the Global and Regional Processes Team also aims to further build its membership network and its partnerships with environmental NGOs and other key stakeholders in the candidate countries and the Eastern Partnership region (depending on new funding sources for this part of the EEB's work). The EEB will work in support of its members in Ukraine, following closely the development of the situation and the specific needs of EEB members. Part of the Global and Regional Processes' work is also to engage in other areas that are of global concern for the environmental movement such as the nexus between gender/environment.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Agenda 2030 and the SDGs; policies developed under the auspices of UNEP, in particular the UN Environment Assembly, e.g., with the push for a global instrument to curb plastic pollution supported by the EU; OECD instruments; European Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy; Eastern Partnership and association agreements.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB has contributed to ensuring that environmental NGOs have the capacity to shape more progressive environmental policies in accession countries and the Eastern Partnership countries. The EEB will continue to advocate for ambitious and science-based outcomes in global and regional environmental and sustainability processes, in particular, UNEP/UN Environment Assembly (towards UNEA 6 in February 2024) and the OECD process. Lastly, the EEB will ensure that its policy and advocacy work integrates positions on cross-cutting, global sustainability topics such as gender equality, a growing human population, equity and global climate justice.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PROCESSES : II

ACTIVITIES

- 1. Collaborating with eNGOs from candidate and partner countries in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe to advocate for progressive policies** Throughout 2024, the EEB will continue fighting for the Rule of Law. The EEB will build on its membership network in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries as well as previous projects such as the ENV.net project (funded through EuropeAid up to 2021) to increase its support for environmental NGOs in the region to step up their capacity to monitor implementation. Together with members and partners, the EEB will monitor the implementation of the Green Agenda for the Balkans as well as the rollout of the European Green Deal through bilateral cooperation in candidate countries and Eastern Partnership countries. The EEB will continue to identify opportunities to increase its resources to work with members and partners in the Eastern Partnership and other neighbouring countries, particularly candidate countries.
- 2. Supporting environmental groups in Ukraine in promoting a green reconstruction and recovery** Following Russia's illegal war against Ukraine, the EEB seeks to collaborate with its members and partners in Ukraine to promote a green reconstruction and environmental remediation in Ukraine. This includes support for fundraising for groups in Ukraine, attending regular coordination meetings between environmental organisations working in Ukraine, issuing statements around key developments, facilitating dialogue between European Institutions and Ukrainian and European civil society where needed and working with Ukrainian environmental groups towards the accession to the EU, including building their capacity to understand EU architecture.
- 3. Ensuring strong civil society participation in key regional and global UN environmental processes** Through its role as one of the UN Environment Major Groups Facilitators in Europe, the EEB will prepare and ensure the active participation of civil society towards the 6th UN Environment Assembly scheduled for February 2024, and it will closely work with the Commission and Member States to support them with resolutions to ensure progressive global environmental policies. The EEB will actively participate in and channel European (environmental) NGOs' input into the annual UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in March 2024 and the annual High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2024 and the UN Summit for the Future (depending on additional funding). It will collaborate with other eNGOs and contribute to the negotiations of a legally binding international treaty to end plastic pollution (depending on additional resources).
- 4. Facilitating eNGOs' contribution to OECD-led environmental processes** The EEB will disseminate information as well as calls for input and invitations to relevant OECD meetings to a list of eNGOs from Europe and OECD member states beyond. In 2024, the EEB will continue building the network of eNGOs from the EU and other OECD member states. It will facilitate the eNGOs' participation and input to OECD meetings and processes.
- 5. Integrating positions on cross-cutting, global sustainability issues in the EEB's policy and advocacy work** Through its work on Global and Regional Processes, the EEB will continue to develop positions on cross-cutting, global sustainability issues that have a strong link to environmental policies. This includes a continuation of the EEB's work on gender equality and environmental policies, eventually building on its workshop on the nexus between a growing human population, environmental impact, and equity.



ECONOMIC TRANSITION

ECONOMIC TRANSITION: I

DESCRIPTION

The work of the Economic Transition Team will focus on mainstreaming ecological economy concepts and narratives (such as postgrowth, wellbeing, degrowth, resource-sufficient circular economy and doughnut economy), and making EU trade policy a tool to service a wider economic transition while promoting a just transition and Green Fiscal Reform and sustainable funding as well as addressing the link between mining, the needs for resource use reduction and caps on critical raw materials. The EEB will advocate for a socially and environmentally just economic transition, promoting a transformational change which steers away from the fixation on GDP growth and profit maximisation and ever more material extraction, towards social, gender and ecological justice and wellbeing.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Green fiscal reform, Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF), National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs); relevant EGD files (such as Critical Raw Materials Act, macro-economic governance (EU Economic Governance Framework, European Semester); gender equality.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB will have advocated for a socially and environmentally just economic transition, promoting transformational change that steers away from the fixation on GDP growth, increasing material extraction and global trade; and towards the goal of social, gender and ecological justice and wellbeing in EU policies, driven also by improved economic incentives, governance and value outlooks.

ACTIVITIES

1. Mainstreaming ecological economy concepts and narratives (including postgrowth, wellbeing economy, degrowth, resource-sufficient circular economy and doughnut economy).

The EEB will continue to collect and spread scientific evidence for deep, transformational changes in our economic system. The EEB will work with allies (eNGOs, social and youth organisations, women's rights organisations, think tanks and unions) on pushing a narrative around the need for and possibility of transformational change but also reforming existing policies as well as designing and implementing more ambitious ones that are based on scientific evidence. The EEB will further counteract disinformation tendencies (especially considering the European Parliament elections in 2024) connected to the transformation, both towards policymakers and a wider group of changemakers in society. This includes activities (advocacy, campaigning) and recommendations on how to achieve a just transition towards a wellbeing economy including social justice aspects such as rethinking work, the role of the welfare state, widening the current understanding of a just transition, and engaging with topics, partners and activities related to the European Year of Skills. The EEB is also becoming a point of reference and knowledge hub for other CSOs and NGOs that open to new economic narratives and engages ever more in providing capacity building on these topics. Empowering CSOs to move from treating economic transition as a fringe issue to treating it as the core issue on which the achievement of all other issues depends is part of a 4-year DEAR funded project that might start in 2024.

2. Making EU trade policy a tool to serve a wider economic transition

The EEB will advocate for trade to be conditional upon the enforcement of environmental and climate standards and the SDGs. In this context, the EEB will scrutinise the implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). The EEB will, depending on additional funding, campaign for investors and companies to be held accountable in domestic courts and be subject to the same laws as people and will support the establishment of a Legally Binding Instrument to regulate the activities of transnational

ECONOMIC TRANSITION: II

corporations (TNCs) in international Human Rights law. The EEB will call, where adequate, for the EU to primarily focus on implementing the SDGs and in particular building strong institutions (SDG 16) before entering any partnership or trade and investment agreements. The EEB will also keep connecting emerging political issues such as now the war against Ukraine and the crisis in energy prices to deeply flawed existing trade agreements that are beyond modernising, such as the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT). The EEB's aim is to challenge the underlying assumptions on which the EU's trade deals are made, such as trade as the great enabler of outsourcing extraction, production and pollution, with positive political change outside the EU as a built-in bonus.

3. Advocating for green fiscal reform and funding.

The EEB will engage its Green Budget and Economic Transition Working groups (where useful) and promote reforms that incentivise energy and resource efficiency, pollution reduction, circular economy practices to reduce resource use in line with planetary boundaries and prevent environmental damage, climate change and associated health impacts. The EEB will promote the application of green fiscal reform to ensure a just transition to an inclusive green economy and enhance the effectiveness and fairness of public spending, by advocating for the uptake of green taxes and circularity, other instruments to price pollution and for the removal of environmentally harmful subsidies. It will prioritise wellbeing over economic growth by following closely the implementation of the revised EU Economic Governance Framework and by fixing the incentives (EGD measures and aspects of Next Generation EU funding). The EEB will also continue to build and strengthen a coalition of civil society stakeholders – which is better connected and well informed about the interlinkages of fiscal with other issues such as climate change, gender justice, inequality etc. – that will actively influence, campaign, and hold decision-makers to account to create political space for ambitious fiscal policy reforms.

4. Engaging on topics related to green extractivism, resource use reduction and critical raw materials.

Intricately linked to the EEB's activities in advocating for stronger resource-sufficient circular economy strategies and binding resource targets to reduce the EU's material footprint, the EEB will promote the rational use of raw materials, sufficiency, resource reduction targets and strict criteria for the mining of new materials because societal consumption norms must transform, acknowledging the planet's limitations. The EEB will continue to challenge the notion of decoupling since electrification of production and consumption without addressing economic growth undermines nature conservation and wellbeing. In addition, the EEB will also continue to engage on the blind spots of the energy transition by building on the green mining report by conducting research into the increase of low-carbon projects through an environmental justice lens and by advocating for stronger due diligence measures by releasing a position paper on the right to say no, for instance with regards to new mining projects. The introduction of the Critical Raw Materials Act presents an opportunity for the EEB to engage with policymakers and mobilising civil society actors to address the aforementioned points.

5. Advocating for applying intersectionality in the economic transition.

The EEB will continue to create awareness and table specific proposals for gender-just policies for a transition towards an ecofeminist wellbeing economy by applying an intersectional lens to address structural discrimination. For example, the EEB will raise awareness of the gender implications of energy, climate and agricultural policies and continue to highlight the need for a feminist approach to a just transition by underlining the need for a wider understanding of sustainability and the transition and policy coherence (including care jobs as green jobs, etc.).



NATURE – BIODIVERSITY, WATER, SOIL

NATURE – BIODIVERSITY, WATER, SOIL: I

DESCRIPTION

The Biodiversity, Water & Soil Team will continue to campaign for a strong Nature Restoration Law (NRL), as well as influence the ongoing updates of the water legislation and push for the adoption of the Soil Health Law and the Forest Monitoring Law. The EEB will also support the implementation of the European Green Deal (EGD) Strategies relevant for biodiversity, forests, water and soil, including mid-term reviews, and shape decisions and tools at EU level that can improve the implementation and enforcement of relevant EU legislation including nature positive deployment of renewables and campaigning against new hydropower projects (subject to additional funding). The EEB will use its channels to communicate on its priorities and highlight issues the EEB members are working on vis-à-vis the EU decision-makers (e.g., the impact on nature from the war in Ukraine).

In the context of the European Parliament elections campaign and setting the priorities for the next legislative mandate, the EEB will ensure that there is strong awareness of the values of healthy nature, water and soil and secure political commitment to urgently address the interrelated biodiversity, climate and pollution crisis. Light pollution, a fast-growing problem with negative impacts on biodiversity and human health, will also be addressed in the roll out of existing initiatives.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

- **Biodiversity:** EU's role in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework (GBF); Nature Restoration Law (including future governance for implementation); Birds and Habitats Directives
- **Forests:** EU Forest Strategy; Forest Monitoring Law
- **Water:** Zero Pollution Action Plan; EU Adaptation Strategy, Water Framework Directive and daughter directives on Priority Substances (Environmental Quality Standards (EQS)) and Groundwater; Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD); Nitrates Directive and Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan; Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive (CIS), and the EU's Initiative for water resilience
- **Soil:** EU Soil Strategy; Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience

In coordination with EEB members leading on the files: marine policies, including microplastics pollution (Seas at Risk); forest policies (Fern)

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the European Green Deal including its Strategies and new adopted legislation such as the Nature Restoration Law will enable EEB actions on the ground that put biodiversity on a path to recovery and results in the upscaling of green and blue infrastructure. The EEB will work to ensure that nature protection and restoration as well as it interlinks with climate and pollution are at the core of the political debate on priorities for the next EU legislative mandate.

NATURE – BIODIVERSITY, WATER, SOIL: II

ACTIVITIES

1. Support the implementation of the European Green Deal Strategies relevant for biodiversity, forests, water and soil

The EEB will track and encourage progress in the implementation of the EU's Biodiversity Strategy, including its midterm evaluation and alignment to the Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as advocate for strong political support for the Zero Pollution Action Plan and EU climate adaptation action. The EEB will also push for biodiversity, water and soil to be recognised as priorities for the next legislative mandate. The EEB will highlight emerging issues and promote solutions such as developing nature-friendly renewable energy in full compliance with environmental safeguards as well as promote the need to address light pollution. The EEB will also inform and build the capacity of its members so that they can play an active role in influencing decision-making at national level.

2. Coordinating civil society in Aarhus Convention processes and promotion of the Convention

The EEB will contribute to the work of the platforms at EU level that have been set up to improve the implementation of the Nature Directives, Soil Strategy and the Water Framework Directive including pledge and review process for the designation of new protected areas (30% by 2030 and 10% strict protection), preparation of the State of Nature Report as well as addressing key drivers such as hydropower or other damaging projects. The EEB will also inform and build the capacity of its members so that they can play an active role in influencing decision-making at national level and bring forward cases of non-compliance

3. Shaping new nature, forests, water, climate adaptation and soil laws.

The EEB will continue to campaign for the adoption of a strong Nature Restoration Law (NRL) and will influence the governance for its robust, well monitored and speedy implementation. The EEB will engage with Council and Parliament on the co-decision on the Soil Health Law and the Forest Monitoring Law. The EEB will also continue to influence the revision of the rules for treating wastewater (UWWTD) and revision of lists of pollutants of surface and groundwater (WFD, WFD-EQSD and WFD-GD) as well as shape the emerging EU Water Strategy.

4. Coordinating with other NGOs on advocacy for marine and forest policies

The EEB will continue to coordinate advocacy actions with other NGOs on EU marine and forest legislation and promote key NGO asks in its high-level advocacy and collaborate with other EEB teams recognising the cross-cutting character of biodiversity, water and soil



NATURE – AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

 **NATURE – AGRICULTURE AND FOOD: I****DESCRIPTION**

The Agriculture and Food team will continue to advocate for a transition to circular, healthy and sustainable food systems, underpinned by a move to agroecology, less and better animal production and consumption, and healthier diets overall. To deliver this change, and fully realise the Farm to Fork Strategy, the EEB will continue to push for a deep reform of the EU's agricultural policy and greater commitment to ambitious implementation at a national level. This includes legislative measures to tackle unsustainable diets and a robust EU legislative framework for climate action in agriculture, combined with strong climate mitigation measures at national level. As current decision-making processes have too often hindered such change, a deep reform of agri-food policy governance is also necessary.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F); the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and national CAP Strategic Plans; the Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Law; the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation (LULUCF); the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR); the Regulation for a Carbon Removals Certification Framework; National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs); the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR); and the Integrated Nutrients Management Action Plan.

In addition, the Agriculture and Food team will collaborate with other teams, contributing when and where possible and relevant. Such files include the Nature Restoration Law, Soil Health Law, the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), and the revision of air and water legislation. It will also collaborate with EEB members to engage in the revision of animal welfare legislation. Finally, the EEB will also support the EEB and other civil society coalition's work on the European Parliament elections, ensuring food and farming systems transition is a priority for the new Parliament and Commission.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB will work to ensure that the urgent need to transform food and farming systems and bring them within planetary boundaries, reverse biodiversity loss, and improve human health will be high on the political agenda and recognised by a majority of EU policymakers and that it is a high priority in the EU elections debate and is central to the new Commission's agenda. The EEB will also push to ensure significant progress will have been made in translating the Farm to Fork Strategy into concrete and transformative legislative targets and measures. Lastly, the EEB will work with the new Commission and Parliament and ensure they are committed to maintaining the trajectory of change as well as increasing ambition where needed, for example with regards to reforming agricultural policy and addressing unsustainable consumption.

NATURE – AGRICULTURE AND FOOD: II

ACTIVITIES

1. Promoting a greener and more evidence-based Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The EEB will continue to monitor and seek to influence the implementation of national CAP Strategic Plans and call for possible revisions to better align it with the European Green Deal and new legislative targets emanating from it. Additionally, the EEB will closely follow the development of a harmonised monitoring and evaluation framework for the CAP. Last but certainly not least, the EEB will be at the forefront of calls for an overhaul of the EU's agricultural policy post-2027 and of the governance of agri-food policy, through impactful advocacy and strategic communications, by building coalitions with old and new allies, and exploring the potential of legal action to challenge the status quo.

2. Shaping an ambitious EU legislative framework for climate action in agriculture and supporting effective national implementation

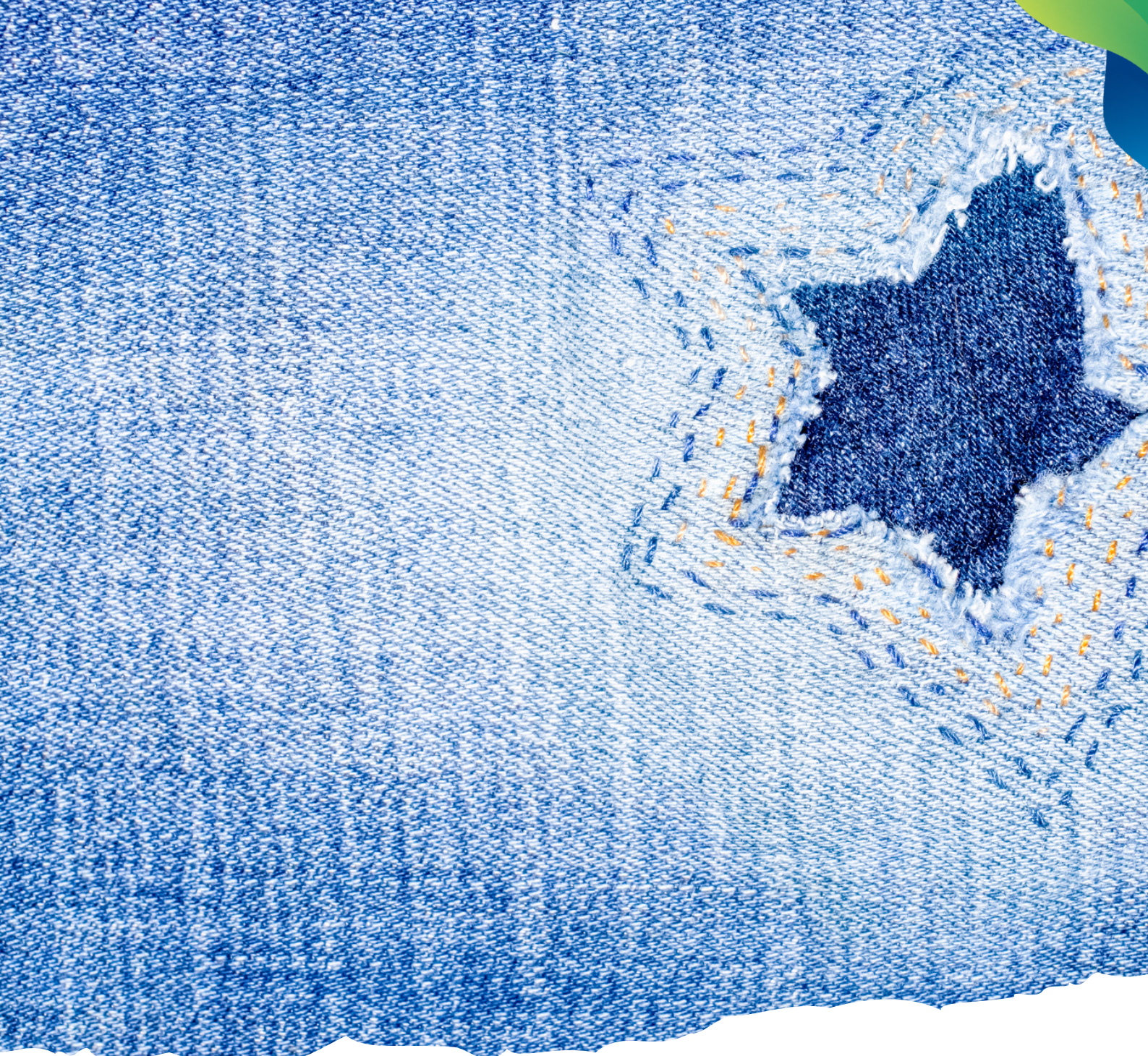
The EEB will work closely with its members to promote the effective implementation of the revised greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions targets in the Effort Sharing and Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry Regulations, and it will advocate for a robust Carbon Removal Certification Framework which delivers on the EU's climate and biodiversity objectives.

3. Advocating for a transformative Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Law

In close collaboration with EEB members and other civil society organisations in the EU Food Policy Coalition, the EEB will advocate for the adoption of ambitious legislative action through the SFS Law. This work will be closely supported by a large communications campaign raising awareness around the environmental and social impacts of our current food and farming systems and building positive narratives around food system transformation.

4. Pushing for the full implementation of the Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy and increased ambition in the new mandate

In the first half of 2024, the EEB will continue to engage with ongoing legislative and non-legislative processes which translate key F2F Strategy commitments into concrete obligations, targets or policy measures, such as the revised Sustainable Use of the Pesticides Regulation (SUR) and the revision of animal welfare legislation. Furthermore, we will seek to ensure that food and farming system transition is a key priority for the new Commission and newly elected MEPs through advocacy and communications efforts, so that the EU remains committed to the vision set out by the F2F Strategy and increases the ambition in its weak spots, such as agricultural policy and governance reform, and dietary change.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

CIRCULAR ECONOMY: I

DESCRIPTION

The ultimate objective of the work of the Circular Economy (CE) Team is to realise the potential for policy enabling circular activities to reduce our consumption of natural resources and the associated environmental impacts. In order to progress this objective, the EEB will target the framing of the concept in high level policies including but not limited to the Circular Economy Action Plan. From a legislative perspective, the EEB aims to ensure that major policy frameworks including the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, the Waste Framework Directive and the Green Claims Legislation will provide a strong basis for addressing the full lifecycle impacts of all products. Additionally, the EEB will target high impact product groups and sectors with dedicated campaigns, aiming to establish a suitably ambitious policy mix which will bridge with other policy areas including climate, chemicals, zero pollution industry and due diligence. As far as possible through new project funding, the CE Team will intensify its work in the Balkans and where possible beyond EU boundaries to spread further and adapt identified circular best practices.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Noting that 2024 may be a truncated year for policy development and legislative processes due to the elections at the EU Parliament and the nomination of the new Commission, the CE team will endeavour to promote a continuous implementation of the CE Action Plan of 2020; Ecodesign for Sustainable Products & Construction Products regulation; First implementation steps of the Strategy for Circular and Sustainable Textiles; Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation; Sustainable consumption of goods – promoting repair and reuse; implementation of the existing Eco-design and Energy Label policies on Energy Products; Empowering Consumers & Green Claims initiatives, bridging with Product Environmental Footprint methodology; Development of EU Ecolabel and Green Public Procurement criteria and promotion of these demand side policy instruments. The EEB will support its members in the implementation of existing circular economy law as well as national circular economy strategies. It will also ensure a continuous monitoring of the EU Plastic Strategy notably with regards to micro-plastics release and bio-based/biodegradable plastics; Preparatory steps to the Revision of the End-of-Life vehicles directive and the Revision of the Waste Framework Directive,, WEEE Directive assessment; Monitoring of the implementation of the Taxonomy for Sustainable Finances. In addition, and collaboration with other colleagues, the EEB CE Team may contribute to additional files, particularly the last steps of the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) as well as the ongoing debate on Sustainable Food Systems. In addition, first steps of the transposition of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive at national level will be used as an opportunity to prepare messages to be developed at national level.

Beyond the policy development work to be pursued as far as possible during this election year, the CE team will also support the overall EEB work on elections and the promotion of the new European Green Deal 2, ensuring CE policy is maintained high on the agenda of future decision-makers and recognised as a crucial enabling policy for climate, biodiversity and zero pollution.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB will have worked to ensure that reducing consumption and its environmental impacts is at the centre of EU and global circular economy narratives and that this is clearly reflected in the new EU Commission (draft) work programme, supported by a coherent policy framework(s) addressing the full life cycle impact of all products, with dedicated action on high impact sectors building on a holistic approach addressing circularity, toxicity and due diligence, and clear attention given to the implications of the circular economy in third countries.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY: II

ACTIVITIES

1. Actively engage in policy debates and technical discussions on circular economy policies, including for high impact sectors

In 2024, the EEB will focus its advocacy efforts on a number of sectors prioritised for their substantial environmental footprint, including buildings, textiles, automotive plastics and packaging, as well as intermediary products such as steel and cement; and if funding is available also electronics. The EEB will work closely with major campaigns, including the Right to Repair Campaign, Wardrobe Change and Rethink Plastic to maximise its success and multiply its expertise on complex issues. On all these sectors there are clear policy opportunities including the Ecodesign for sustainable Products, the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, the Construction Products Regulation and the new Vehicles law, amongst others. In some of these sectors, the EEB has long standing expertise, while in some areas such as intermediary products it will build on newly created projects and alliances with its members. On all topics, the EEB will aim to seize opportunities to address other relevant environmental and social impacts such as toxicity and supply chain due diligence.

2. Raise the profile of circular economy, including the need for resource use reduction, in the context of the European Parliament elections and the new EU Commission priorities.

In 2024, the EEB will continue to advocate that resource use reduction and consumption within planetary boundaries should be the ultimate aim of the circular economy. This includes, but is not limited to, setting resource use reduction targets at the European level. This recognises that European consumption already exceeds planetary boundaries and is not equitable compared to developing regions. A first step towards this will be the adoption of Material Footprint and Consumption Footprint official indicators in the EU circular economy monitoring framework. The European Parliament elections provide an opportunity to finally put this issue on the political agenda. The EEB is convinced that genuine action in the area of circularity, such as boosting reuse, repair and recycling can save resources - though also realising that circular economy alone may not be sufficient. In this way, the EEB aims to ensure that the concept does not simply become another "buzzword" but can deliver in a meaningful way to the organisation's overall environmental objectives.

3. Developing the EEB network of members and partners working in the field of circular economy, providing them with regular updates and engaging them with priority EU and national circular economy initiatives.

In 2024, the EEB will continue to use the Circular Economy Working group, alongside our various campaigns, to engage our members and partners in major circular economy legislative initiatives. This includes the ecodesign for sustainable products regulation, the sustainable consumption of goods and right to repair initiative, and the green claims initiative. All of these horizontal policies will be negotiated in 2024. The EEB will also target a revision of the Waste Framework Directive which currently only targets food waste and textiles. We also aim to reinforce our network in areas not sufficiently addressed in circular economy policies such as non-toxicity, public procurement, new business models and sharing as well as fiscal reform.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY: II

4. *Contributing to the development of circular economy policies outside the EU, and as a leverage policy for a global well-being economy.*

In 2024, the EEB will strive to extend its activities beyond EU boundaries, recognising that Europe's consumption sits within highly globalised supply chains. The EEB will endeavour to join international projects with partners in EU neighbourhood countries, in Africa and India and where possible prepare the setting up of a network of CSO partners in low- and medium-income countries on circular economy (CE). The development and adaptation of CE practices beyond EU boundaries will take place in the context of new narratives promoting a global wellbeing economy and balancing 'extractivism' and GDP growth ideology with new circular and sufficiency approaches and new indicators helping us to act within planetary boundaries and to spread the wealth more fairly. In this endeavour, the EEB aims to collaborate more intensively with trade unions and development platforms. The EEB will also promote social and environmental due diligence requirements in global value chains leading to products placed on the EU market, by informing on the positive and negative impacts of the EU CE policy on the rest of the world and calling for better integration of such impacts in our regulatory impact assessments. Objectives driving these activities will also be pushed during the 2024 elections and nomination of the new EU Commission to be ultimately integrated in the next EU Commission work programme.





CLIMATE AND ENERGY

 **CLIMATE AND ENERGY: I****DESCRIPTION**

The work done by the Climate and Energy Team will focus on advocating for the EU to adopt policies ensuring that global warming stays within 1.5 degrees by the end of the century, in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement. This includes an ambitious finalisation of the remaining files from the 2030 Climate & Energy legislative package (Fit for 55) as well as a focus shift towards implementation at Member State level. Implementation challenges include ensuring that energy policies are cost-effective, sensible to the needs of ecosystems and biodiversity, and socially fair. This requires highlighting the EU's responsibility to provide cost-effective conditions – and require Member States to do the same – when promoting technologies aimed at decarbonisation such as hydrogen. The Climate and Energy Team will work on accelerating the energy transition to reach a 100% renewable energy system by 2040 with strong involvement of civil society. The team will continue working on the implementation of the revised Renewable Energy Directive (RED) by EU countries with a specific focus on spatial planning for Renewables Acceleration Areas. Threats to a swift energy transition such as costly, dangerous and delayed nuclear energy plans will be highlighted and drivers such as social benefits of renewables and energy savings promoted. Distributional consequences of energy policies will be a focus of the EEB's work, including the implementation of Social Climate Plans (SCPs) and Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTPs). Furthermore, the Climate and Energy Team will work to improve the legal framework and spillover effects of the EU regulation on Fluorinated Gases (F-Gases); and promote an acceleration of the decarbonisation of heating and cooling in the EU. The Climate and Energy team will also contribute to the overall EEB work on the European Parliament elections and the consolidation of a European new Green Deal matching the energy and climate crisis with continuous ambitious action.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Files of the Fit for 55 Legislative Package (including both pending files in inter-institutional co-decision process and adopted files that must now be implemented): Renewable Energy Directive, Energy Efficiency Directive; Energy Taxation Directive; Energy Performance of Buildings Directive; Regulation on F-gases; Ecodesign of heating appliances; A Renovation Wave for Europe; Climate Adaptation Strategy; EU Emergency Regulations in the field of Energy; Social Climate plans, the EU's 2040 Climate target; the EU wind energy action plan; and the EU action plan for grids noted in the Commissions' 2024 Work Programme.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB will have successfully advocated for efficient and socially just implementation of national energy and climate plans that go beyond the EU's 2030 targets and be in line with the EEB/CAN Europe's PAC scenario, asking for a 65% emissions reduction target by 2030 to reach full neutrality by 2040, ensuring policy coherence with other European Green Deal environmental objectives (biodiversity protection, zero pollution and circularity). In particular, the importance of considering biodiversity from the very beginning during the expansion of renewable energy will be highlighted. The restricted role that hydrogen and nuclear could play in a future energy landscape and the comprehensive promise that renewables still hold will be highlighted to a larger number of decision makers and made clearer. Criteria for social climate plans will be established and distributed widely across stakeholders. Progressing with ambition towards carbon neutrality will be reflected as a priority in the (draft) new EU Commission work programme.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY: II

ACTIVITIES

1. Actively engage in policy debates and technical discussions on circular economy policies, including for high impact sectors

The EEB will roll out an advocacy strategy towards the EU institutions relating to NECPs in line with the Paris Agreement Compatible scenario. Firstly, the EEB will follow up on its advocacy work carried out in the framework of the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive, making sure the energy efficiency first principle is applied at national level and a swift implementation takes place. Among other actions, the EEB will be promoting the REFEREE model as a possible tool to build scenarios to achieve societal and environmental gains from Energy Efficiency and integrate it successfully in national energy policies. Secondly, the EEB will empower its members to play an active role in influencing decision-making at national level by reinforcing the knowledge base, capacity building and impact. This includes focusing hydrogen investments only on the no-regret options and standing strong against the nuclear industry's claims that new nuclear energy should play a role in future EU energy supply.

2. Accelerating the energy transition to reach a 100% renewable energy system by 2040 with full involvement of civil society.

The EEB will continue its dialogue with other environmental NGOs, civil society and a wide range of other relevant stakeholders (notably the renewables industry, but also large energy consumers) to build alliances and progress towards a Paris Agreement Compatible energy scenario. This will be done by identifying the main challenges and potential solutions to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy plants and infrastructures. Their impacts on nature, biodiversity, local economics and landscape will be highlighted and serve as a basis to advocate for a nature-friendly, people-centric renewable energy transition in Europe. This will include analytical work done in close collaboration with the EEB Biodiversity Team to promote rapid renewables rollout, while ensuring nature conservation and citizens' involvement. The EEB aims to establish an effective multi-stakeholder dialogue on infrastructure planning with the aim to phase out fossil fuels in the EU by 2040. The EEB will assist its member organisations on this topic in order to push for a nature-positive energy transition at national and European levels. Energy sources such as hydrogen, bioenergy and – if funds will be raised – nuclear will be further addressed by the EEB's work under this activity, building on previous positions and publications advocating for a residual role for nuclear, hydrogen and biomass in the energy mix, and reflecting strict sustainability criteria. The EEB will also facilitate NGO dialogue and awareness-raising on the need for the EU to adopt very ambitious climate targets for 2040. In line with the decarbonisation path in the updated PAC scenario, the EEB will highlight the importance of a 100% GHG emission reduction by 2040.

3. Improving the legal framework of the EU regulation on Fluorinated Gases (F-Gases) and unleash spillover effects beyond EU.

The EEB will try to raise funds to increase its advocacy on this topic at a global level, in order to be able to influence decisions in the context of the Conference of the Parties of the Montreal Protocol, with special regard to the Kigali Amendment.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY: III

ACTIVITIES

4. Accelerating the decarbonisation of heating and cooling in the EU.

The EEB will follow up on its efforts to phase out fossil fuels from heating and cooling in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Ecodesign and Energy Label directives and will engage with its members to promote pro-active measures at national level, including swift implementation and ambitious phase out dates in national plans. The EEB will also engage to make sure this topic is fully reflected in the NECPs and the national heating and cooling plans, including any specific requirement that will be created within the finalisation of the Fit for 55 package.

5. Promoting socially progressive climate policies.

By illustrating the distributional consequences of different climate policies, the EEB will mobilise both environmental social arguments against fossil fuel subsidies and in favour of carbon-tax-and-dividends. The EEB will also endeavour to build a strong alliance with social movements and trade unions on this issue. A particular focus will lie in promoting capacity-building of national NGOs and influencing EC guidance in light of the preparation of social climate plans under the Social Climate Fund.

6. Membership engagement and close NGO collaboration.

The Climate and Energy Team will continue its efforts to increase engagement with EEB members, with the aim of making it easy for member organisations to know how to work with the EEB on climate and energy issues. This includes both regular meetings of the Climate and Energy working group, but also very close collaboration with other Brussels-based actors where members may be engaged.

Objectives driving activities 2 to 5 will also be pushed during the 2024 European Parliament elections and nomination of the new European Commission to be ultimately integrated in the next European Commission work programme.



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – MERCURY



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – MERCURY: I

DESCRIPTION

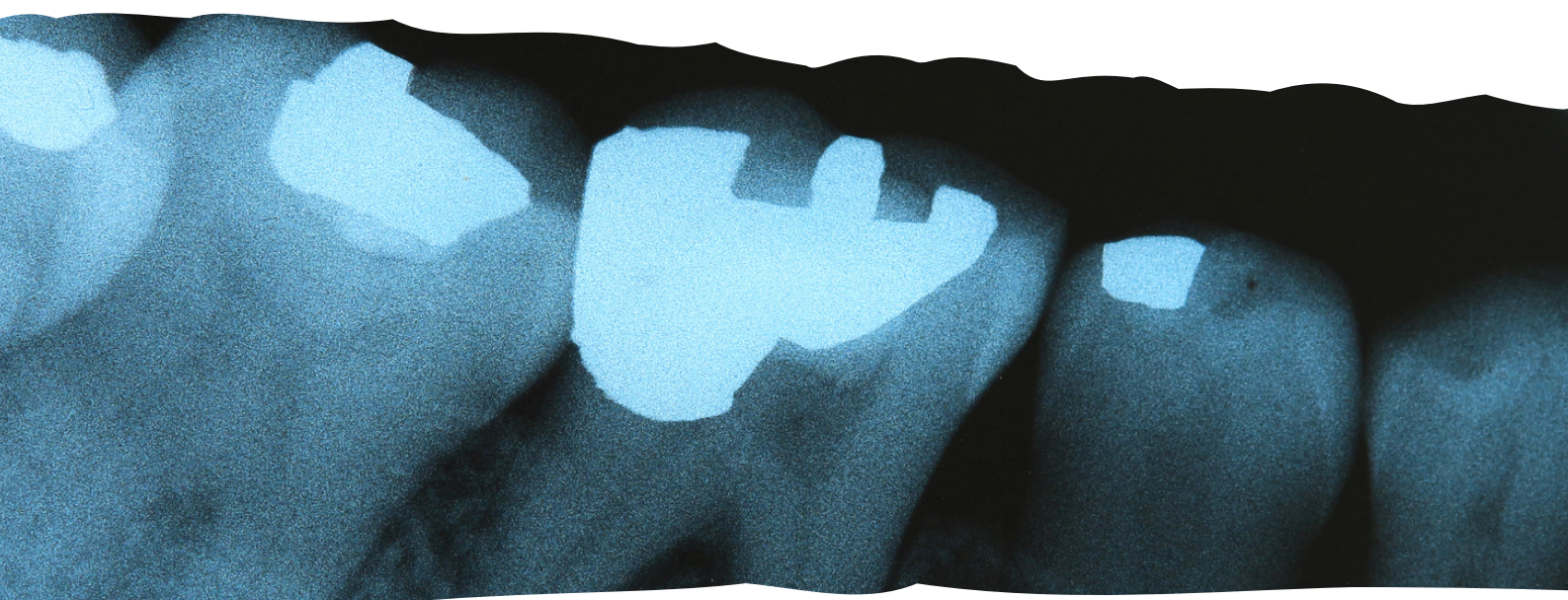
The work done by the Mercury Team will focus on running an active and sustainable Zero Mercury Working Group; it will seek to strengthen the Minamata Convention with the aim of further reducing mercury use, releases and emissions, supply and demand, trade and exposure to mercury, which is in line with EU global commitments. Furthermore, the EEB will focus on strengthening EU policies and their implementation related to mercury as well as building the capacity of developing countries' NGOs and governments to implement and enforce the Minamata Convention.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Minamata Convention on Mercury and EU Mercury Regulation and other mercury-related policies

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB will have actively contributed towards strengthening the EU mercury regulation as well as the Minamata Convention and its implementation, to reduce mercury use, releases and emissions, supply and demand, trade and exposure to mercury.





HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – MERCURY: II

ACTIVITIES

1. Ensuring an active and sustainable Zero Mercury Working Group.

The EEB will continue to lead the global Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG), currently bringing together over 110 NGOs from more than 55 countries, and the Zero Mercury Campaign, as it has since 2005. The ZMWG strives for zero supply, demand and emissions of mercury from all anthropogenic sources, to reduce mercury in the global environment to a minimum and support the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

2. Strengthening the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury was adopted in October 2013, to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic mercury emissions. In 2024, the EEB will continue its efforts, preparing the ground to strengthen the Convention by, among other, phasing out more mercury-added products and processes; developing clear mercury waste management requirements and by assisting its effectiveness evaluation. The EEB will prepare for and participate in the COP6 which is scheduled to take place in 2025. Lastly, the EEB will work to ensure relevant EU legislation is strengthened to ensure more chances to push the global debate.

3. Strengthening EU policies and their implementation related to mercury.

At EU level, a proposal for a revised EU Mercury Regulation was published in 2023 looking at restricting mercury use in dentistry and banning exports of mercury added products already banned in the EU. The co-decision process is expected to be completed in 2024 but could continue in 2025 due to delays and in view of the European Parliament elections. The work at EU level will be feeding directly into the global work. The Mercury team will further be involved in the discussions related to the Zero Pollution Action Plan, the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, the Cosmetics Directive (COM proposal expected in 2023), among other things.

4. Building the capacity of developing countries' NGOs/governments to implement and enforce the Minamata Convention

The EEB will work to build the capacity within developing country NGOs and governments also by supporting international projects and assisting in the implementation and enforcement of the Convention with a main focus on phasing out mercury-added products. The EEB will build on the ongoing global campaign towards phasing out mercury from skin-lightening products, with a focus on controlling illegal manufacturing and trade broadly and via internet sales and assist NGOs in supporting governments to implement and enforce restrictions related to skin creams.



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – CHEMICALS

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – CHEMICALS: I

DESCRIPTION

The Chemicals Team's activities will focus on substantially influencing the EU to progress towards a toxic-free environment by phasing-out the most hazardous chemicals (including PFAS and plastic PVC) and by delivering its political commitments on safety and sustainability of chemicals, notably under the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS), in particular through the revision of the REACH and CLP regulations. It will advocate for EU institutions to reinforce the chemicals legislation and engage high-level decision-makers to prioritise a toxic-free environment and to tackle chemical pollution in a preventive and precautionary way as fundamental issues. Furthermore, the EEB will continue to coordinate and mobilise the EU NGOs and the low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) civil society organisations (CSOs) global campaign for a toxic-free future, strengthen its networks, intensify its capacity-building activities and reinforce collaboration with CSOs in the EU and beyond.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS); REACH regulation; non-REACH chemicals legislation; Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation; Zero Pollution Action Plan (ZPAP); European Chemicals Agency (ECHA); Governance, global policies on chemicals management e.g., SAICM

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB will work alongside key stakeholders to ensure that the REACH revision will be up and running to accelerate the restriction of the most harmful chemicals and will advocate for it to be very high on the political agenda. In addition, the EEB will have actively advocated so that the EU institutions will have concluded on the negotiations regarding Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) and gotten as far as possible on the REACH reform.



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – CHEMICALS: II

ACTIVITIES

1. Advocating to ensure that the European Commission commitments of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) to achieve a toxic-free environment are delivered.

Among the 80+ commitments proposed under the CSS, key actions will be either starting, be proposed or finalised in 2024; particularly, the revision of REACH regulation as well as making sure the Commission is addressing the use and contamination of PFAS. The EEB will advocate for the Commission to enhance the protection of health and the environment and ensure the delivery of all commitments in a timely and ambitious manner.

2. Engaging high-level decision makers to perform inter-institutional negotiations on REACH and CLP reforms in time to set the foundation for delivering a toxic-free environment.

The EEB will focus its advocacy efforts to ensure that the EU institutions use all available tools to secure at least the first reading of the REACH and CLP revision proposals before the EU elections. This would reduce the chances that the reforms are rejected, undermined or withdrawn by the new Commission or new Parliament. For that, both the current Parliament and Council need to adopt their positions before May 2024. The EEB will advocate for a reform of key REACH and CLP provisions to enable an acceleration of banning all the most harmful chemicals across sectors in particular to achieve toxic-free products by 2030 and set the foundation for moving towards a toxic-free environment. The EEB (with its members) will therefore reinforce its existing relations with high-level decisionmakers, such as European Commissioners, members of the European Parliament, Environment Ministers or high-level Member State Officials, representatives of the Council and its Presidency. The EEB Chemicals Team, in collaboration with Communications colleagues, will also advocate for mainstreaming chemicals laws as a priority for political parties during the European Parliament elections period and after.

3. Advocating for EU Institutions to properly implement the chemicals legislation.

The EEB will work on CSS commitments to ban the most harmful chemicals in consumer products via the so-called Restrictions Roadmap. Key restrictions will be proposed, discussed or adopted in 2024, such as 'universal PFAS', bisphenols, flame retardants and PVC plastic. The EEB will continue its work at ECHA to ensure protective scientific opinions that support the phasing out of harmful chemicals are well reflected and will continue to support member states in the REACH Committee.

4. Capacity-building, mobilising and reinforcing collaboration with other policy teams as well as with EEB members, NGOs and other civil society organisations (CSOs) operating in the EU and in the global south to support the push for better EU policy and practice.

The EEB will continue to collaborate with other EEB Teams such as Circular Economy, Zero Pollution Industry and Biodiversity. The EEB will also continue coordinating the regular channels and networks (EEB Chemicals Working Group (WG), Chemicals taskforce group, the toxic-free future campaign and major EU civil society organisations (e.g., BEUC)) and engage in joint projects at EU and international level. The EEB will use its European and global NGO networks to put pressure at high political level to ensure the CSS commitment to stop exports of banned chemicals stays true.



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – ZERO POLLUTION INDUSTRY



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – ZERO POLLUTION INDUSTRY: I

DESCRIPTION

The Zero Pollution Industry Team will seek to make the EU's Zero Pollution Ambition and the Paris agreement on Climate a reality through industry policy. The team will engage in the definition and review of sectoral BREFs (the documents setting the conditions to prevent and control industrial activities' pollution) and push the uptake of measures driving decarbonisation and the circular economy of energy intensive industry. Another focus will be on the internalisation of external costs (pricing negative impacts), notably through engaging in the Environmental Liability Directive (ELD). The EEB will seek to re-design reporting obligations to improve progress tracking on environmental performance and accountability in decision making, for example, through a strengthened UNECE Kiev Protocol, the Proposal for a Regulation establishing the Industrial Emissions Portal and a review of Commission expert group rules and Council work practices. The EEB will also endeavour to promote a Zero Pollution Action Plan as a clear priority for the next EU Commission, as part of the EEB's work on the European Parliament elections and a renewed European Green Deal.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Implementation of the revised IED and Best Available Technique Reference documents (BREFs); Zero Pollution Action Plan (ZPAP); Water Framework Directive, Environmental Liability Directive (ELD), the Climate and Energy files (Fit for 55), Green Deal for net zero Industry, ad-hoc Industrial Forum related outputs, Energy and Environmental State aid guidelines (CEEAG), Industrial Emissions Portal Regulation (formerly E-PRTR)/ Kiev Protocol, Corporate Sustainability Directive Review, COM expert group rules, Council work practice. The EEB will also monitor the elaboration of the new EU Commission work programme.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB will have strengthened its networks and knowledge to ensure that the EU's Zero Pollution Ambition and the Paris agreement on Climate are progressed at EU level and remain a high priority for the next Commission. It will have strived to ensure that the Commission 'walks the European Green Deal talk' and that decision-making serves public interest first, is accountable and delivers through consistent and ambitious policy actions. The EEB will have contributed to an accelerated transition of industrial production towards a truly circular, decarbonised zero pollution industry and made sure that any support to 'net zero Industry' will be based on sound conditions, integrating a continuous regulatory push beyond subsidies.



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – ZERO POLLUTION INDUSTRY: II

ACTIVITIES

1. Making the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) the flagship legislation for the industrial transformation.

The EEB will build support among other NGOs and among decision-makers to push for an ambitious finalisation of the review Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) (if not finalised in 2023), and for an equally ambitious implementation, so that the IED makes the zero pollution, climate and circular economy ambitions a reality.

2. Advocating for the transformation of Energy intensive industries (Steel and Cement), a transition away from fossil fuels and internalisation of external environmental and human health costs.

The EEB will promote the decarbonisation and depollution of most impacting industry in EU (notably steel and cement) through a package of policy approaches in the framework of EU industrial policy. We will expose cases of overt and hidden subsidies to fossil fuels and will highlight failures of Member States to strengthen the energy-water nexus. The EEB will advocate for adding climate aspects to the revised IED and promote the internalisation of external costs, notably through fully reflecting the 'Polluter Pays' Principle on the review of the Environmental Liability Directive (ELD).

3. Development of industrial emission standards (BREFs).

The EEB will actively participate in elaborating BREFs, the documents setting the frame for best practices and emission limits for industrial activities, by providing and assessing data on emissions and processes in the working groups of the JRC (Joint Research Centre of the Commission).

4. Promoting inclusive governance and public accountability in decision-making.

The EEB will advocate for providing single-access platforms and databases for environmental information to promote compliance, benchmarking of performance, improved information exchange for EU standards-making and more up to date and complete public access to information. We will continue our promotion of a comprehensive and user-friendly Industrial emissions portal and bridge with the digital product passport promoted through EU product policy. In addition, the EEB will engage in changing Commission expert group rules or Council work practices to improve on inclusive governance, to ensure full transparency and accountability to the 'Green Oath' and to improve the balance of public versus private interests.



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – AIR QUALITY AND NOISE



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – AIR QUALITY AND NOISE : I

DESCRIPTION

The work done by the Air & Noise Pollution Team will focus on advocating for the strengthening of the Ambient Air Quality Directives (AAQDs) and reducing national emissions through effective National Air Pollution Control Programmes as well as strengthening of the National Emission Ceilings Directive review scheduled for 2025. The EEB will also work to make the Zero Pollution Action Plan (ZPAP) promote substantive progress on the zero-pollution ambition (and not just focus on the specific legislative files), in particular in the domestic heating and agricultural sectors. Furthermore, the EEB will engage in the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, aiming to extend the number of pollutants covered from five to eight. With noise being the second biggest environmental health risk in Europe after air pollution, the EEB will keep advocating for the revision of the Environmental Noise Directive while pushing for a Zero Pollution Action Plan which effectively tackles this issue.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Air pollution: National Emission Ceilings Directive (NECD); Ambient Air Quality Directives (AAQD); Gothenburg Protocol; Zero Pollution Action Plan (ZPAP)

Noise: Environmental Noise Directive (END); Zero Pollution Action Plan (ZPAP)

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB has successfully advocated for the strengthening of the Ambient Air Quality legislation and the full implementation of existing provisions, the reduction of national emissions through effective National Air Pollution Control Programmes and supported the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol (e.g., broadening its scope to also cover methane); for the strengthening of and buying into the Zero Pollution Action Plan and its core zero pollution ambition, including for domestic heating and agricultural sources. By that time, the European Commission will have started the revision of the Environmental Noise Directive and the promotion of meaningful actions to reduce environmental noise pollution through the Zero Pollution Action Plan.



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – AIR QUALITY AND NOISE : II

ACTIVITIES

1. Strengthening the EU Ambient Air Quality legislation.

The EEB will continue to promote a strengthening of the Ambient Air Quality legislation and its full implementation. The revision (recast) of the Ambient Air Quality Directives is expected to end by May 2024, with a revised legislation to be adopted by then. The EEB will continue to engage with the Council, European Parliament and Commission on the last part of the revision process and on the following implementation phase. The EEB will also continue to cooperate with other relevant stakeholders.

2. Reducing national emissions through commitments under the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NECD) and the Gothenburg Protocol.

The EEB will continue to monitor and seek to influence the implementation of the National Air Pollution Control Programmes (NAPCPs) to at least reach National Emission Reduction Targets identified by the NECD and support an ambitious review of the Gothenburg Protocol (a decision on the possible revision of the Gothenburg Protocol is expected to be taken in December 2023 – with, as a consequence, a negotiation process at UNECE level starting immediately after). In addition, the EEB will continue cooperating with other relevant stakeholders.

3. Promoting a transformative Zero-Pollution Action Plan.

The EEB will advocate for the objective of zero pollution to become a cross-cutting target recognised in relevant EU legislation and policies, as carbon neutrality is now, as well as promote the preventative approach and reduction of pollution at source. The EEB's focus will in particular be on emissions from agriculture and heating, which are still disregarded sources of air pollution. Dedicated instruments (legislative and policies) should be put in place to prevent pollution.

4. Strengthening the Environmental Noise Directive (END).

If and when the revision of the END is announced, the EEB will also advocate for binding noise reduction targets in the new directive. The EEB will keep cooperating, where possible, with other relevant stakeholders.



COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS: I

DESCRIPTION

The work done under Communications will focus on strengthening the EEB's communications area to accompany the organisation's growth, formalising processes to ensure coherence in the organisation's communications outputs. A shared understanding of what the EEB's voice should be and of how communications, used strategically, can serve to underpin the objectives of the more policy-focused work areas, can significantly strengthen thematic policy areas. Externally, a strategic use of digital tools can help broaden the EEB's reach, increase engagement and ensure the buy-in of policymakers, members and the broader citizens' movement. A reformulation of its digital presence and a 'from-the-outside-in' communication across the organisation's different platforms will further increase the impact and reach of the EEB's content.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB will be well underway in its efforts to professionalise communications, both internally as a work area and externally as a tool to effectively advocate for the EEB's causes. Internally, it will have introduced fundamental strategic changes to evolve communications at the EEB, having achieved a shared organisational understanding of how Policy Communications and Core Communications work areas build on each other, and how they help achieve more efficient and coherent processes, while allowing team members to play to their strengths. Externally, the strengthening of the EEB's core communications will have started translating into more professional and effective communications output by the Policy Communications Team, as well as the development of the EEB's flagship products by the Core Communications Team.

The logo for METTA, featuring the word 'METTA' in a bold, green, sans-serif font. The letters are filled with a white, stylized pattern of thin lines that resemble a network or a molecular structure. The logo is set against a white rectangular background.

NEWS FOR A GREENER EUROPE

COMMUNICATIONS: II

ACTIVITIES

1. *Formalising communications.*

The complexity and size of the organisation's work areas requires a broader formalisation of communications processes to ensure coherence in the communications outputs and a shared understanding not only of what the EEB voice should be, but also of how communications, used strategically, can serve to underpin the objectives of the more policy-focused work areas. Significant thematic policy areas can be strengthened by operating within a supportive communications framework.

The way the communications work area is structured needs to evolve accordingly; policy areas are increasingly linked – even interdependent – and a continuous dialogue is needed to ensure that the EEB's narrative is coherent, and that synergies and communications opportunities are not missed. Formalising communications is therefore needed to foster an organisation-wide understanding of communications, ensure coherence, and build up basic communications expertise across all relevant work areas. It also requires formulating new options for a more agile organisational set-up.

2. *Communicating from the 'outside in'.*

As the organisation grows, more content is produced by a growing number of staff members across the different policy work areas. A revision of the EEB's standard publications and flagship products and the assessment of their suitability to meet the organisation's goals, in line with its long-term strategy, will contribute to greater coherence in how the EEB presents itself and its work. An important aspect of this revision is that the EEB needs to consistently present its work with a given, external audience in mind. Content can, for example, have a narrower policy focus or reflect internal structures, rather than be adapted to a non-expert audience. This can lead to missed opportunities to communicate more broadly on the topic, increasing the mileage for the content produced, for both the EEB and its network. The organisation will benefit from reformulating its digital presence and communicating 'from the outside in', meaning from the perspective of the 'digital onlooker', i.e., the EEB's target audience(s), to increase the impact and reach of its content. The EEB, as an organisation, must be easily understood and its external presentation seen as coherent.

3. *Harnessing the potential of digital communication.*

Communications, as an organisational tool, has evolved into being predominantly digital and fast-changing. On the one hand, this offers the EEBs the opportunity to reach a much broader audience, but on the other, it also requires accompanying developments and using the appropriate tools and platforms. To maximise its reach and launch new communications products that will help reinforce the EEB's relevance in the eyes of members and other stakeholders, the organisation will assess its digital capabilities and identify areas for improvement and propose solutions. It will work towards a broader organisational digital know-how and use its digital tools to reach a targeted but broad audience.

4. *Upholding a regular flow of communications output.*

The Policy Communications Team will continue supporting the different policy topics with regular output of content for a broad readership on META, as well as journalists and other stakeholders. Fundraising for designated positions in the Communications Team will further allow it to support communicating around the EEB's 50th anniversary, as well as the EEB's work around the European Parliament elections.



MEMBERSHIP, PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS



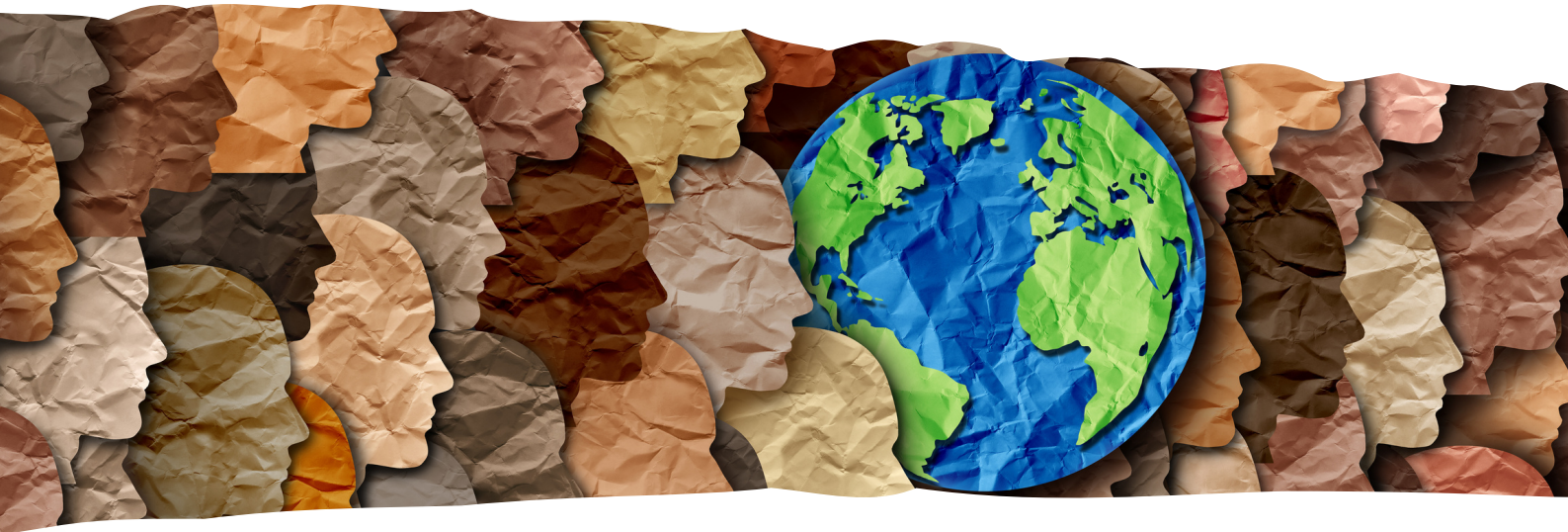
MEMBERSHIP, PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS: I

DESCRIPTION

The work done under Membership, Partnerships and Events will focus on the organic growth of the EEB's membership while the organisation strives to become an even more comprehensive umbrella network. The EEB will ensure that all members are empowered to act by offering networking opportunities and advocacy tools. There will be a special focus on a) mobilising civil society in connection with the European Parliament elections in spring 2024, b) the EEB's 50th Anniversary in 2024 and c) further improving and extending the functionalities in the organisation's new software platform for project and finance management to also include a powerful advocacy database, a membership engagement and events portal and tools for core communications and outreach work. The EEB will also continue to establish and further develop effective partnerships with like-minded organisations and institutions, organise relevant and attractive events and reflect on the frequency, funding model and format of its events.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB will have an even broader and more diverse membership that is empowered and engaged with an increased capacity to advocate.





MEMBERSHIP, PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS: II

ACTIVITIES

1. Promoting organic growth of the membership.

In 2024, the EEB will continue to reach out to potential members, be they national, European or other types of organisations – with a special focus on countries or topics where the EEB membership is underrepresented (countries include Italy and France as well as countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, and topics include nuclear, health and youth) and countries where the EEB is not yet represented (some EU candidate and neighbourhood countries).

2. Ensuring an empowered and engaged membership.

In 2024, the EEB will continue to ensure that all members are empowered to act by offering the opportunity for close co-operation, networking, information exchange and capacity building on key environmental issues. The working groups are the primary forum through which EEB members collaborate. Rules and guidelines governing the working groups are kept under regular review and all new EEB staff get an introduction to the purpose and functioning of the working groups. Efforts will be made to further strengthen common ownership and actions and to boost membership engagement in the working groups in 2024. This will include regular exchanges between working group chairs to exchange on best practices. Throughout the year, the EEB will also continue to strive to apply for funding for joint projects with its members where feasible. The EEB will focus on further improving and extending the functionalities in the organisation's new software platform for project and finance management. The aim is for the platform to also include a powerful advocacy database for strategic monitoring and extended outreach, a membership engagement and events portal, tools for core communications (mailing-lists and newsletters). The pace at which the new functionalities will be introduced is subject to funding and staff resources.

The EEB strongly condemns the Russian Federation's invasion of and war on Ukraine launched on 24 February 2022. The EEB will continue to stand in solidarity with its member organisations and their supporters in Ukraine, as well as wider civil society, people who have been working tirelessly for a sustainable future for their country. The EEB works with donors and in coalitions to offer its support so that they can continue their work, remain engaged in different European networks and coalitions and/or work towards peace in their country.

Concerning the European elections, the EEB will intensify its work during the months leading up to the vote in spring 2024, and work closely with members, partners and coalitions to mobilise civil society. After the elections, the EEB will focus on presenting its civil society demands to the new European Commission and new European Parliament.

As usual, the EEB will also consolidate the network and make sure that the membership services and capacity building offer remains relevant – including for its membership base outside the EU - by carrying out a review of membership services and benefits considering feedback from the annual membership satisfaction survey.

3. Organising well-attended and interactive events.

In 2024, the EEB will continue to organise regular events that bring together members of the environmental movement across Europe with policy makers, other civil society actors, thought leaders as well as entrepreneurs to debate shared challenges and opportunities. Specific 2024 focus areas include a) further improving the quality of EEB hybrid events (networking with other NGOs, in-house capacity building and training), b) audience segmentation and development and c) moving the EEB event portal to the organisation's new software platform. The 2024 Annual Conference will be held in Brussels in spring. It will focus on the European Parliament elections and be an occasion to celebrate the EEB's 50th Anniversary (size of event and celebrations will be subject to funding).



STAFF, ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE



STAFF, ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE : I

DESCRIPTION

The work done under Organisational Development will focus on ensuring that the EEB continues to evolve as an efficient, effective and financially sustainable organisation with the desired political impact to achieve its mission. As agreed in its Long-Term Strategy (LTS), the EEB implemented a governance reform in 2023 which consisted of establishing a smaller Board and simultaneously transforming the previous large Board into a Council with a more political role. In 2024, the work of these new governance bodies will be evaluated and finetuned to ensure that the organisation remains fit for purpose. Another priority is to include measures to ensure staff wellbeing and to offer training opportunities where feasible. In 2024, the EEB will prepare for the mid-term review of its LTS planned for 2025 and further improve and extend the functionalities in the organisation's new software platform for project and finance management to also include a powerful advocacy database, a membership engagement and events portal and tools for core communications and outreach work.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2024, the EEB will have continued to be a value-driven and effective organisation multiplying its impact through a living Long-Term Strategy (LTS), invested in staff wellbeing and training opportunities, strengthened its capacity to fundraise and further developed the software platform to serve the organisation.





STAFF, ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE : II

ACTIVITIES

1. Boosting organisational development and capacity building.

In 2024, the EEB will continue to reach out to potential members, be they national, European or other types of organisations – with a special focus on countries or topics where the EEB membership is underrepresented (countries include Italy and France as well as countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, and topics include nuclear, health and youth) and countries where the EEB is not yet represented (some EU candidate and neighbourhood countries).

2. Implementing and evaluating the 2022-2024 Fundraising Strategy and developing a new Fundraising Strategy for the coming years.

The EEB will continue its work to have secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources in 2024 to deliver on the EEB's mandate, in line with the strategic outcomes set out in the EEB's Long-Term Strategy 2020–2030, the fundraising strategy for 2022-2024 and the EEB work programme for 2024. To this end, the EEB will work to maintain funding from existing donors and secure funding from new donors, while keeping its total expenditure under control with sufficient safeguards and maintaining sufficient reserves. With 2024 marking the end of the current EEB fundraising strategy, the EEB will conduct an evaluation of the 2022-2024 Fundraising strategy and develop its next Fundraising Strategy based on the learnings.

3. Ensuring strategic and sustainable growth and wellbeing of the EEB staff.

To remain a central player, the EEB needs to continue to attract and retain highly skilled individuals by making sure that what is on offer is attractive and sustainable. Employees are likely to expect more flexibility and freedom to be mobile and work remotely in the future. The EEB's work regulations and contract templates are kept under review to integrate new laws and regulations as they are introduced. Staff are kept abreast of new developments via EEB HR newsletters and mailings, HR clinics and in monthly staff meetings. Staff wellbeing is monitored via a staff survey conducted twice a year. The EEB also participates in surveys regarding salary benchmarks in the sector to ensure that the EEB salary and benefits package remains competitive and attractive. In light of the growing number of staff in recent years, the EEB will focus on investigating options and finding solutions to make best use of its office space and on reinforcing its organisational identity and shared sense of purpose among staff. The organisation's plan for sustainable growth and consolidation will be reviewed on an annual basis - in connection with the development of next year's budget and strategic recruitment needs for 2025.

4. Monitoring and evaluating the Long-Term Strategy.

In 2024, the EEB will continue to monitor progress towards achieving its LTS objectives with the help of EEB staff and members (through its [Working Groups](#)). The EEB is committed to keeping the LTS a living document and working tool that staff and members come back to review their areas of work on an ongoing basis. The aim is for the Theory of Change (ToC) methodology to become an integral part of how the EEB designs and implements projects and activities together with its members. In 2024, the EEB will plan and prepare for the mid-term review of the LTS foreseen for 2025.



BUDGET 2024

BUDGET FOR 2024

GENERAL COSTS

Office Costs	244.549 EUR
Office Supplies	49.624 EUR
IT & Internal Communications & infrastructure	84.083 EUR
Depreciation	123.895 EUR
Financial costs	21.375 EUR
Other costs & unforeseen expenditures	241.571 EUR
Sub-total	765.097 EUR

ACTIVITIES AND SUBGRANTING

Management & Governance	10.000 EUR
Policy Divisions	1.380.663 EUR
Membership & Development Division	276.920 EUR
Communications teams	41.600 EUR
Finance, Personnel, IT and Office Management teams	256.603 EUR
Sub-total	1.965.786 EUR

SALARY COSTS

Management & Governance	349.746 EUR
Policy Divisions	3.195.013 EUR
Membership & Development Division	361.438 EUR
Communications teams	854.257 EUR
Finance, Personnel, IT and Office Management teams	749.960 EUR
Sub-total	5.510.414 EUR

TOTAL 2024 BUDGET

Total	8.241.297 EUR
--------------	----------------------



J O I N U S

MEMBERSHIP

Our members are integral to the EEB at every level: from composing the content of EEB's policy proposals, to advocating our positions in Europe and beyond, to the governance of the organisation itself.

The EEB has four membership categories: full members, associate members, affiliate members and honorary members. Member organisations, whether full, associate or affiliate members, may be national member organisations, European member organisations or others. The EEB is the only European umbrella organisation that covers such many environmental policy issues and that is open to membership for all bona fide environmental NGOs regardless of the environmental topic they work on. Our members range from small national NGOs working on a specific topic like for example chemicals, national federations that unite the movement in that country by bringing together hundreds of thousands of individuals, European networks working on broad topics including gender equality, and international NGOs. We also have a wide range of partners and are engaged in many coalitions.

Our Working Groups - a dynamic forum for collaboration

The EEB Working Groups play a central role in the daily work of the EEB. They are the primary forum through which EEB members collaborate with each other on substantive issues as they bring together environmentalists from all over Europe to discuss the priorities set by EEB members in the organisation's EEB Long-Term Strategy 2020-2030 and annual work programmes. The Working Groups allow members to agree EEB's policy positions and develop joint strategies to influence policies at a national, European and international level. They also facilitate the sharing of best practice, meetings with policy experts and allow participants to keep up to date with the latest political developments in Brussels, Europe and beyond.

Join us! Here is what we offer:

- Close co-operation on the most pressing environmental issues with environmentalists from all over Europe
- Tailor-made information about what is happening at EU level in the field of the environment
- Tools to help you in your advocacy work back home
- Dedicated working groups on many of the issues covered by the EEB
- Contributions towards travel and accommodation costs to attend EEB events (for full members)
- Visibility and outreach

For more information about membership and how to join, visit our [membership pages](#)



WORK PROGRAMME 2024

The EEB is an International non-profit association /
Association internationale sans but lucratif (AISBL).
EC register for interest representatives:
Identification number 06798511314-27
BCE identification number: 0415.814.848
RPM Tribunal de l'entreprise francophone de Bruxelles

Published: February 2024
Responsible editor: Patrick ten Brink

European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
Rue des Deux Eglises 14-16
1000 Brussels, Belgium
+32 (0)2 289 1090
eeb@eeb.org
eeb.org
meta.eeb.org

