

2024

ANNUAL REPORT





Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations

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2024: A PIVOTAL YEAR

2024 was a pivotal year in European environmental policy, with the end of the first Ursula von der Leyen Commission marred by farmers' strikes and the pushback of conservatives and far-right forces against the European Green Deal (EGD). As a consequence, a range of important issues were dropped, other proposals for stronger environmental protection were diluted or delayed.

The European Parliament elections saw a shift in power to the right and far right, with weakened Green and Liberal (RENEW) groups, stable Socialists (S&D) and Left, and a dominant European Peoples' Party (EPP). A slim majority re-elected President von der Leyen on the grounds of her political guidelines that committed to the EGD, while embracing industry competitiveness and a strong simplification agenda. The election of a second Trump administration also ushered in a chaotic new world order, at time which was both marked by an increasing number of conflicts but also ever increasing proof of climate change impact.

The Council Presidency was held by Belgium in the first half, advancing on the just transition and reiterating the importance of the EGD, and by Hungary, covering the transition six months as the new EP and Commission settled in.

In May 2024, the EEB organised its well-attended, 50th Anniversary Conference to celebrate half a century of policy impact with its members, partners and stakeholders. The event was organised in collaboration with the [Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#) and [Bruxelles Environment](#). On the same occasion, the EEB launched its agenda for the next legislative cycle (2024-2029): The European Pact for the Future: A Green and Social Deal for a One-Planet Economy. Over 300 organisations and 1100 individuals, including a range of VIPs, signed up to this agenda of hope. Wide consultation across civil society and stakeholders informed the Pact and it built on the scientific and real-world evidence of the triple climate-pollution-nature crisis and its impacts.

The costs of policy inaction and the impacts on human health, well-being, and the environment are unacceptable. The Pact highlights the opportunities for a just transition, for quality jobs, for security and autonomy by moving to independence from fossil fuel imports, and embracing more fully a circular economy, safeguarding ecosystem and through this climate resilience, for improving human health and wellbeing, for creating fair and equal partnerships internationally, practising solidarity and supporting the rule of law and human rights and collaborative global governance and shared values. The list goes on.

However, we also witnessed a strong push back by vested interests, certain political forces within the EU, and interference by third parties, often using disinformation and false arguments to halt progress or unravel commitments, potentially turning the tides on the progress made under the EGD.

We also experienced first hand the concerted attacks on civil society, seeking to undermine critical voices and progressive environmental and climate policy, and, from certain quarters, aiming to undermine the European Project itself and weaken democracy. While the 2025 agenda and priorities are shifting to international competitiveness, security and defence, the EGD and the Pact for the Future are agendas not only still relevant, but decisive for future security and resilience at many levels – and the EEB is proud to have been amongst the voices that have been heard loudly and clearly in 2024 advocating for long-term sustainability, increased environmental ambition and healthy democracies.



Patrick ten Brink
Secretary General



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With 2024 marking an important political milestone for the EU, the EEB actively engaged in the EU elections through the Vote for Nature Alliance (VNA), successfully mobilising national partners and voters, and securing recognition of the climate-nature-pollution crisis in the EU Strategic Agenda and the need to pursue the course of the EGD in the political guidelines. The European Pact for the Future was published, endorsed by some policymakers, hundreds of organisations and over a thousand individuals. The EEB also actively engaged with EU Council Presidencies, through its traditional 10 Green tests and by fostering high-level political dialogue.

2024 marked a key year for the EEB in terms of political milestones, with the EU elections in June. To engage and advocate for environmental priorities, the EEB joined forces with four other environmental NGOs to form the Vote for Nature Alliance (VNA) — namely Birdlife Europe, CAN Europe, Transport & Environment, and WWF EPO — leading a joint election campaign to mobilise voter turnout, raise awareness of the climate-nature-pollution crisis, and tackle disinformation. To support this, we engaged with our members through monthly campaign calls and weekly updates, sharing tailored policy and communication toolkits for national use. Among other activities, we hosted a training workshop on disinformation in March, released a report 'What the EU has done for you and the planet' and a scoreboard ranking EU political groups based on their voting records against NGO recommendations.

This was complemented by a communications campaign, including message testing, videos, and visual materials adaptable to members' branding and languages. In parallel, the EEB and the VNA advocated for the Strategic Agenda 2024–2029, where Heads of State define EU priorities. Thanks to the EEB's and its members' efforts, the triple crisis was acknowledged in the final agenda. Post-elections, we also participated in the Commissioner hearings with the VNA to ensure our key priorities

were reflected in both written and oral questions — successfully influencing several of them.

In 2024, we also published our European Pact for the Future, outlining 12 priorities for a green and social deal toward a one-planet economy. Work on the Pact began in 2023 included several consultations with key stakeholders and decision makers, and its publication marked a major milestone, reinforcing EEB's vision for a strong successor to the European Green Deal. It was presented widely in meetings with decision-makers and at the EEB 2024 Annual Conference, hosted by Bruxelles Environnement under the Belgian Presidency, with four Ministers/State Secretaries and other high-level guests attending. The Pact was made public via our website, translated into 10 languages, and gathered widespread support — signed by hundreds of organisations, over a thousand individuals, including MEPs and Environment Ministers, such as Germany and Austria. In September, we followed up with a detailed Action Plan, offering concrete legislative recommendations for the next EU cycle.

EEB also continued its engagement with the Council Presidencies, particularly through the "10 Green Tests" initiative. In July, we assessed the Belgian Presidency and released the memorandum to the Hungarian one - and in December evaluated Hungary's performance. Ahead of Poland's 2025 EU Council Presidency, we prepared the Polish Council Presidency Memorandum and the Memorandum for Poland, Denmark and Cyprus Council presidency trio. We worked closely with the Belgian Presidency and, during Hungary's term, organised a successful reception in Brussels before the December Environment Council, attended by several Environment Ministers and government representatives. The EEB went twice to Warsaw for the Green Spider network meeting on disinformation and held a board meeting there, met with the Deputy Minister, and joined the informal Ministers' meeting in April, focused on climate disinformation and adaptation.

European Institutions and Governance





Environmental Law and Justice

In a year marked by shifting political winds and rising deregulation, the EEB remained steadfast in its mission to defend strong environmental governance and public participation across the EU. As the last major files of the European Green Deal moved forward, we continued pushing for stronger access to justice—ensuring that environmental laws do not just exist on paper but are enforceable and open to public scrutiny.

We kept pressure on the EU to address its long-standing non-compliance with the Aarhus Convention, particularly the lack of mechanisms allowing the public to challenge state aid decisions. We also raised concerns over weak public engagement in climate governance, especially in National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs), calling for stronger participation requirements under the Governance Regulation.

As deregulation gained momentum, the EEB emphasised the urgent need to implement existing EU environmental laws. We highlighted risks of weakening core standards in new permitting processes and called for inclusive public participation to ensure broad support for green projects—not just approval driven by private investment interests.

Throughout 2024, we continued to guide civil society efforts in the Aarhus Convention. As coordinator of the Aarhus ECO Forum, we contributed to the work of the Convention's task forces and Working Group of the Parties. As financial support for this work dwindled, we urged Parties to step up their contributions—particularly to sustain the critical role of the Compliance Committee.

In June, we began coordinating the new BE LIFE project, focused on capacity-building for environmental defenders. This project brought fresh momentum, including the revival of an expert support group to guide individuals in bringing cases before the Committee.

After years of advocacy, the EU adopted the Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence Directive in 2024—a milestone requiring companies to identify and address human rights and environmental impacts. Despite its shortcomings, it marks the EU's first binding step on corporate accountability, with the EEB playing a key role through its part in the Justice is Everybody's Business coalition.

The EEB continued to spotlight environmental injustice, from mining impacts on local communities to the disproportionate burdens faced by Roma populations, and even the challenges faced by environmental defenders, including SLAPPs (strategic litigation against public participation). In partnership with civil society groups, we secured funding under the EU's CERV programme for a new initiative: Environmental Justice for Unheard Communities, launching in 2025.

Whether in courtrooms, coalitions, or communities, the EEB's work in 2024 has underscored one thing: Environmental justice and public participation are not optional—they are the backbone of sustainable and democratic environmental policy.

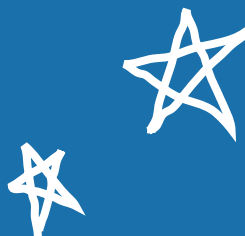
We'll carry this fight forward into 2025 and beyond.

From high-stakes negotiations at the UN Environment Assembly to supporting the environmental movement in Ukraine, 2024 was a year of action for the EEB on the global stage. We worked to ensure that civil society had a real say in key environmental decisions, pushing for ambitious policies and stronger collaboration. Our efforts paid off—whether by shaping UNEA resolutions, expanding our network in conflict-affected regions, or securing another mandate to represent European stakeholders in global environmental governance.

Civil society made its mark at UNEA 6, as the EEB, alongside Women Engage for a Common Future and Journalists for Human Rights, partnered with UN Environment to organise the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum. Hundreds of civil society organisations (CSOs) gathered in Nairobi to make sure their voices were heard, influencing critical UNEA resolutions on raw materials and the devastating environmental impact of conflicts. The message was clear: global policies cannot be shaped without those on the frontlines of environmental and social justice.

Strengthening solidarity with Ukraine took center stage as the EEB welcomed Eco-Club Rivne as its fourth member from the country. But solidarity wasn't just symbolic—newly elected EEB President Toni Vidan travelled to Ukraine in June 2024 to meet with local members, understand their challenges firsthand, and build joint actions to address environmental destruction in times of crisis. In a year of war and resilience, supporting Ukrainian environmental defenders became more crucial than ever.

A renewed mandate on the global stage came in December, when the EEB was re-elected to represent European stakeholders in UN Environment's key processes, including future UNEA sessions. This vote of confidence reinforced the EEB's role as a bridge between grassroots activism and high-level policymaking. With urgent environmental crises unfolding worldwide, keeping civil society at the heart of global decision-making remains our top priority.



Global and Regional Policies



Economic Transition

In a year demanding urgent action to address the intertwined crises of climate breakdown and social inequality, and amidst growing geopolitical uncertainties impacting raw material supply chains, the EEB intensified its advocacy for systemic change towards a wellbeing economy. Recognising the urgent need for a resilient, just, and environmentally sound economy, we focused amongst others, on influencing key policy decisions related to fiscal rules, trade, and the governance of critical raw materials.

We continued to engage in the reform process of the EU fiscal rules, publishing statements and sending open letters to Heads of State, advocating for fiscal frameworks that enable public investment in care, climate, and social infrastructure. While the fiscal reform fell short of expectations, the EEB secured a few key wins, such as stronger climate and social considerations in EU fiscal rules. We also helped challenge the dominant narrative that public debt is inherently bad and that private finance alone can close the green funding gap.

The EEB was a key contributor to a working paper on reforming European trade policy to align with planetary boundaries and wellbeing economy principles. This initiative addressed the pressing need to rethink trade considering ecological limits and social equity. We translated this into a policy brief and hosted a launch event at our offices, featuring the lead authors, a representative from the World Fair Trade Organisation, and Olivier Derruine, APA to MEP Saskia Bricmont, fostering dialogue on a post-growth trade paradigm.

Furthermore, we advanced resource justice by expanding the EU Raw Materials Coalition to over 60 members from 22 European countries, enhancing our ability to monitor and influence the Critical Raw Materials Regulation. This expansion reflects the growing recognition of the strategic importance of including civil society in the discussion of the raw materials for the EU's green transition and industrial decarbonisation.

At the 6th session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA6), the EEB played a pivotal role in advocating for a robust UN Minerals Resolution. At this world's highest-level decision-making event on the environment, the EEB organised a side event and conducted targeted advocacy, highlighting the global dimension of sustainable resource management.

These actions reflect our commitment to addressing the EU's complex socio-economic and resource challenges by embedding environmental and social sustainability at the heart of policymaking. Rather than prioritising growth at all costs, we aim to align economic resilience with planetary boundaries and social equity, paving the way for a post-growth future that centres wellbeing, care, and sufficiency.



In 2024, the EEB's steadfast commitment to biodiversity, forest, water and soil protection was tested by mounting political pressure and rising misinformation. Yet, amid the noise, our working groups achieved real progress and defended the European Green Deal.

Our **#RestoreNature** campaign mobilised citizens, scientists and progressive businesses to secure the adoption of the EU's Nature Restoration Law — despite an intense wave of disinformation and politically motivated attacks led by conservative and far-right forces. If implemented fully, this landmark legislation could become a powerful tool in addressing both the biodiversity loss crisis and climate change.

We also continued our support for EU co-legislators in their efforts to reach an agreement on two vital Green Deal initiatives: the Soil Monitoring Law, Forest Monitoring Law, as well as the obligation to update of priority water pollutants, with trilogue starting 2025. These negotiations are ongoing as a result of EEB advocacy, even as the broader Green Deal agenda faces growing resistance. We also recognise the leadership and expertise of Fern and Seas at Risk (SaR), two of the EEB's members, on forest and marine issues respectively, and readily supported and complemented their advocacy activities on these matters.

In 2024, the EEB also focused on upholding and strengthening EU water policies. We contributed to the evaluation of the Nitrates Directive and opposed attempts to weaken its environmental protections, backed the update of priority water pollutants, opposed Member States' attempts weaken and delay the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, and promoted the upcoming EU Water Resilience Strategy, expected by summer 2025. Despite political pushback, the EEB continued to push for sustainable

and climate-resilient water management under the Green Deal. We also addressed weak implementation of EU water laws by supporting national-level enforcement and restoration efforts, including guidance on river barrier removal. Through its Biodiversity, Soil and Water Working Group and broader coalitions, the EEB worked to safeguard and advance EU water legislation amidst growing environmental and political challenges.

Despite the challenging climate, 2024 saw continued momentum on the rollout of Green Deal commitments in key areas, such as biodiversity, forests, soils, and water. Progress remains uneven across the EU, but efforts to restore nature, improve soil health, and drive ecologically sustainable and climate-resilient water management are pressing forward.

However, not all developments have been positive. The effective implementation of the EU's nature and water laws remains challenging mainly due to lack of political will to properly tackle drivers and pressures of deterioration in the status of EU's nature, water and soil. We are committed to build the capacity of national NGOs to support the implementation according to EU-level guidance.

Finally, the year marked a troubling shift with the politically driven downgrading of the wolf's protection status under international law — an alarming signal that existing environmental safeguards are under threat. Similar efforts are now targeting EU-level protections. The EEB remains resolute in defending the integrity of EU Nature Laws against such backsliding.

This year has shown us that progress is possible — but only if we stand firm and united. 2025 will need to build on 2024's resistance against any erosion of nature laws.



Biodiversity, Water and Soil



Agriculture and Food

In early 2024, massive farmer protests swept across Europe, exposing frustrations towards deep inequalities in Europe's food system. As wealth and power have concentrated in the hands of big agribusiness, small and medium-size farmers have faced lower pay and worsening conditions. We've long stood for a fairer, more balanced agricultural model — but powerful lobbies twisted farmer frustrations to instead attack environmental protections.

To make matters more challenging, EU policymakers bowed to corporate pressure by stripping the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of key environmental rules — a regrettable move that is mirrored in wider rollbacks of the EU's flagship Green Deal efforts, which are needed now more than ever.

The EEB came out loudly to stand with farmers suffering under this unequal and exploitative system, and to remind EU and national policymakers that environmental protections are vital for protecting agricultural land, as well as farmers' health and livelihoods. Our messages began to land, with an exponential increase in mentions of the EEB in EU and national media, and our online audiences growing by thousands.

The EEB participated in the 7-month Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture, in which we were among 29 stakeholders agreeing to the [unprecedented final consensus report](#), which we have presented in several fora, including the Commission's flagship Annual Agricultural Outlook Conference. The result of long and complex deliberations, this consensus was a historic achievement. It included a clear agreement to, among other things, redirect public funds away from wealthy agribusinesses and to the farms that need the most support, while increasing funding for environmental measures, as well as a clear call to act on the European Citizens' Initiative "End the Cage Age."

Speaking of ending the use of cages, in 2024, the EEB published our [first position paper](#) on animal welfare. We highlight the inherent links between poor animal welfare standards and a number of growing crises facing human and environmental health. We stand committed to holding EU policymakers to account and deliver on their repeated promises to revise and improve EU animal welfare legislation and to "End the Cage Age."

In 2024, the EEB was also one of the first environmental NGOs to enter the debate surrounding an Emissions Trading System for EU agriculture, for which we published a [policy briefing](#) outlining how such a system should be designed, and what it should include. We look forward to continuing to support the development of an effective system that works for farmers and climate.

At the end of the year, the EEB was among a coalition of 35 EU level organisations [writing to the new Commissioner for Agriculture and Food](#), Christophe Hansen, to call for an ambitious Vision for Agriculture and Food that delivers on the key recommendations of the Strategic Dialogue.





2024 marked a significant year for circular economy in the EU, with advancements towards sustainable resource use, greener products, waste reduction, and the fight against greenwashing. In an important election year, the EU kept circular economy high on the political agenda, with a Commissioner carrying it in their title for the first time ever. The EEB's relentless advocacy played a key role in driving these developments.

Aligning resource use with planetary boundaries: The EEB's calls to curb resource overconsumption gained traction with EU Member States. In the [Council conclusions](#) on the review of the 8th Environmental Action Programme, national governments unanimously requested the Commission to set goals for sustainable resource use, and consider science-based targets to reduce material and consumption footprints.

Transforming the way the EU handles packaging: despite unprecedented lobbying efforts to dilute it, the new EU Regulation on Packaging and Packaging Waste retained key prevention measures advocated by the EEB, including binding reduction and reuse targets, restrictions on unnecessary single-use plastic packaging, stricter rules on hazardous substances, and a restriction of 'forever chemicals' (PFAS) in food packaging.

Improving end-of-life management for vehicles, textiles and food: in 2024, the EEB became the go-to environmental NGO

working on the EU law on Vehicles Design and End-of-Life Management, coordinating civil society input to the negotiations, and forging coalitions with industry players on [recycled content targets, design, disassembly and repair](#). Within the Waste Framework Directive negotiations, the EEB helped push towards binding food waste prevention targets for households and manufacturing, and higher ambition on Extended Producer Responsibility and eco-modulation for textiles.

Combating greenwashing: the European Parliament adopted a strong position on the Green Claims Directive, including the establishment of a Green Claims Consultation Forum that involves civil society — a key demand of the EEB and other NGOs. Besides, the EEB continued supporting the development and promotion of the EU Ecolabel.

Promoting a circular built environment: the [Exhibition "Rethinking European Homes"](#) highlighted essential factors for fostering a sustainable built environment. The opening night attracted 150 attendees, including policymakers, industry representatives and civil society members. The exhibition shone a spotlight on how we can achieve affordable housing with existing building stock, and featured thematic side events on decarbonised steel and cement procurement, as well as on heating and cooling solutions.

Circular Economy





Energy and Climate

The EEB has been a key player in pushing for a nature-positive and people-centric energy agenda. Thanks to our advocacy, the Commission's guidance on Renewable Acceleration Areas includes improved language on stakeholder engagement and biodiversity safeguards.

We shaped the EU Council Conclusions on power grids, securing recognition for flexibility and storage as key enablers of a renewables-dominated system. We also contributed to the land-use debate at national level by launching a ground-breaking report proving Europe has enough space to deploy renewables in harmony with nature and agriculture.

We contributed to the final, and most ambitious yet, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, which includes solar roofs for new buildings, a ban on financing fossil boilers from 2025, and a phase-out of fossil fuels in buildings by 2040. We backed the upcoming Energy Label reform that will push fossil boilers to the lowest efficiency classes, nudging consumers towards clean heating solutions. We also celebrated the strengthened F-gas Regulation, which slashes emissions from the heating and cooling sector and curbs harmful PFAS use.

We co-led the civil society effort behind the Social Climate Fund, with NGOs agreeing on guiding principles for spending revenues from carbon pricing. Moreover, we helped spark a new EU-level conversation on raising ambition internationally to phase out F-gases under the Montreal Protocol. Our Energy & Climate Working Group continued to grow — welcoming new members, building momentum, and creating stronger connections across the network.

The EEB has played a key role in pushing industrial production standards to the top. We've significantly shaped EU industrial policy by strengthening environmental benchmarks in the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), and the new Industrial Emissions Portal (IEP).

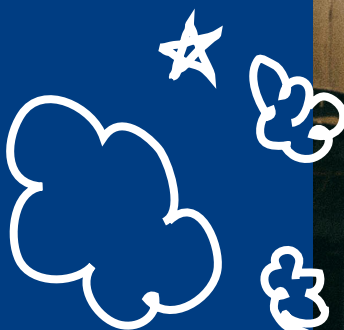
Thanks to our advocacy, more industrial activities are now covered under EU rules, decarbonisation and pollution are tackled more directly, and stricter permitting rules have been introduced — including a potential 90% carbon capture target and a zero-limit for certain hazardous substances.

Mandatory reporting on resource inputs and outputs is now in place. We are now focused on ensuring these improvements are properly implemented while continuing to push for ambitious permitting standards across high-impact sectors, such as chemicals, ceramics, mining, landfilling, and intensive livestock farming.

We have also built strong, broad-based coalitions to accelerate industrial transformation. The EEB initiated a landmark industry-NGO coalition united behind a shared “Vision for a Prosperous and Sustainable Industry” — a bold, future-ready blueprint for the EU focused on detoxification, de-pollution, decarbonisation, and ecosystem restoration. We play a leading role in several key alliances driving this agenda, including the European Fossil-Free Steel Network, the Alliance for Low-Clinker Concrete and Cement, and a new coalition in development on Green Public Procurement.

The EEB has also been a leading voice in shaping the future of steel. Our Steel Action Plan, which we have actively promoted to EU policymakers, champions circularity and electrification as the foundations of a climate-compatible steel sector. While the European Commission's recent plan still leaves room for improvement, it has taken up several of our key proposals — especially on the central role of circularity and electrification in the steel transition.

Zero Pollution Industry

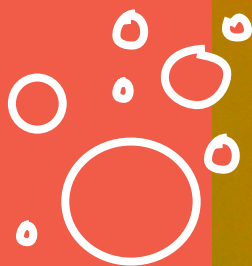


In 2024, the EEB strengthened its advocacy efforts and influence on chemicals policy through the production of high-impact materials such as welcome packs for policymakers, positions, briefings and letters, including letters to Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, by around 100 CSOs and from severely affected communities by chemical pollution. Through more than 100 advocacy meetings, including with 15 Vice-Presidents, Commissioners or their cabinets, as well as events and consultations, the EEB effectively engaged decision-makers to push for stronger policies.

The EEB also played a key role in strategic coalition building, successfully coordinating with NGOs, academia, journalists, affected citizens but also influencers through PFAS blood tests. This has resulted in increased awareness of the pollution crisis among citizens: for instance, our efforts helped mobilise over 150,000 petition signatures and contributed to decisive policy changes, including a national PFAS ban in France.

With this we've put further pressure on decision makers to advance the Restrictions Roadmap, including on the universal PFAS, PFHxA, PVC, Flame Retardants, Lead in Ammunition, etc.

Our work had a significant impact on policy and accountability, playing a pivotal role in the Ombudswoman's preliminary decision, which concluded that the Commission's delays in addressing dangerous chemicals amount to maladministration. As a result of our advocacy, the European Parliament secured a strong position on the 'One Substance, One Assessment' package, covering most of our recommendations.



Chemicals





Mercury

In our ongoing pursuit of a future free from mercury pollution, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and the Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) continued our dedicated efforts in 2024 to achieve 'zero' emissions, demand, and supply of mercury from all controllable sources. Our overarching goal remains to minimise mercury in the environment, both within the European Union and globally.

This commitment yielded significant progress in July 2024 with the entry into force of the revised EU Mercury Regulation. This updated legislation incorporated several key recommendations that we advocated for, most notably an accelerated ban on dental amalgam, a prohibition on the export of mercury-containing lamps, and the introduction of new measures to evaluate emissions from crematoria and other applications.

On a global scale, we maintained our support for countries working to phase out mercury-added products under the Minamata Convention. Notably, materials we developed have now been integrated into the official training resources for the convention.

Furthering our impact, we forged a partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) to launch a new initiative dedicated to phasing out mercury-added skin-lightening products (SLPs). This work focuses on addressing online sales and actively contributes to ongoing intersessional discussions on cosmetics.

Capacity building remained a crucial element of our strategy. In Pakistan, a project specifically targeting SLPs concluded with a successful workshop, a [roundtable discussion](#) at the [27th Sustainable Development Conference](#), and several productive meetings with government officials. These efforts led to heightened awareness and increased action by national authorities. In the Philippines, our focus centered on enforcing recently enacted legislation aimed at regulating the online sale of SLPs. This involved [high-level meetings](#), comprehensive product testing, and a revealing video campaign that highlighted the continued presence of high mercury levels in these products.

2024 was a year of revisions and reviews on air policy with the EEB ensuring that civil society voices and recommendations were heard and understood at every step. With strong collaboration with members and partners, the EEB was a key player in ensuring an overall positive outcome in the revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directive. Key to this was our contributions ahead of trilogue negotiations, efforts to raise awareness of key issues among decision-makers, and advocacy meetings with co-legislators to ensure that civil society views were represented.

During the much needed review of the National Emission Reduction Commitments Directive (NECD) the EEB contributed to key public and expert consultations and successfully advocated for the consideration of key priorities, including: the importance of broadening of the scope of the Directive to include National Emission Reduction Targets for methane, black carbon and mercury; setting limitations for flexibility mechanisms; and increased ambition to reduce emissions in key polluting sectors, such as domestic heating and agriculture. When it came to the implementation of the NECD, we were successful in outlining the vital importance of ensuring that national authorities take the necessary steps to cut pollution at the source and at the very least deliver on existing legal obligations.

The EEB continued calls for meaningful action to cut emissions from domestic heating, the biggest source of particulate matter pollution in the EU, including an update of the EcoDesign standards for boilers and stoves. We also worked to highlight the residual role that these technologies, and biomass burning, will have within a pollution-free Europe.

In our ongoing engagement with the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, we have promoted civil society's views and considerations in all key UNECE meetings (including the necessity to establish reduction targets for methane, black carbon and mercury and limiting flexibilities) and ensured the visibility of available scientific evidence supporting an ambitious revision of this international instrument.

2024 saw the continuation of the EEB's participation in a project which aims to ensure deep reductions in methane emissions in Europe. Our area of focus in this project is on agricultural methane emissions, promoting the necessary reductions through technical and non-technical measures, including animal number reduction. Through this project we have ensured the active involvement of EEB members from key countries through sub-grants and active engagement with key decision-makers in Brussels and Geneva.

We kept up calls for the revision of the Environmental Noise Directive in key high-level meetings and papers and have suggested possible ways forward to ensure the issue gets visibility, broadly and within the new European Parliament.



Air Quality and Noise



Communications

In 2024, the EEB's communications team made significant strides and delivered even greater impact. By stepping up our communications efforts, including the launch of new social media accounts, a refreshed content creation strategy, a revamped META newsletter, and the rollout of a brand-new homepage, we significantly expanded our reach and engagement in Brussels and across Europe.

Behind the scenes, we sharpened our strategic approach. Grounded in evidence-based communications, we continuously learned, adapted, and improved our outputs to maximise positive impact across both digital and traditional media — all while navigating an increasingly complex political and media landscape.

A Milestone Year for Election Engagement: A major highlight of 2024 was our joint campaign around the European elections, as part of the Vote Nature Alliance (VNA), alongside BirdLife Europe, WWF Europe, Transport & Environment, and CAN Europe. For the first time, the EEB contributed to a get-out-the-vote effort for the EU elections, targeting civil society supporters within and beyond our networks.

The campaign, branded #votefutureEU, included: cross-European message testing to refine and optimise voter outreach; a high-impact visual campaign; an EU Scoreboard ranking political groups by their voting record on key files related to the triple crisis (climate, biodiversity, and pollution); a “What the EU has done for you and the planet” report, accompanied by video explainers linking positive EU action to voter mobilisation; strategic influencer engagement across Europe; multiple training sessions for our network and partners on social media engagement, press outreach, and countering disinformation. Our campaign reached hundreds of thousands of people, mobilising many to vote with nature and the planet in mind.

Becoming a Go-To Media Voice: In 2024, the EEB cemented its role as a trusted civil society voice on major EU topics, including the Strategic Agenda and Political Guidelines, as well as sectoral files on all topics already mentioned in this annual report. Our expert commentary featured prominently in Politico, Financial Times, Euronews, Contexte, Euractiv, The Parliament Magazine, and more, with coverage extending beyond the Brussels bubble to leading European outlets such as Le Monde, The Guardian, La Libre, Público, and El País, as well as a host of independent and freelance journalists and creators.

A Digital Presence That Delivers: In 2024, we unlocked new audiences by being present where future supporters already are. As one of the first major environmental networks in Brussels to invest in TikTok, we saw immediate impact, with one of our videos going viral and surpassing 800,000 views early on, paving the way for many more viral moments on TikTok and Instagram. In total, we reached over 6 million people across all platforms. Our LinkedIn community surpassed 50,000 followers, while our META newsletter readership surged, adding 18,000 new subscribers in one year to reach nearly 28,000 total. By the end of 2024, the newsletter was averaging over 10,000 weekly readers, securing its role as a must-read for EU environmental policy followers in Brussels and national capitals alike.

A Stronger Structure for Greater Strategic Impact: To support our growing ambition, we restructured the communications team into three focused task forces: Press & Newsletter; Social Media & Design; Web & Analytics. This internal reorganisation improved workflows, increased speed, and enhanced collaboration. The result: smarter campaigns, stronger narratives, wider reach, and a lasting impact.



Annual Accounts

Transparency about our work and finances are crucial; please see our independent auditor's report on our [about page](#).

In 2024, the EEB's finances showed solid growth, supported by increased contributions from a wide range of stakeholders.

The EEB's turnover reached **€8,359,129** in 2024, up from **€7,662,950** in 2023. This increase was driven by higher grants from philanthropic foundations, the European Union, governments, international organisations, and increased income from membership fees. Total expenditure for 2024 amounted to **€8,320,233**, leaving a **surplus of €38,896** at the end of the financial year.

Total reserves at the end of 2024 : €286,799

INCOME

FOUNDATIONS	4,909,787
EUROPEAN UNION	2,040,696
ORGANISATIONS	607,715
GOVERNMENTS	280,613
MEMBERSHIP FEES	302,554
OTHER INCOME	217,762
TOTAL INCOME	8,359,129

EXPENDITURE

GENERAL COSTS	838,331
TEAM AND ACTIVITY COST	7,481,902
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8,320,233



Donors

The EEB could not do what it does without the generosity of its donors and partners. Through their support, the EEB has 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 2024:

European Union through the European Commission

- DG Environment Service contracts
- DG Environment CINEA LIFE Programmes including via project led by Carbon Market Watch
- DG RTD Horizon Programme including via projects led by Stichting Wageningen Research (WUR), Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems (ISINNOVA), Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Southeast Technological University (SETU), Fundacion Circe Centro de Investigation de Recursos y Consumos Energeticos (CIRCE), Forschungszentrum Julich gmbh (JÜLICH), European Network of Living Labs ivzw (ENOLL), Soluciones Agrícolas Ecoinnovadoras (SL)
- DG IntPa via a project led by GOPA Worldwide Consultants GmbH
- European Education and Culture Executive Agency led by Legambiente Nazionale APS
- European Environmental Agency (EEA)

Governments

- The Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

- The Belgian Federal Public Service for Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment
- The Danish Ministry of the Environment
- The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH through projects led by Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs) and ECOS
- The Irish Government through the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
- The Finnish Ministry of the Environment
- The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) via direct funding as well as channelled via EURENI, including through projects led by CHEM Trust and Environmental Action Germany (DUH)
- The Luxembourg Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development
- The Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) channelled via The Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI) and The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)

Intergovernmental Organisations and Agencies

- OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- UNEP – The United Nations Environment Programme via direct funding as well as channelled via the European Development Fund (EDF) and the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (MC)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)

Foundations and other Organisations

- Adessium Foundation
- Article 19
- Bloomberg Philanthropies channelled via European Climate Foundation
- CLASP
- Clean Air Fund (CAF)
- ClimateWorks Foundation
- Circle Economy Foundation
- Ecological Restoration Fund
- European Climate Foundation (ECF)
- Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (EFF) channelled via CHEM Trust
- Fondation Hans Wilsdorf
- Global Methane Hub through a project led by Deutsche Umwelthilfe eV (DUH)
- Laudes Foundation directly as well

as channelled via Circle Economy Foundation

- Minor Foundation channelled via Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe)
- New Economics Foundation (NEF)
- Oak Foundation channelled via Swiss Philanthropy Foundation (SPF)
- Open Philanthropy Foundation
- Open Society Foundations (OSF)
- Plastic Solutions Fund channelled via Zero Waste Europe
- Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH channelled via TMG Think Tank
- Sequoia Climate Fund (SCF) and Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) channelled via Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA UK)
- Sigrid Rausing Trust Foundation
- Tides Foundation
- Tiina and Antti Herlin Foundation (TAH)

Membership

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

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

Our diverse membership includes small national NGOs, national federations, European networks and international NGOs, uniting hundreds of thousands of individuals dedicated to environmental causes.

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 on 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 practices, meetings with policy experts and allow participants to keep up to date with the latest political developments in Brussels, Europe and beyond.

NEW MEMBERS

In 2024, the EEB further expanded its membership base and legitimacy as the broadest umbrella network by welcoming **ten new members**, including, for the first time, an organisation from Albania.

- *Milieukontakt Albania (Albania)*
- *Landvernd - The Icelandic Environment Association (Iceland)*
- *Jesuit European Social Centre (European)*
- *Fundacja Kupuj Odpowiedzialnie (Buy Responsibly Foundation) (Poland)*
- *Leuven2030 (Belgium)*
- *Ecoclub (Ukraine)*
- *De Jonge Klimaatbeweging (Youth Climate Coalition) (Netherlands) Associate membership*
- *Generation Climate Europe (European) Associate membership*
- *Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) (European)*
- *Center for Participation and Collaboration – CPC (Georgia)*

By the end of 2024, the EEB boasted a total of **189 members across 41 countries**, demonstrating its broad geographical and thematic reach. You can find the full list of EEB members on the organisation's website.



Here's 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 and tools to help you in your advocacy work back home.
- Dedicated Working Groups on the majority of the issues covered by the EEB
- Contributions towards travel and accommodation costs to attend EEB events (for full members)
- Visibility and outreach

The EEB membership categories include **full members, associate members, affiliate members (under review) and honorary members.**

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

We also have a [wide range of partners](#) and are engaged in many coalitions.

Governance in Action



In 2024, the EEB Board made significant progress in advancing governance and policy initiatives. As the highest decision-making body under the General Assembly, the Board met regularly throughout the year to provide oversight and direction. In parallel, the EEB Council served as a forum to advance on horizontal policy topics, gathered feedback from the broader membership, and supported the processing of many membership applications.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Engagement with EU Presidencies and development of 2025 organisational priorities:

The Board and Council members were actively involved in the EEB's work in relation to the [Belgian, Hungarian](#), and preparation of the [Polish](#) EU Presidencies, ensuring the alignment of EEB's goals with the priorities of these presidencies and the [Trio Presidency 2025-2026](#). Together with the Secretariat, Board and Council members also drafted and helped mobilise the full membership on the organisational priorities, as adopted by the General Assembly in May 2024: [EEB 2025 Work Programme and budget](#).

New Code of Conduct and Criteria for public statements: In 2024, the Board adopted two new policies, the EEB Code of Conduct and EEB Criteria for public statements and external communication.

These policies, that help provide better clarity on roles and responsibilities within the network, were the result of collaborative efforts between the Secretariat, Board and Council.

Preparing for the 2025 mid-term review of the Long-Term Strategy: In autumn 2024, the Secretariat and Board started to prepare for the planned mid-term review of the [EEB's Long-Term Strategy](#) 2020-2030 which will run throughout 2025 and involve both the Secretariat, Working Groups, Board and Council in a reflection on lessons learned and implications for priorities for the five years to come.

Board Meetings: In 2024, the EEB Board held ten meetings, both online and hybrid.

- 16 January, online
- 23 January, online
- 21 February, online
- 27 February, online
- 18 March, online
- 9-10 April, in person in Brussels
- 12 May, in person in Brussels
- 28 June, online
- 20 September, online
- 25-26 November, in person in Brussels

EEB Board in 2024



TONI VIDAN
EEB President



Nuria Blázquez
EEB Vice-President



Andriy Andrusevych
EEB Vice-President



Bernhard Zlanabitz
EEB Vice-President



Bjela Vossen
EEB Vice-President



AXEL JANSEN
EEB Treasurer



Anke Stock
EEB Board Member



Karima Hammouche
EEB Board Member



Pegah Moulana
EEB Board Member



Stefan Scheuer
EEB Board Member



**Johanna Sandahl stepped down as EEB President in May 2024 when she took up a new job in Stockholm that was incompatible with the role. She was thanked by the full membership at the AGM in May and nominated EEB honorary member on the same occasion.*

Governance in Action

Council Meetings and Membership Mobilisation

In addition to the two formal Council Meetings, in 2024 the EEB Secretariat continued with its series of shorter, monthly horizontal policy discussions online. The idea behind these meetings is to regularly brief the Council on strategic environmental issues that influence environmental governance in Europe and beyond.

The full set of 8 meetings held included:

- **22 January**, online: Conflict & Environment.
- **26 February**, online: EP Elections and Pact for the Future.
- **12 May**, in person in Brussels – formal Council meeting.
- **12 June**, online: EU elections results and implications for EEB's work - Belgian Presidency assessment and Hungarian Presidency preparation.
- **9 September**, online: Post-UK elections and implications for EEB's work with European neighbours.

- **7 October**, online: New EU Commissioners, College, and European Parliament.
- **14 November**, online: Formal Council meeting.
- **9 December**, online: Council Trio Presidency (Poland-Denmark-Cyprus) and alignment with EEB's priorities.

These activities reflected the EEB's commitment to strong governance and impactful policy engagement across the membership in Europe and beyond.



EEB Council in 2024

AUSTRIA

BERNHARD ZLANABITNIG
EEB Vice-President
Umweltdachverband (EU-Umweltbüro)

BELGIUM

AXEL JANSEN
EEB Treasurer

BELGIUM

DANNY JACOBS
Council Member
Bond Beter Leefmilieu

BULGARIA

MARIA VELIKOVA
Council Member
"Europe and We" Association

CROATIA

TONI VIDAN
EEB's President

CROATIA

ENES CERIMAGIC
Council Member
Zelena akcija - Friends of the Earth Croatia

CZECH REPUBLIC

JIRI DLOUHY
Council Member
SSL - Society for Sustainable Living (STUŽ)

CYPRUS

ACHILLEAS ACHILLEOS
Council Member
FEO - Federation of Environmental Organisations of Cyprus)

DENMARK

JENS LA COUR
Council Member
Danmarks Naturfredningsforening - Danish Society for Nature Conservation

ESTONIA

KALEV SEPP
Council Member
ESNC - Estonian Society for Nature Conservation

EUROPEAN MEMBER

MARKO REINIKAINEN
Council Member
AIRCLIM - Air Pollution and Climate Secretariat

EUROPEAN MEMBER

ANAÏS BERTHIER
Council Member
Client Earth

EUROPEAN MEMBER

PEGAH MOULANA
EEB Board Member
YEE - Youth and Environment Europe

EEB Council in 2024

EUROPEAN MEMBER

STEFAN SCHEUER
EEB Board Member
CHEMTrust

EUROPEAN MEMBER

ANKE STOCK
EEB Board Member
Women Engage for a Common Future
(WECF International)

EUROPEAN MEMBER

JEAN-CLAUDE THIES
Council Member
FSE Fédération Spéléologique
Européenne

EUROPEAN MEMBER

HANNAH MOWAT
Council member
Fern

FINLAND

OLLI TURUNEN
Council Member
Suomen Luonnonsuojeluliitto - Finnish
Association for Nature Conservation)

FRANCE

JÉRÔME PARTOS
Council Member
FNE - France Nature Environment

GERMANY

BJELA VOSSEN
EEB Vice-President
DNR - Deutscher Naturschutzring

GREECE

CONSTANTINOS MACHAIRAS
Council Member
Representing the full members in
Greece

HUNGARY

GABOR BENDIK
Council Member
CAAG - Clean Air Action Group
-Levegő Munkacsoport

ICELAND

ÁRNI FINNSSON
Council Member
Iceland Nature Conservation
Association)

IRELAND

ATTRACTA UI BHROIN
Council Member
An Taisce - The National Trust for
Ireland

ITALY

MAURO ALBRIZIO
Council Member
Legambiente

LATVIA

Baiba Witajewska-Balvilka
Council Member
LDF - Latvian Fund for Nature, Latvijas
Dabas Fonds

LITHUANIA

LINA PAŠKEVIČIŪTĖ
Council Member
Aplinkosaugos koalicija

LUXEMBOURG

KARIMA HAMMOUCHE
EEB Board Member
Natur & Umwelt

MOLDOVA

ILYA TROMBITSKY
Council Member
ECO-TIRAS

NETHERLANDS

PATRICK NUVELSTIJN
Council Member
Representing the full members in the
Netherlands

NORTH MACEDONIA

ZARKO KONESKI
Council Member
Eko-Svest

NORWAY

MIA BJERKESTRAND
Council Member
Future in our hands

POLAND

PIOTR BARCZAK
Council Member
Polish Zero Waste Association -
Polskie Stowarzyszenie Zero Waste

PORTUGAL

MARTA LEANDRO
Council Member
QUERCUS - Associação Nacional de
Conservação da Natureza

ROMANIA

ALEXANDRA GHENEA
Council Member
Ecoteca

SERBIA

IGOR JEZDIMIROVIĆ
Council Member
Environment Engineering Group

SLOVAKIA

IVANA MALES
Council Member
INCIEN

SLOVENIA

JONAS SONNENSCHNEIN
Council Member
Umanotera

SPAIN

NURIA BLÁZQUEZ
EEB Vice-President
Ecologistas en Acción

SWEDEN

KARIN LEXEN
Council member
Naturskyddsforeningen- Swedish
Society for Nature Conservation

TÜRKIYE

DENİZ ATAC
Council Member
TEMA Foundation

UKRAINE

ANDRIY ANDRUSEVYCH
EEB Vice-President
Resource & Analysis Center "Society
and Environment"

UNITED KINGDOM

LLOYD AUSTIN
Council Member
Scottish Environment LINK



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

