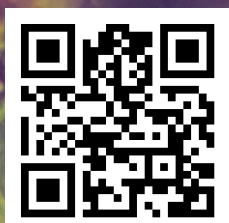


WORK PROGRAMME 2026





**We are Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations.
We bring together over 190 civil society organisations from 41 countries.
Together, we work for a better future where people and nature thrive together.**

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ABOUT THE EEB

The EEB is the largest network of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe. It currently consists of over **190 member organisations** in **41 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 2026 WORK PROGRAMME

The European Environmental Bureau brings together a highly motivated, engaged and committed network of more than 190 member organisations in 41 countries, representing some 30 million individual members and supporters. Together, we bring over 50 years of collective insight into environmental challenges, policy needs and solutions, drawing on experience from across all EU Member States, European countries outside the EU, and beyond.

We articulate the views and concerns of a wide and diverse community that cares deeply about the natural world; about the environment and climate we all share; about the wellbeing of people and communities; and about good governance. We advocate for respect for human rights, the rule of law, responsibility, and social, climate and environmental justice.

The EEB's key strengths include our broad and diverse membership base, in-depth expertise across a wide range of environmental and sustainability issues, committed and highly qualified staff, and extensive collaborative partnerships. These strengths have made us an effective force in ensuring that realities and needs from across Europe are communicated and actively considered in EU environmental policies and politics, while also contributing meaningfully to key global processes.

2026: A Changing World Order, with Forces Challenging the European Green Deal

Ursula von der Leyen was re-elected as Commission President on the basis of Political Guidelines that commit to upholding the European Green Deal, launched during her first mandate. However, the growing prioritisation of short-term industrial competitiveness, massive corporate lobbying, disinformation – including campaigns funded by Russia – and high-level political interference in European affairs from erstwhile allies such as the United States, combined with hostile forces from within the European Parliament itself, are creating immense pressure to dismantle the European Green Deal's objectives and to undermine wider social and environmental protections that have been built up over decades.

The European Commission is pursuing a simplification agenda that has rapidly been distorted into a deregulation drive. This serves short-sighted commercial and ideological interests, rather than recognising the vast economic and social costs of weak implementation of existing rules and the immense costs of inaction. It prioritises neither the health and wellbeing of people nor the health, functioning and resilience of ecosystems. Deregulation often rewards laggards and penalises leaders, weakening the business case for transformation and for addressing the triple climate-biodiversity-pollution crisis, while undermining opportunities for providers of safe and clean products.

At the same time, public funding at EU and national levels is being diverted away from decarbonisation, depollution and ecosystem restoration towards the militarisation of Europe, away from renewables and towards nuclear power, and towards financing trade deals that import fossil fuels from the United States. What is needed instead is independence from fossil fuels and a European path that is genuinely autonomous, free from the interests of fossil fuel producers, and capable of global leadership in delivering a just and clean transition.

With the new US administration, the growth of racism, misogyny and intolerance towards diversity, the mainstreaming of violence, censorship, attacks on free media and science, distortions of the rule of law, restrictions on the right to protest, and open disregard for international law – including challenges to territorial integrity, attacks on multilateral institutions and processes, and explicit hostility towards the European Union – the era of being inspired is over, for now. Europe must chart its own path, grounded in fundamental freedoms and human rights, and committed to global justice, multilateralism and sustainability.

We are witnessing the spread of disinformation, missed opportunities, false solutions and deregulation – the hallmarks of a post-truth world. Disinformation campaigns increasingly target civil society, with the explicit aim of silencing critical voices and undermining the role of people's participation in democratic processes.

This weakens the defence of progressive policies and undermines the European project itself as a project of peace, cooperation and environmental protection. An authoritarian playbook is being imposed on Europe both from outside and from within, rapidly adopted by nationalist, anti-EU, anti-democratic and anti-Green Deal forces, often with financial and political support from external actors.

2026 will be a difficult and decisive year for the environmental movement and for environmental policy. It remains possible to withstand the attacks seeking to undermine civil society, environmental and social protections, and the EU's values, role and power. However, it is equally possible that commitments to decarbonisation, zero pollution and nature protection will be fully unravelled in the absence of a sufficiently motivated, coordinated and resilient resistance. Democracy itself, and the EU as a political project, face existential threats from far-right and other authoritarian forces, with deeply concerning consequences for Europe's future.

The EU has historically derived respect and soft power from its comparatively strong climate and environmental policies, which have also shaped its international identity and credibility. Yet the EU has lost power and legitimacy through its response to President Trump, including commitments of hundreds of billions of euros to US weapons and fracked gas; through its divided and ineffective response to the genocide in Gaza; and through its increasing willingness to backtrack on the European Green Deal, making it harder to address the intertwined climate, nature and pollution crises.

The EU is now, if it chooses to be, the only credible political bloc capable of embracing the transformative agenda that is required. Working in partnership with like-minded countries across the world, Europe can pursue an agenda of hope – one that creates a future in which children inherit a world worth living in; where social, environmental and climate justice are advancing rather than eroding; where multilateralism and the rule of law are respected; where accountability for crimes is upheld; and where responsibility towards future generations is taken seriously.

In times when some political actors promote a post-truth world, reality will continue to assert itself regardless of how extensively disinformation distorts political narratives. Floods, fires, droughts, storms and temperatures are breaking records and causing widespread suffering, underlining the urgent need for fossil-fuel independence. Pollution and toxic exposure are increasingly linked to severe health and environmental impacts, as seen with PFAS, alongside rising economic costs, liability claims and criminal convictions. The costs of inaction far exceed the costs of action. Short-term competitiveness gains achieved by weakening legislation will more often result in long-term economic and competitive losses.

Climate change will undermine food production, water availability, infrastructure and industrial activity. Species loss and ecosystem degradation are steadily eroding the life-support systems on which societies depend. These realities raise fundamental questions of responsibility, fairness and justice. Facts remain real, even when disinformation seeks to conceal them or divert attention. No one can deny a flooded city, burned homes, rising cancer rates, fertility loss or ecosystem collapse. Nor can anyone deny growing inequality, precarity, injustice and human rights violations.

Europe stands at a fork in the road. 2026 will be decisive in determining not only which path is taken, but the long-term trajectory of Europe's future. If decision-makers resist disinformation and short-term vested interests, follow the science, and prioritise justice and fairness for young people and future generations, the path ahead can become one of opportunity and hope. Supporting system-wide transformations towards a decarbonised, zero-pollution, circular economy will be essential to delivering a resilient and competitive Europe by 2040 and 2050.

EEB's work programme

2026 will not be a normal year. Some elements of the EEB's work programme may appear familiar: file by file, we will continue to advocate for the ambition needed to deliver a green and social deal for a one-planet economy, ensuring that the health, wellbeing and concerns of people remain at the centre of policymaking. The risks of losing these protections are higher than ever.

People should be able to drink water and eat food without concern about PFAS; trust that products, whether domestic or imported through online platforms, are free of toxic chemicals and designed to be repairable; enjoy safe rivers and beaches; and benefit from lower energy bills through efficiency measures, better products and renewable energy. File by file, we will defend the environmental acquis built up over 50 years and uphold Europe's global commitments. File by file, we will promote necessary reforms – from ensuring that water resilience addresses quality and pollution as well as quantity; to embedding a zero-pollution trajectory within the Clean Industrial Deal; to advancing a circular economy that reduces resource use rather than merely increasing recycling; to ensuring that farmers who adopt agro-ecological practices are rewarded and their livelihoods secured; and to safeguarding climate targets that protect the futures of children and farming communities alike.

We will support effective implementation, enforcement and respect for the rule of law – a cornerstone of the European Union. We will advocate for a Multiannual Financial Framework that supports nature protection and decarbonisation, strengthens civil society, and catalyses systemic change. Working closely with our members and partners, and building new and strengthened alliances beyond the environmental movement, we will counter disinformation, resist deregulation, defend hard-won protections, and safeguard civic space. The challenges we face extend beyond the environmental community; the threats are shared, and so must be the response.

The EEB firmly believes that a transformative agenda for a just transition – one in which the benefits of change are shared across society – remains both urgent and achievable. Its principles underpin all our policy contributions. If well designed and implemented, this agenda can offer hope in a time of profound uncertainty.

To this end, the EEB will engage with the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council. Within the Council, we will work closely with the Cypriot and Irish Presidencies, while also engaging with Lithuania and Greece ahead of their Presidencies in 2027, as well as with other progressive governments. We will channel the expertise and perspectives of our membership into EU decision-making processes, while also working with European and international partners – including social partners, academia, think tanks, progressive businesses and decision-makers at all levels of governance.

Despite difficult geopolitical developments, the climate, biodiversity and pollution crises remain shared global challenges that will define our collective future. Economies must operate within planetary boundaries and deliver not a dystopian future to manage, but hope and opportunity for young people and generations to come.



Patrick ten Brink
Secretary General, EEB

Patrizia Heidegger
Deputy Secretary General, EEB



DONOR OVERVIEW

The EEB could not do what it does without the generosity of its donors and partners. With their support, the EEB has remained a strong voice for environmental protection in the EU and beyond. The EEB gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the following donors for 2025:

European Union through the European Commission

- DG Environment Service contracts
- DG Environment CINEA LIFE Programme including via a project led by Carbon Market Watch
- DG RTD Horizon Programme including via projects led by
- Fundacion Circe Centro de Investigacion de Recursos y Consumos Energeticos (CIRCE), Forschungszentrum Julich gmbh (JÜLICH), European Network of Living Labs ivzw (ENOLL), Soluciones Agrícolas Ecoinnovadoras (SL), Waterford Institute of Technology, CIBIO Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources, Stichting OpenGeoHub
- DG Devco via a project led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- DG IntPa via a project led by GOPA Worldwide Consultants GmbH
- European Education and Culture Executive Agency led by Legambiente Nazionale APS
- European Environment Agency (EEA)

Governments

- The Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management (BMLUK)
- The Belgian Federal Ministry of Mobility, Climate and Environmental Transition
- The Danish Ministry of the Environment & Gender Equality
- The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH through projects led by Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs), ECOS and Green Liberty
- 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 (BMUKN), via direct funding as well as channelled via EURENI and including through projects led by CHEM Trust and Environmental Action Germany (DUH)
- The German Environmental Agency, Umweltbundesamt
- The Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment
- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), channelled via The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC).

Intergovernmental Organisations and Agencies

- OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) directly as well as channelled via the Biodiversity Research Institute
- World Health Organisation (WHO)

DONOR OVERVIEW

Foundations and other Organisations

- [Adessium Foundation](#)
- [Article 19](#)
- [Clean Air Fund](#) (CAF) directly as well as channelled via AirClim
- Charities Aid Foundation via donor-advised funding
- [Children's Investment Fund Foundation](#) (CIFF) channelled via [Environmental Investigation Agency](#) (EIA UK)
- [ClimateWorks Foundation](#)
- [Ecological Restoration Fund](#)
- [European Cultural Foundation](#)
- [Full Circle Foundation](#)
- [European Climate Foundation](#) (ECF).
- [Fondation Hans Wilsdorf](#)
- Global Methane Hub through projects led by [Deutsche Umwelthilfe eV](#) (DUH) and [Windward Fund](#)
- [Heinrich-Boell-Stiftung](#)
- [Laudes Foundation](#) directly as well as channelled via [Circle Economy Foundation](#)
- [New Economics Foundation](#) (NEF).
- Oak Foundation channelled via the [European Health Information Initiative](#) (EHII) and [BirdLife International](#)
- [PILnet](#)
- [Plastic Solutions Fund](#) channelled via Zero Waste Europe
- [Schmidt Family Foundation](#) channelled via the [11th Hour Project](#)
- [Stichting Benevolentia](#)
- [Sigrid Rausing Trust Foundation](#)
- [Tanka Foundation](#)
- [Tides Foundation](#)
- [Tiina and Antti Herlin Foundation](#) (TAH)
- [The Sunrise Project](#)
- [Open Philanthropy Foundation](#)
- [Umweltdachverband](#) (UWD)

We would like to extend a special thanks to our top five donors in 2025:

The European Union
European Climate Foundation
Laudes Foundation
Climate Works Foundation
Ecological Restoration Fund





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

DESCRIPTION

2026 will be the second year of the von der Leyen II Commission, taking place in a markedly changed geopolitical and political context. While the Commission's Political Guidelines reaffirmed commitments to the European Green Deal (EGD) and tackling the triple crisis of climate, biodiversity and pollution, recent work programmes have placed a strong emphasis on simplification and competitiveness. The Commission Work Programme for 2026 (CWP2026), to be presented in December 2025, will be a key moment to clarify political direction.

The EEB will advocate for the European Green Deal and addressing the triple crisis to remain central political priorities, highlighting their relevance for Europe's security, resilience and social stability. It will push for the rapid and effective implementation of EGD legislation adopted during the previous mandate and the early phase of von der Leyen II, and for additional measures where needed. The EEB will counter disinformation and deregulatory narratives framed as "simplification" or "competitiveness", and promote smart implementation and an agenda of hope, building on the [European Pact for the Future](#) and its associated [Action Plan](#), which strengthens environmental protection alongside economic and social resilience.

The EEB remains committed to the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the EU. In 2026, it will contribute to the work of SDG Watch Europe and engage with the European Commission and Parliament to advance progress in the final mandate for achieving the SDGs, while also supporting discussions on a post-2030 global framework that addresses the shortcomings of the current SDG architecture.

The European Institutions and Governance Team will align its work with the rotating EU Council presidencies and key institutional timelines, including Council formations, European Parliament votes and trilogues. Engagement with the Council will be a priority during the Cyprus and Ireland presidencies. The EEB will develop Ten Green Tests for each presidency, organise Green 10 engagements with Environment Ministers, maintain regular contacts with Permanent Representations, and coordinate outreach to the European Parliament. It will also provide regular horizontal policy updates to EEB members.

The EEB will use its roles within European Movement International, Civil Society Europe, the Green 10 and the VNA to contribute to debates on strengthening European democracy, civic space and civil society. This includes raising awareness of the role of civil society in democratic decision-making, countering coordinated attacks by authoritarian and anti-democratic actors, advocating for an enabling regulatory framework, and promoting adequate and sustainable funding for civil society, including through the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework. The EEB will also contribute to efforts to establish a structured civic dialogue with the EU institutions.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

European Green Deal (EGD) implementation, review of legislation and new legislation to realise EGD objectives; Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF); Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030; 8th Environment Action Programme (8EAP); Better Regulation and Better Law-making; the European Council's Strategic Agenda 2024-2029 and the reform of the EU's democratic structures, for instance, through a European Civil Society Strategy democracy shield; CWP 2026 and 2027.



EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2026, the EEB will have contributed, through policy advocacy, to strengthening understanding within EU institutions of the need for transformative change and for maintaining ambition under the European Green Deal. This includes supporting a holistic approach to addressing the triple crisis of climate, nature and pollution, the rapid implementation of agreed policies, and progress on the 8th Environment Action Programme (8EAP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), despite heightened geopolitical pressures and a strong push for deregulation.

The EEB will pursue this objective through strategic engagement with the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council, including through Commission priorities and proposals, parliamentary positions and votes, Council Conclusions, support to trilogues, and broader public narratives on ecological transformation and the European project in a changing global context. The EEB will also work to counter disinformation and hostile narratives that undermine the European Green Deal, civil society, and progressive policy agendas. The European Pact for the Future and its associated Action Plan will serve as key strategic tools.

ACTIVITIES

1. Advocating for the implementation of the European Green Deal and for a European Pact for the Future

Throughout 2026, the EEB will advocate at European Commission level for the effective implementation of the European Green Deal (EGD) and for its continued relevance in a context of geopolitical instability, security concerns and economic transformation. The EEB will promote its European Pact for the Future as a framework integrating ambitious environmental, climate and social policies to support a just socio-ecological transition, resilience and security, including through reduced dependence on fossil fuels, resource efficiency and circular economy approaches.

The EEB will propose policy measures to ensure a coherent and enabling framework for the transition, grounded in the “Do No Harm” principle, the Polluter Pays Principle, and progress towards zero pollution, climate neutrality and net biodiversity gain. It will counter deregulatory narratives and false solutions that undermine the EGD, highlighting the costs of inaction and the economic and social risks created by policy uncertainty.

The EEB will work closely with its members and partners, including through the Green 10, the Vote Nature Alliance and Civil Society Europe, and will contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the 8th Environment Action Programme (8EAP). It will engage in high-level platforms and expert groups established by the new Commission to promote transparency, policy coherence and effective implementation across policy areas.

2. Strengthening commitment to the objectives of the European Green Deal, the European Pact for the Future and high ambition for environmental and climate policies in the European Parliament

In light of the new political balance in the European Parliament and increasing pressure for deregulation, the EEB will strengthen its strategic outreach to MEPs and parliamentary committees. It will foster evidence-based dialogue to support ambitious environmental and climate policies and the full implementation of the EGD, while safeguarding the existing acquis.

The EEB will engage in legislative negotiations and trilogues across priority files, support progressive amendments and voting positions, and work closely with its national members to encourage coordinated outreach to MEPs. It will also engage with newly elected MEPs to promote high ambition and provide recommendations for policy development and review where needed.



EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE

3. Working through Council Presidencies to implement the European Green Deal and promote a European Pact for the Future

The EEB will engage closely with the Member States holding the rotating Council presidencies to support the implementation of the EGD and promote high ambition across policy areas, complemented by outreach to other Member States. It will engage strategically with upcoming Trio Presidencies to influence shared priorities in line with the European Pact for the Future.

The EEB will develop and deploy its established advocacy tools, including Ten Green Tests, presidency memoranda, Council letters and recommendations, as well as engagement with Working Parties, Informal Councils and relevant Council formations, including beyond traditional environmental configurations. In cooperation with national members and partners, and through regular engagement with Permanent Representations and presidency teams, the EEB will counter attempts to delay or weaken environmental policies and promote evidence-based decision-making.

4. Putting the Sustainable Development Goals centre-stage

The EEB will continue to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognising that the 2024–2029 political term is the final opportunity for the EU to make substantial progress towards achieving the SDGs. It will remain critical of weaknesses in the current implementation framework and indicators, and advocate for stronger governance and accountability mechanisms.

Through SDG Watch Europe, the EEB will engage with the European Commission and Parliament, renew parliamentary outreach, and explore collaboration with the SDG Alliance in the European Parliament to strengthen the EP's role in monitoring progress and shaping future governance for SDG implementation, including discussions on a post-2030 framework.

5. Innovating European democracy and strengthening civil society

The EEB will use its membership and leadership roles in European Movement International, Civil Society Europe, the Green 10 and the Vote Nature Alliance to contribute to debates on strengthening European democracy, public participation and civic space. This includes raising awareness of the role of civil society in democratic decision-making and countering coordinated attacks by authoritarian and anti-democratic actors.

The EEB will advocate for an enabling framework for civil society, push back against repressive measures, and promote adequate and sustainable funding for civil society organisations, including through the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework. Through Civil Society Europe, the EEB will also contribute to efforts to establish a structured civic dialogue with the European Institutions.



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND JUSTICE

DESCRIPTION

The EEB's Environmental Law and Justice Team will promote strong EU environmental democracy, human rights, governance and participatory rights. It will defend the rule of law, including full compliance with the Aarhus Convention, the protection of civic space and environmental defenders, and effective public participation in environmental decision-making.

The EEB will continue to lead civil society coordination in Aarhus Convention processes and to promote the Convention's implementation at EU level. It will advocate for ambitious standards of environmental protection and effective enforcement of EU law, countering permit acceleration and deregulatory pressures presented as "simplification," and promoting environmental democracy rights across EU legislation.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Aarhus Convention, its implementation and compliance; the implementation of the Green Deal legislation; revision of the Governance Regulation; Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) implementation and any related initiative (e.g. Omnibus proposal); De-regulation efforts and fast-tracking of permitting procedures; the European Democracy Shield; EU Strategy to support, protect and empower the civil society; Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing harmonised requirements in the internal market on transparency of interest representation carried out on behalf of third countries and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2026, the EEB will have coordinated civil society engagement in Aarhus Convention processes and meetings, and advanced the implementation of Aarhus rights and obligations, including through EU legislation. It will have advocated for the protection of environmental defenders and for the effective participation of civil society in environmental decision-making.

The EEB will have engaged with the European Commission on the revision of the Governance Regulation to ensure that EU climate governance incorporates environmental rights, critically assessed permit-acceleration procedures, and opposed deregulatory measures that weaken environmental protection. It will also have raised awareness of deregulatory trends at EU and Member State level, and continued to advocate for respect for international law, its institutions, and the international legal order.

ACTIVITIES**1. Ensuring strong EU environmental governance, participatory and access to justice rights and the Rule of Law**

Throughout 2026, the EEB will continue fighting for the Rule of Law by showcasing the need to strong environmental rights in environmental and climate legislation, and by stressing the relevance of these to uphold human rights by advocating for the Right to a Healthy Environment under the ECHR and the Right to Say "No" to development or mining projects for communities. The EEB will explore how to advance its efforts on public participation requirements in planning obligations and the involvement of the public to ensure a fair and just transition, for instance in areas subject to accelerated permitting conditions, affecting the application of the EIA and SEA Directives. The EEB will advocate for the protection of civil society space and of environmental defenders in relevant dossiers and support EEB members facing rule of law challenges, including discrimination, intimidation and criminalisation, as well as advocate for mechanisms that ensure the safety and redress for environmental defenders and whistleblowers (such as in the implementation of the Anti-SLAPP Directive). The EEB will provide space for active engagement in the Law Working group allowing for in-depth discussions on relevant legal developments and sharing of cases and litigation efforts by members.

2. Ensuring maintenance of ambitious standards of protection, strong implementation, and a simplification of regulation which makes sense for the environment

The EEB will highlight the benefits of regulation and advocate for the upcoming Commission to ensure that the simplification and competitiveness-centred push is not pursued at the expense of the public interest and needed protections, such as undermining existing environmental safeguards. If the opportunity arises, the EEB will argue to reframe the Better Regulation Agenda as a “reprotection agenda.” It will emphasise the need for better implementation of EU environmental laws at the national level by showing good practices and highlighting gaps, and will liaise with the Commission on enforcement at the Member State level. The EEB will also continue to combat pressures to reduce environmental standards by allowing procedures at all levels and by raising the profile of deregulatory efforts in environmental policy, following the principle of non-regression.

3. Coordinating civil society in Aarhus Convention processes and the promotion and protection 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; advocate for more resources for the Convention with emphasis on the Compliance mechanisms and support and raise awareness for the Special Rapporteur under the Rapid Response Mechanism; it will continue to facilitate 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 (2026-2029) and support Civil Society in preparing for the Working Group of the Parties and the Task forces. With the Parties to the Convention, the EEB will continue advocating for the effective implementation of the Convention and adequate funding for the Compliance Mechanisms, in particular the work of the Compliance Committee.

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

The EEB will push for stronger governance in EU environmental law via greater accessibility, transparency and accountability. Specifically, if there is a revision of the Environmental Liability Directive, the EEB will advocate for a broad but reliable definition of environmental damage, respect for the Polluter Pays Principle, and broad standing. The EEB will advocate for EU procedures and national implementation of EU legislation that ensure the widest possible accessibility and transparency for public scrutiny, thereby maximising accountability for the implementation and compliance with EU environmental laws.

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 groups in vulnerable situations, including climate refugees, who suffer disproportionately from environmental burdens and impacts. We will seek new opportunities to build on the EEB’s work focused on affected Roma communities, the 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 across policy areas.



GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PROCESSES

DESCRIPTION

Global and regional multilateral cooperation to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is under increasing pressure. The withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement, alongside the rise of populist, nationalist and far-right governments, is weakening international cooperation on environmental and climate policy. At the same time, shrinking civic space, severe funding cuts and attempts to marginalise civil society organisations are undermining meaningful stakeholder participation in global processes. Reduced government funding has also weakened UN institutions, including UN Environment, and hampered the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

Geopolitical instability and the growing number of armed conflicts, including Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and ongoing violence in other regions, have caused widespread human suffering and displacement, while also inflicting severe and long-lasting damage on ecosystems, food systems, water resources and energy supply. The increasing political focus on defence and military security risks sidelining sustainability objectives and diverting attention and resources away from environmental protection and long-term resilience.

Against this backdrop, the 2030 Agenda is entering its final implementation phase, while discussions on a post-2030 global framework are expected to begin. This represents both a risk and an opportunity for civil society to help shape a future agenda grounded in peace, justice, human rights and respect for planetary boundaries. Environmental organisations, alongside broader civil society, play a critical role in defending multilateralism, promoting human security beyond military approaches, and ensuring meaningful participation and respect for the rule of law in international decision-making. The EEB will contribute to these efforts where possible and strengthen cooperation with existing and new partners, including through work on the links between environment, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustainability.

At global and regional level, the EEB will act as a strong civil society voice advocating for ambitious environmental protection, the effective implementation of MEAs, and progress on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in full respect of international human rights obligations and planetary boundaries. It will contribute to discussions on a post-2030 agenda and use its coordination role to support civil society capacity-building and to encourage the EU and its Member States to play a constructive leadership role in international decision-making. The EEB will work with the European Commission and Member States on the development and implementation of international environmental instruments and continue to coordinate civil society input into OECD-led environmental policy processes.

Within Europe, the EEB will seize opportunities to strengthen European integration and sustainability through the EU accession process. The Global and Regional Processes Team will build and deepen partnerships with environmental organisations and other key stakeholders in EU candidate countries, particularly in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe. The EEB will continue to support its members in Ukraine by closely following developments related to Russia's war of aggression and by engaging on environmental protection, recovery and reconstruction, and the EU accession process.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PROCESSES

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Policies developed under the auspices of UNEP, particularly the UN Environment Assembly; OECD instruments; European Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy; Eastern Partnership and association agreements; Agenda 2030 and the SDGs; post 2030 Agenda.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2026, the EEB has contributed to global and regional civil society's push for long-term sustainability and resilience, peace, justice and human rights. It has contributed to ensuring that environmental NGOs have the capacity to shape progressive environmental policies in global and regional processes, in particular, the UNEP/UN Environment Assembly and the OECD process, as well as in accession processes. It has developed its approach to the environment, peace, and conflict, and built new partnerships.

ACTIVITIES

1. Contributing to regional and global civil society calls for sustainability, peace, justice and human rights

The EEB will, based on the mid-term review of its Long-Term Strategy, continue to build its positions on global sustainability and resilience, peace, and justice. It will seek opportunities to engage in regional and global initiatives to drive an agenda of sustainability and resilience, peace and justice, where it can make a difference by leveraging Europe's largest network of environmental citizens organisations. It will continue its own learning journey to integrate gender equality, global justice and decoloniality across its work, in exchange with its members as well as partners regionally and globally.

2. Ensuring strong civil society participation in regional and global environmental processes

The EEB will support CSOs in actively engaging in global and regional processes where possible. The EEB will get involved in the preparations of the 8th UN Environment Assembly in 2027 and will ensure eNGOs participate meaningfully in OECD processes, making sure they understand and seize engagement opportunities. Together with its partners in SDG Watch Europe, it will contribute to the agenda-setting process for the post 2030 Agenda to push for a new global agenda that explicitly recognises planetary boundaries, the limits of growth and legally binding human rights obligations.

3. Advocating with eNGOs from candidate and partner countries in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe for progressive policies

The EEB will build on its membership network in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe, seek to increase its support for environmental NGOs in the region and support them to step up their capacity to monitor the development and implementation of environmental policy. It will seek opportunities to increase its resources to work with members and partners in the region submitting, for instance around renewable energy and climate adaptation to foster knowledge exchange, solidarity and scalable solutions, submitting at least one funding application with members and/or partners from candidate countries. Following Russia's invasion of 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 coordination meetings, supporting 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.



ECONOMIC TRANSITION

DESCRIPTION

The Economic Transition Team will focus on advancing alternatives to the prevailing economic model by promoting ecological and heterodox economic approaches and integrating these across the EEB's work to support a coherent narrative for systemic change. The EEB will work with established civil society allies and build new strategic partnerships to strengthen advocacy for a wellbeing economy and a just transition. The EEB will prioritise key areas of the economic transition, including just transition policies, trade justice, reduced resource use, progressive fiscal and tax reform, and work and welfare policies. Across these areas, the EEB will advocate for an economic system that delivers social, gender and ecological justice and wellbeing, moving beyond GDP growth and profit maximisation as primary measures of success, and towards economic models that respect planetary boundaries and human needs.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Green fiscal reform, Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF); relevant EGD and CID files (such as Critical Raw Materials Act implementation, Raw Materials Strategy and Critical Raw Materials Board, Competitiveness Fund), macro-economic governance (EU Economic Governance Framework, European Semester); gender equality.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2026, 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 and economic, gender and ecological justice and wellbeing in EU policies, driven also by improved economic incentives, governance and value outlooks.

ACTIVITIES

1. *Debunking mainstream economic narratives and advancing ecological economics*

The EEB will challenge mainstream and neoliberal economic narratives by promoting evidence-based alternatives drawn from ecological and heterodox economics, including post-growth, wellbeing economy, degrowth, resource-sufficient circular economy and doughnut economics. It will collect, synthesise and disseminate scientific evidence demonstrating the need for transformative change beyond GDP growth as the primary measure of societal success. Working with a broad alliance of partners – including environmental, social, youth and women's rights organisations, think tanks and trade unions – the EEB will promote narratives and policy approaches that support systemic economic transformation. This includes countering disinformation linked to neoliberal economic dogma and engaging policymakers, media and wider changemakers through advocacy, campaigning and coalition-building. The EEB will develop and share policy recommendations on post-growth pathways that integrate social justice considerations, including labour and just transition issues, welfare and post-work reforms, overconsumption, industrial policy in a wellbeing economy, public ownership, progressive taxation, and the environmental implications of emerging technologies such as AI. Through coalition spaces, the EEB will strengthen its role as a knowledge hub and contribute to capacity-building for civil society actors engaging with alternative economic narratives.

2. *Shaping EU trade policy to support a wellbeing economy*

The EEB will scrutinise EU trade and investment policy to ensure alignment with environmental and social objectives. It will monitor the implementation of the EU–UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) and engage in the EU Domestic Advisory Group in view of the planned revision of the TCA in 2026. The EEB will advocate for EU trade policy to prioritise the implementation of the social and environmental Sustainable Development Goals, including strong institutions and the rule of law, before entering into new trade or investment agreements. It will closely monitor EU raw materials partnerships with third countries and their financing, promoting human rights, environmental protection, fair benefit-sharing and the right of communities to say no to extractive projects.

More broadly, the EEB will challenge assumptions underpinning current EU trade strategies, including the externalisation of environmental and social costs, and promote trade approaches based on environmental and global justice, respect for planetary boundaries and the strengthening of local economies.

3. Advocating for green fiscal reform and sustainable public funding

The EEB will advocate for green fiscal reforms that support a just and inclusive transition and enhance the effectiveness and fairness of public spending. This includes promoting environmental and circular taxes, pollution and resource pricing, incentives for sustainable practices, and the phase-out of environmentally harmful subsidies. Through its Economic Transition and Green Budget Working Groups, the EEB will promote fiscal reforms that incentivise energy and resource efficiency, pollution reduction and genuine circular economy practices, while addressing social and gender inequalities and health impacts. In light of the EU fiscal rules reform agreed in 2024, the EEB will focus on awareness-raising, capacity-building and advocacy for a permanent EU fiscal capacity for green and social investment. The EEB will engage in EU budget and Multiannual Financial Framework discussions to promote progressive green and social taxation, including wealth and financial transaction taxes, and explore international tax cooperation, including through the UN global tax convention. It will continue to build and strengthen civil society coalitions to create political space for ambitious fiscal reform and, subject to capacity, explore options for improved fiscal and monetary policy coordination in support of economic transformation.

4. Addressing green extractivism, resource use reduction and critical raw materials

In 2026, the EEB will intensify advocacy for binding EU resource reduction targets and sufficiency-based policies to reduce the EU's material footprint. It will promote resource-efficient circular economy strategies and strict environmental and social criteria for new mining activities, challenging narratives of absolute decoupling that fail to address overconsumption and growth-driven demand. Building on existing work, including reports on green mining, sacrifice zones and the right to say no, the EEB will conduct further analysis on the environmental justice impacts of low-carbon and resource-intensive projects. This includes advocating for strong due diligence obligations and robust implementation of the Critical Raw Materials Regulation. The EEB will monitor the designation of Strategic Projects under the Critical Raw Materials Act and assess their environmental and social impacts, with a particular focus on transparency, public participation and the rights of affected communities to be informed and meaningfully involved in decision-making.

5. Applying gender equality, intergenerational justice and intersectionality in the economic transition

The EEB will promote the integration of gender equality, intergenerational justice and intersectionality across economic transition policies, advancing an ecofeminist wellbeing economy that addresses structural inequalities. It will raise awareness and develop policy proposals on the gendered and intergenerational impacts of energy, climate, agricultural and industrial transformation policies. The EEB will advocate for a feminist approach to a just transition, including greater policy coherence, recognition of care work as part of the green economy, and the institutionalisation of intergenerational justice in EU policymaking. Subject to available resources, the EEB will also explore the application of a decolonial perspective in relevant economic and transition policies.



NATURE – BIODIVERSITY, WATER, SOIL



NATURE – BIODIVERSITY, WATER, SOIL

DESCRIPTION

The Nature Team (Biodiversity, Water & Soil) will continue to advocate for the urgent need to protect and restore nature, water, and soil, and to address drivers of nature loss, such as pollution and land-use change. The Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Agreement, as well as the EU's Strategies and laws, especially the ones adopted as part of the EU's Green Deal (EGD), have the potential to accelerate transformative action across the EU. However, the EU is not on track to meet the 2030 environmental objectives, according to the European Environment Agency's monitoring report; more decisive measures are urgently needed to reverse the decline in biodiversity. We will therefore continue to promote the benefits of implementing the EU's nature, water and soil laws, with a particular focus on the Nature Restoration Regulation, which could be a game-changer in helping the EU tackle biodiversity and the climate crisis. In 2026, EU Member States are expected to publish their draft Nature Restoration Plans. The EU will also need to decide how the Water Framework Directive will continue to be implemented after the 2027 deadline, since it is clear that a lack of political will to properly implement the EU's flagship water law means that our rivers, lakes and wetlands remain unhealthy. We will also continue to advocate for securing public and private funding for biodiversity and nature restoration.

Europe's policies and adaptation actions are not keeping pace with the rapidly growing climate risks. In many cases, incremental adaptation has not been sufficient and, as many measures to improve climate and water resilience require a long time, urgent action is needed even on risks that are not yet critical. We will advocate for the EU's Climate Adaptation Plan to be based on nature-based solutions, recognising that they play a crucial role in achieving the 2040 climate targets and remain vital to the European economy's competitiveness and sustainability.

However, we are also facing significant attempts to dismantle the EU's nature and water laws, especially from the far-right politicians and some conservatives, as well as vested interests resisting the green transition. The EEB will continue to campaign against these attempts and to develop and implement new strategies to tackle disinformation campaigns and attacks on civil society more broadly (see Work Package on European institutions, governance, and communications).

The EEB will continue to build capacity and engage its Working Groups in the activities below and will continue to work in coalitions with other NGO partners and allies. and will use its channels to communicate its priorities and highlight the issues EEB members are working on vis-à-vis EU decision-makers.

The NGO advocacy on EU forest and marine policies will continue to be led by EEB Members with strong expertise on those topics, and we will continue to coordinate advocacy actions and promote key NGO asks in its high-level advocacy. We will also collaborate with other EEB teams, recognising the cross-cutting character of biodiversity, water and soil.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

- **Biodiversity:** EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (BDS), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; Nature Restoration Regulation; Birds and Habitats Directives; EU's Pollinators Initiative; public and private funding for biodiversity (MFF, nature markets).
- **Water:** EU Water Resilience Strategy, Zero Pollution Action Plan; Water Framework Directive and daughter directives on Priority Substances (Environmental Quality Standards (EQSD)) and Groundwater (GWD); Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive (CIS), possible revision of the Nitrates Directive; UN Water Conference 2026 and related Freshwater Challenge.
- **Soil:** EU Soil Strategy for 2030; Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience (SML).
- **Climate adaptation and resilience:** EU Climate Adaptation Plan
- EEB Members will continue to lead on marine (e.g. Oceans Pact) and forest policies reforms and EEB will contribute to those efforts.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2026, the new and existing EU policies, strategies, laws and funding enable nature protection and restoration, ecological connectivity, ecologically sustainable water management as well as progress towards healthy soils by legal deadlines.

ACTIVITIES

1. Campaigning to defend the EU's environmental laws from weakening

Recognising the ongoing attempts to weaken the EU's Nature Laws (using the pretext to lower the protection status of the wolves), the EEB, in coalition with the NGO partners, will continue to implement innovative advocacy and communication strategies to counter those efforts as well as tackle disinformation campaigns and attacks on civil society. The EEB will also continue promoting co-existence with large carnivores as an alternative to politically motivated pushback against strict species protection. The EEB will engage Working Groups to carry out advocacy and campaign actions on the national level.

2. Supporting the roll out of the EU's Green Deal Strategies and defending and securing public and private financing that help protect and restore biodiversity, water and soil

The EEB will track and push for progress in the development and implementation of the priority commitments from the Green Deal Strategies, such as the BDS commitments to strictly protect 10% of the EU's land and seas, including all old-growth forests, and effectively manage the EU's protected areas. The EU is also expected to step up efforts to achieve water resilience. The EEB will also highlight emerging issues and promote solutions such as developing nature-friendly renewable energy in full compliance with environmental safeguards. The EEB will make full use of the Kunming Montreal Biodiversity Framework and other global processes (e.g., UN Freshwater Challenge) to support its key advocacy asks on biodiversity, water and soil priorities. The EEB will also advocate for addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss, such as land-use change and pollution, including recognising the need to tackle light pollution and the pressures from damaging hydropower or mining projects. The EEB Working Groups will be fully engaged in advocacy on these files.

3. Support adoption/revision of the EU laws and strategies relevant to EEB priorities

The EEB will advocate for the EU Adaptation Plan to be based on nature-based solutions and will influence the possible revision of the Nitrates Directive. The EEB Working Groups will be fully engaged in advocacy on these files.

4. Supporting effective implementation and enforcement of nature, water and soil laws

The EEB will contribute to the work of the platforms at EU level that have been set up to aid implementation of the EU laws to reach objectives of the Nature Directives, the Nature Restoration Regulation, Putting forward the good examples for NS to support member orgs in their dialogue to push for ambitious national plans (upcoming) Soil Monitoring Law as well as the Water Framework Directive (and its daughter directives) and push for better implementation and enforcement of these laws. The EEB will also inform and build the capacity of its members so that they can support the implementation of these laws at the national level and bring forward cases of non-compliance.



NATURE – AGRICULTURE AND FOOD



NATURE – AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

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 high animal welfare standards. To deliver this change, the EEB will advocate for an overhaul of the EU's agricultural policy and ambitious national implementation; policy and legislative measures to shape healthier and more sustainable food environments; policies to support a just transition in the livestock sector; an ambitious revision of EU animal welfare legislation, including to phase out cages in animal farming; and a robust EU legislative framework for climate action in agriculture. As current decision-making processes have too often hindered such change, we will continue to highlight the need for a deep reform of agri-food policy governance.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Agriculture: the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and national CAP Strategic Plans, sustainability benchmarking framework.

Livestock: a potential Livestock Strategy; animal welfare legislation.

Food: the EU Protein Policy; public procurement.

Climate: European Climate Law, Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation (LULUCF), Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR), Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Regulation and its implementation through Delegated Acts, EU Climate Adaptation Action Plan.

The Agriculture and Food team will also collaborate with other teams on files of common interest, for instance, the Water Resilience Strategy, the potential revision of the Nitrates Directive, and the revision of the national emissions ceiling directive (NECD).

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2026, 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 public and political agenda and recognised by a majority of EU policymakers.

NATURE – AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

ACTIVITIES

1. *Calling for an overhaul of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and an effective on-farm sustainability benchmarking framework*

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. We will push for better implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation in the agriculture sector, including by scrutinising the implementation of national CAP Strategic Plans in collaboration with EEB members. We will also engage with the development of the 'farm sustainability benchmarking' framework to ensure it follows a holistic approach to environmental sustainability.

2. *Advocating for a just transition to sustainable food systems, based on high animal welfare and animal farming and diets that respect planetary boundaries.*

The EEB will continue to advocate for ambitious and holistic EU policies on both production and demand-sides to drive a transition to sustainable food systems, with a particular focus on animal farming and protein consumption. We will actively participate in discussions on the future of the livestock sector and on the EU's protein system and push for an ambitious revision of the animal welfare legislation and phase out of cage farming. We will also continue to call for more inclusive and cross-cutting governance, better policy coherence, and a food-systems approach to EU agri-food policy.

3. *Shaping an ambitious EU legislative framework for climate action in agriculture.*

The EEB will actively contribute to discussions about the post-2030 climate policy framework to ensure sectoral targets and policies are in place to speed up climate action in the agriculture sector. We will continue to engage with possible mechanisms to apply emissions pricing in agriculture and to drive mitigation across food supply chains and will maintain our involvement in, and scrutiny of, the implementation of the Carbon Removal and Carbon Farming Regulation to ensure it delivers on the EU's climate and biodiversity objectives.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

DESCRIPTION

Circular economy is all about resources and their associated environmental impacts. Although the term has become a buzzword in the last decade, we are still exhausting our planet's resources at an unprecedented level. While mentioned in name and announced as core to the 2024-2029 Commission's agenda, the ambition and vision for circularity action remain low. Given the increasingly complicated geopolitical context – facing resource volatility, a risk of trade deals driving down standards, and online sales actors completely ignoring EU laws, it is as important as ever to unleash the potential of the circular economy and turn it from a convincing narrative into a powerful motor for systemic industrial and socio-economic transformation. We need to act between environmental maxima, respecting planetary boundaries, and social minima, ensuring decent living standards and reducing inequalities, remaining rooted in the sufficiency principle while adapting the messaging to the new context. The EEB intends to build on the significant successes of the past and has the ambition to ensure these opportunities are realised through effective policy making and implementation, and that the multiplier effects of the circular economy on other sustainability dimensions are also fully grasped.

Specific interfaces with other policies will continue to be developed including progressing a more inclusive society with reduced inequalities and increased public participation in decision making, CE policies contribute to a just transition, accelerating the decarbonisation of our economy (including via tackling embedded emissions), a transition to a healthy toxic free environment as part of a zero pollution agenda, as well as enhancing biodiversity restoration through saving on biomass and strategically cascading the use of bioproducts and waste to trigger value creation opportunities. Critically, circularity must also become a global agenda for sustainable resource management.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

The Circular Economy team will capitalise on the fact that the Circular Economy has been taken on board within the new Commission's work programme. We will work to ensure that the Circular Economy Act (due in Q4 2026) is as ambitious as possible, with a much stronger focus on resource reduction, reuse, and repair, and that it does not limit its vision to recycling and waste alone. The Circular Economy team will monitor the development of delegated acts under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation as a member of the Ecodesign Forum, the Bioeconomy Strategy, the revision of the Public Procurement Directive and of the WEEE Directive, the ongoing evolution of the EU ecolabel and Product Environmental Footprint, the development of the landfill BREF as well as the process towards implementation of policies such as the Green Claims Directive, Regulation on Circularity Requirements for Vehicle Design and on Management of End-of-Life Vehicles, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, Waste Framework Directive, Right to Repair, Empowering Consumers, in particular thanks to the mobilisation and articulation of our network of national members. The Circular Economy team will promote a material footprint reduction target and sufficiency approaches as framing narratives for all policies. We will monitor risks of the simplification and competitiveness agenda and intervene as necessary to avoid an erosion of ambition through further omnibus packages.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2026, the EEB will secure more support for an ambitious target to reduce resource use and material footprint at the EU level and ensure that the Circular Economy is equipped with a new, specific action plan reflected in key climate, biodiversity, and industry policy development. At the sectoral level, we will have made progress in the textiles, construction, vehicles, and electronics sectors, with policy options helping the relevant industries operate within planetary boundaries. We will also have secured a more systematic integration of circular economy practices in the bioeconomy and in decarbonising the energy-intensive industry, notably steel, cement and chemicals.

ACTIVITIES

1. *Continuously promote the setting of ambitious resource use reduction and waste prevention targets*

In 2026, the EEB will reinforce its pressure to develop material footprint and waste prevention reduction targets, along with related implementation measures, at the national level. This remains a framing narrative for all our policy work. This notably includes efforts to implement sufficiency approaches and policy measures across all sectors, and to better balance the necessary transition away from fossil fuels and from the extraction of biotic and abiotic resources. We will increase attention to indicators newly introduced in the CE monitoring framework, such as the material and consumption footprint indicators. In this endeavour, we will reinforce our cooperation with our Economic Transition colleagues and with research centres while striving for co-designing with industry and social partners, conducive policy options aiming to streamline economic development within sustainability corridors - between environmental maxima and social minima. As part of this work, we will promote transformative actions based on new forms of public participation and governance, and avoid placing the primary burden of change on individual citizens. As part of our work on green fiscal reform, we will continue to promote circular taxes and other economic instruments to stimulate circularity and reduce resource consumption.

2. *Engage in policy development, implementation and technical discussions related to circular economy files*

In 2026, the EEB will focus its efforts on influencing the Circular Economy Act ahead of its publication. With the CE Act narrative as an umbrella, we will continue to work on high-impact cross-cutting sectors such as textiles, construction, electronics, vehicles, packaging, plastics, waste and intermediary products produced by intensive industries. We will work towards more sustainable, durable, repairable and reusable products, and towards effective measures to prevent early obsolescence and the destruction of unsold (and returned) products. We will push for a truly clean industrial deal and toxic-free product design under the ESPR. We will constantly align with the industrial agenda, promoting the circular economy as an approach, reinforcing EU economic strategic resilience, and helping progress towards more sustainable industry models, free of toxic materials and without implementing technologies that hinder the transition to a carbon-free economy. We will also continue working on mandatory targets for Public (and incentivise non-price criteria for private) Procurement, a revision of EPR regimes across different product categories, advocating for game-changing policy tools that support waste prevention, reuse and high-quality recycling that lead to genuine reductions in virgin material production. We will work through advocacy, campaigning and coalition building. We will act within existing coalitions such as the Rethink Plastic alliance at the EU level and the Break Free from Plastic movement at the global scale, as well as the Right to Repair European network, the EESC Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, the Fair and Sustainable Textiles coalition, and the Sufficiency coalition in the building sector. We will also reinforce and better structure new coalitions in the Bioeconomy. In every sector, we will continue seizing opportunities to address other relevant sustainability dimensions such as sufficiency, toxicity, working conditions and supply chain (upstream and downstream) due diligence.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

3. Reinforcing the EEB network of members and partners working in the field of circular economy, including outside the EU

In 2026, 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. We shall notably seek to intensify our cooperation with Central and Eastern European countries, including the European Union's neighbourhood countries, where we have active members. This work with members and partners will include the development of new projects with members combining national and EU perspectives, spreading and adapting best experiences on new production and consumption models, having proven effective to save on resources and waste, as well as gathering good national examples of implemented circular economy policies and initiatives to feed into our advocacy at the EU level. Directions for such a collaboration will consider the smart integration of EU policies with national fiscal and financial measures. As part of this membership and partnership consolidation work, we shall also promote the leverage effects of the circular economy on climate, biodiversity, and sustainable industrial policies, to best align with the potential variety of national priorities. The EEB will strive to extend its work to analyse the impact of emerging EU product policies beyond EU boundaries, recognising that Europe's consumption sits within highly globalised supply chains and the risks of setting policies which do not align with the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, we will work closely with other EEB teams to learn from one another and maximise synergies. The EEB will endeavour to influence the World Circular Economy Forum, to join international projects with partners in EU neighbourhood countries (where our role is clearly defined and where our focus remains on EU policy), in Africa and Asia and continue to promote the setting up of a network of CSO partners in low- and medium-income countries on CE. The EEB endeavours to work on projects where the design of the research scope is led by partners in an impacted region.



CLIMATE AND ENERGY

DESCRIPTION

The work by the Climate and Energy Team will focus on advocating for the EU and EU countries to ensure they play their part in avoiding further exacerbation of the climate crisis. The EU must continue to push for global warming to stay within 1.5 degrees by the end of the century, in line with the EU's commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement, while ensuring that climate action does not undermine nature protection. This includes advocating for the Commission to bring forward the files that have been dropped from the 2030 Climate & Energy legislative package (Fit for 55) and RePowerEU, such as the EU Heat Pump Action Plan and the Energy Taxation Directive, as well as a strong focus on the implementation of the approved targets and measures both at the EU and Member State level. Implementation challenges include ensuring that climate policies are fair, participative, and cost-effective, sensitive to the needs of local communities and do not hinder biodiversity protection policies. A special focus will be made on encouraging EU countries to ensure national policies complement EU climate policies, such as the ETS2, and that revenues are used in the most transparent manner possible, contributing to redistribution and social justice. The Climate and Energy Team will work on debunking the narrative against false solutions, such as excessive use of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) (using the [position paper](#) developed in collaboration with several EEB Working Groups and its Council and published 19 May 2025), hydrogen, nuclear power, and other technologies that might distract from the priority of sufficiency, efficiency and the shift to 100% renewable energy. The EEB will continue promoting the energy transition to reach a 100% renewable energy system by 2040, making sure these are nature-positive and that this is coupled with a drastic reduction in energy demand, grid and storage upgrades, with strong involvement of civil society and, in particular, local populations, who should be duly associated with the benefits of renewable energy.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

The team will address the progress of the EU's 2040 Climate target and will also continue working on the implementation of the revised Renewable Energy Directive (RED) by EU countries, with a specific focus on environmentally sound spatial planning, the designation of Renewables Acceleration Areas with strong public support, and accelerated permitting in compliance with environmental standards. We will provide the EU Institutions with relevant information and policy recommendations to facilitate the integration of renewable energy with grids, flexibility, and storage within the framework of the Clean Industrial Deal policies. The team will also continue promoting the acceleration of decarbonisation in heating and cooling across the EU. We will act through the transposition of the EPBD, the implementation of the F-gas Regulation, the Electrification Strategy and the Affordable Energy Action Plan, as well as the EU Heating and Cooling Strategy. Lastly, the Ecodesign and energy labelling of heating and cooking appliances, and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), will be monitored. We will focus on creating the conditions for the ETS2 to be a success, by encouraging countries to transpose the legislation rapidly, adopt complementary measures, by smart revenue distribution and by transparent and tangible investments, including via the Social Climate Fund, actively participating in the Clean Heat Coalition and the Coalition for Energy Savings. We will work closely with our colleagues from the EEB industry team to monitor developments in ETS1 and CBAM.

Furthermore, the team will also continue supporting EEB's presence in a number of both formal and informal coalitions, such as the Coalition for Energy Savings, the Cool Heating Coalition and Nuclear Transparency Watch.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2026, the EEB will have successfully advocated for efficient and socially just climate policies in the fields of carbon pricing, renewables, and heating & cooling decarbonisation, and for ensuring policy coherence with other European Green Deal environmental objectives (biodiversity protection, zero

pollution, and circularity). We will have promoted the importance of taking biodiversity and public engagement into account from the outset in the development of renewable energy, as a tool to improve the permitting and implementation rate of projects, and thus as a key factor in achieving the EU's 2030 renewable energy targets. The EEB will have advocated for a transparent, fair and effective implementation of National Social Climate Plans and distribution of other revenues from carbon pricing. The EEB will also have worked on promoting the decarbonisation of grids and contributed to a narrative that prevents fake solutions, such as excessive reliance on CCS, hydrogen, and nuclear, from becoming central topics in the 2040 target discussion.

ACTIVITIES

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

The Energy & Climate team will collaborate with the EEB Biodiversity and the Environmental Law and Justice teams to promote the rapid deployment of renewable energy while ensuring nature conservation and citizen participation. This will be done by identifying the main challenges and potential solutions to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy installations, electricity grids, storage and flexibility solutions in the context of the implementation of the revised EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and upcoming Clean Industrial Deal policies. Potential impacts on biodiversity, habitats, and solutions for a nature-friendly, people-centred renewable energy transition in Europe. The EEB will support its member organisations on this issue to promote a nature-friendly energy transition at the national and European levels, including by promoting online planning tools and deeper civil society engagement on renewable energy plans and projects. The distraction to these aims caused by investments in nuclear energy will be further addressed by the EEB's work under this activity, which will build on positions and publications advocating a progressive phase-out of nuclear energy if our multipronged efforts to secure funding are successful. If funds are raised, we will continue our work on civil society input into an encompassing sufficiency-oriented energy scenario, the Paris Agreement Compatible scenario work, which provides intellectual underpinning to our advocacy positions both on consumption and production of energy.

2. Accelerating the decarbonisation of heating and cooling in the EU and promoting socially progressive climate policies

Building on the energy efficiency first principle and the requirements stemming from the revised Energy Performance of Building Directive (EPBD), Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and National Social Climate Plans at the national level, and on its work in the context of the Coolproducts campaign, the EEB will follow up on its efforts to phase out fossil fuels from heating and cooling. The EEB will engage with its members to promote proactive measures at the national level, including swift implementation and ambitious phase-out dates. The EEB will collaborate with environmental and social actors, mobilising both environmental, economic, and social arguments to advocate in favour of carbon tax-and-dividends schemes and the use of carbon revenues to improve public support for EU climate policies and reduce energy poverty. A particular focus will lie in networking and coordinating the work of members working at the national level on (1) the implementation of the Affordable Energy Action Plan and the EU Heating and Cooling strategy, (2) the implementation of public participation requirements and incentives to energy communities under the revised EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and (3) the plans for revenue use of ETS-2 revenues, including via the National Social Climate Plans.

All these activities will be delivered with continued 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 will include both regular (in person and online) meetings of the Climate and Energy working group, and close collaboration with other Brussels-based organisations where our members may also be engaged.





HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – MERCURY



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – MERCURY

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 2026, the EEB will have actively contributed towards strengthening the EU mercury regulation as well as the Minamata Convention and their implementation, to reduce mercury use, releases and emissions, supply and demand, trade and exposure to mercury.

The activities described are subject to funding and staff resources for 2026.





HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – MERCURY

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. Gender and intersectionality aspects are to be addressed under the different activities as relevant.

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 2026, the EEB will continue its efforts, preparing the ground to strengthen the Convention by, among other things, phasing out more mercury-added products and processes; strengthening enforcement related to the phase out of mercury-added cosmetics, addressing loopholes related to trade and contributing to its effectiveness evaluation. It will contribute to the intersessional process of the COP, as relevant, and to preparations for COP7 in 2027. Lastly, the EEB will work to strengthen relevant EU legislation to create more opportunities to push the global debate.

3. Strengthening EU policies and their implementation related to mercury

At the EU level, the revised EU Mercury Regulation was adopted in July 2024. It banned the use and export of dental amalgam by 1 January 2026, the export of mercury-added lamps was already banned in the EU and further included follow-up work on mercury emissions from crematoria, mercury compounds, as well as an assessment on the need to phase out remaining uses and expand the list of mercury waste sources. In 2026, its implementation will follow. The work at the EU level will feed directly into the global work. The Mercury team will also be involved in discussions on the Zero Pollution Action Plan, the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, the Clean Industrial Deal, the Cosmetics Directive, and initiatives on online sales (e.g., digital fairness, market surveillance regulation), among other topics.

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

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



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – CHEMICALS



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – CHEMICALS

DESCRIPTION

The Chemicals team will work to influence the EU towards a toxic-free environment by securing a protective and future-proof REACH revision that accelerates the phase-out of the most hazardous chemicals. The team will seek a broad PFAS restriction and ensure commitments to clean up, the polluter-pays principle, and support for communities affected by PFAS pollution. It will advocate for stronger chemicals legislation and engage high-level decision-makers to prioritise a toxic-free environment and to tackle chemical pollution through preventive and precautionary measures. Additionally, the EEB will continue coordinating and mobilising the EU NGOs through our chemicals working group and toxic-free future campaign, strengthening networks, expanding capacity-building activities and reinforcing collaboration with CSOs across the EU.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS); REACH regulation; Chemicals Industry Package; non-REACH chemicals legislation; Zero Pollution Action Plan (ZPAP); European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2026, the EEB will work alongside key stakeholders to ensure that the REACH's shortcomings are properly fixed to accelerate the restriction of the most harmful chemicals and prevent their weakening by conservative policymakers. In addition, the EEB will have actively advocated so that the EU institutions will have concluded on the negotiations regarding the REACH reform, as well as committed to a PFAS phase-out.





HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – CHEMICALS

ACTIVITIES

1. Engaging high-level decision makers towards a more effective and future-proof REACH Regulation to set the foundation for delivering a toxic-free environment

The EEB will focus its advocacy efforts on ensuring that the EU institutions and national governments use all available tools to address shortcomings in REACH by the end of 2026, while countering the negative drive to undermine REACH. The EEB will advocate for the necessary measures to accelerate the banning of the most harmful chemicals across sectors, to achieve toxic-free products and lay the foundation for moving towards a toxic-free environment. The EEB (with its members) will therefore reinforce its relations with high-level decision-makers, such as new European Commissioners and members of the European Parliament, as well as Environment Ministers, high-level Member State Officials, representatives of the Council and its Presidency. The EEB chemicals team, in collaboration with Communications colleagues, will also raise awareness of the impact of chemicals on our health, including infertility, as well as the economic impacts of inaction.

2. Advocating for EU Institutions to properly implement the restriction of the most hazardous chemicals

The EEB will work on EU commitments to ban the most harmful chemicals via the so-called Restrictions Roadmap. Key restrictions will be proposed, discussed or adopted in 2026, such as 'universal PFAS', bisphenols, flame retardants and PVC plastic. The EEB will continue its work at ECHA to ensure independent and 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 to make sure these opinions are not overruled by the Commission. In addition, we will advocate for specific measures to accelerate the phase-out, such as group restrictions, the application of the Essential Use concept, and the Precautionary Principle, with a specific focus on the PFAS restriction.

3. 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 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, including Water. The EEB will also continue coordinating the regular channels and networks (the EEB Chemicals Working Group (WG), the Chemicals taskforce group, the toxic-free future campaign, the PFAS working group, and major EU civil society organisations) and engage in joint projects. The EEB will use its European, including Western Balkan, and global NGO networks to put pressure at the highest political level. We will also liaise with other stakeholders, such as affected communities and youth organisations.



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – ZERO POLLUTION INDUSTRY



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – ZERO POLLUTION INDUSTRY

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 EEB will work towards a 'Clean' Industrial Deal that catalyses a transition to an industry that is competitive on sustainability and a global frontrunner in decarbonisation, detoxification, de-pollution and restoration, aligned to the joint industry-NGO "Vision for a prosperous and sustainable industry: a positive blueprint for the future". The team will promote a dynamic mix of regulation that drives innovation, serves the public interest, ensures a level playing field through strict, ambitious enforcement of EU standards, and prioritises pollution prevention guided by a restoration mindset. 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 a forward-looking manner on the zero-pollution objectives, decarbonisation and the circular economy of energy-intensive industry, while ensuring a Just Transition for affected communities and preventing state aids for false solutions. We will also look to redesign reporting obligations to improve progress tracking of environmental performance and to enhance accountability in decision-making, for example, through better implementation of the Regulation establishing the Industrial Emissions Portal. The EEB will also seek to implement the pollution prevention hierarchy and the polluter pays principle through the adoption of a Toxic Free and Zero Pollution Compatibility check for any support schemes, including the Public Procurement Directives review, with the aim to fully internalise external costs for industrial value chains and to provide for mandatory conditionalities linked to best-in-class environmental and social performance requirements. The main focus of industrial transformation will be energy-intensive industries, in particular the steel, concrete, and chemical industries.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

Implementation of the revised IED and Best Available Technique Reference documents (BREFs); Zero Pollution Action Plan (ZPAP) and possible related 'Clean' Industrial Deal initiatives such as the Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act and the EU Competitiveness Fund; the Climate and Energy files (Fit for 55) e.g. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism so to address loopholes and widening of scope, Public Procurement Directive(s), implementation of the Net Zero Industry Act, the Eco-Design for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) focussed on steel, the Industrial Carbon Management strategy (focusing on carbon-intensive industrial sectors), Industrial Emissions Portal Regulation (formerly E-PRTR)/ Kiev Protocol, COM expert group rules (linked to BREF process).

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2026, 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 accelerated, with a key focus on transforming energy-intensive industries to clean, climate-neutral production. 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 and zero pollution industry acting within planet boundaries with as a main focus energy-intensive industries such as steel and concrete production and made sure that any support to 'net zero Industry' will be based on sound conditions, including social and due diligence standards and integrating a continuous regulatory push beyond subsidies. We would like to ensure that any support schemes are aligned with a Toxic Free and Zero Pollution ambition.



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – ZERO POLLUTION INDUSTRY

ACTIVITIES

1. Making the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) implementation fit for the industrial transformation

The EEB will build support among other NGOs, Member States decision-makers, and partners to push for an ambitious implementation of the revised Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), so that the IED and the secondary legislation developed thereunder make the zero pollution, climate, and circular economy ambitions a reality. This will focus on the content and objectives of the installation-level transformation plans, the method for cost-benefit assessment, and the EU BREF guidance.

2. Advocating for the transition of energy-intensive industries (Steel and Cement) away from fossil fuels and internalising environmental and human health costs

The EEB will promote the decarbonisation and depollution of the most impactful industry in the EU (notably steel and cement) through a package of policy approaches in the framework of EU industrial policy. We will expose cases of failure in the internalisation of external costs and highlight the potential to strengthen the energy-water protection nexus. The EEB will promote the acceleration of decarbonisation through ambitious implementation at the national level, ringfenced by ambitious EU framework conditions (e.g. transformation plans and state aid conditionalities). This would be performed in close collaboration with the Energy and Climate and Circular Economy teams. We expect this work, focused on steel and cement, will open opportunities to work on chemicals, plastics, and other energy-intensive industries in the coming years (but not necessarily in 2026).

3. Engaging in the development of transformative industrial pollution standards (BREFs)

The EEB will actively take part in elaborating BREFs, the documents setting the binding framework for best available practices (best available techniques) for industrial activities, notably by focusing efforts in driving the decarbonisation of energy-intensive industries such as steel, cement and chemicals, but also in other key industrial activities such as mining of ores, landfills and giga-batteries production. The EEB will also revise the rules for livestock rearing.

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

The EEB will advocate for providing single-access platforms and databases for environmental information to promote compliance, benchmark performance, improve information exchange for EU standard-setting, and provide more up-to-date and complete public access to information. We will continue promoting a comprehensive and user-friendly European Industrial Emissions Portal and bridge with the digital product passport promoted under the EU product policy (ESPR). In addition, subject to additional resources, the EEB will engage in changing the Commission expert group rules or Council work practices to improve inclusive governance, to ensure full transparency and accountability to the 'Green Oath' and to improve the balance of public versus private interests. This could feed a horizontal issue going beyond the Zero Pollution Industry team and relevant for the whole EEB if considered relevant by other teams.



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – AIR QUALITY AND NOISE



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – AIR QUALITY AND NOISE

DESCRIPTION

The work done by the Air & Noise Pollution Team will focus on the one hand on advocating for the swift transposition of the revised Ambient Air Quality Directive (AAQD), to be finalised by 11 December 2026, and the implementation of the existing one, and on the other hand on reducing national emissions through effective National Air Pollution Control Programmes while strengthening of the National Emission Ceilings Directive during its revision process (which EEB will advocate for during its review, which is expected to end by December 2025). The EEB will also work to make the Zero Pollution Action Plan (ZPAP) an effective tool to promote substantive progress on the zero-pollution ambition, particularly in the domestic heating and agricultural sectors, while continuing to highlight the close link and need for coherence between air and climate actions. Furthermore, the EEB will engage in revising the Gothenburg Protocol, aiming to expand the number of pollutants covered from five to eight. With noise being the second-largest environmental health risk in Europe after air pollution, the EEB will continue to advocate for the revision of the Environmental Noise Directive while pushing for a Zero Pollution Action Plan that effectively tackles this issue.

POLICIES ADDRESSED

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

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

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2026, the EEB has successfully advocated for the transposition of the new Ambient Air Quality legislation into national legislation and for 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, black carbon and mercury) and is contributing to the hopefully ongoing revision of the National Emission Ceilings Directive to strengthening it; 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 begun revising the Environmental Noise Directive and will have promoted meaningful actions to reduce environmental noise pollution through the Zero Pollution Action Plan.



ACTIVITIES

1. Transposition and implementation of the EU Ambient Air Quality legislation

The EEB will continue to promote an ambitious transposition of the new Ambient Air Quality Directive while supporting the full implementation of the previous Ambient Air Quality Directives. It will work to ensure that the revised (recast) Ambient Air Quality Directive is fully transposed by the end of 2026 and that the pre-existing obligations are complied with. 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, and increasing their level of ambition

The EEB will continue to monitor and seek to influence the implementation of the National Air Pollution Control Programmes (NAPCPs) to at least reach the National Emission Reduction Commitments identified by the NECD. EEB will contribute to and coordinate its members during the hopefully ongoing NECD revision process, expected to start at the beginning of 2026, once the review has been finalised in December 2025. The EEB will support an ambitious revision of the Gothenburg Protocol during the ongoing UNECE-level negotiation process, especially by pushing for broadening its scope and increasing its ambition. 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, and will also promote a preventative approach and the reduction of pollution at source. Advocating for zero pollution in 2026 will be particularly important to ensure that it remains a guiding objective for the existing European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council. The EEB's focus will be on emissions from agriculture and heating, which are still disregarded sources of air pollution, and will continue to promote coherence between air and climate actions. Dedicated instruments (legislative and policies) should be put in place to prevent pollution.

4. Strengthening the Environmental Noise Directive (END).

Pending funding availability, the EEB will continue to call for a revision of the END, and, if and when it is opened for revision, will also advocate for binding noise-reduction targets in line with the WHO Environmental noise guidelines for the European Region in the new directive. The EEB will continue to cooperate, where possible, with other relevant stakeholders.

New Leaf

A new chapter for people and planet

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COMMUNICATIONS

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COMMUNICATIONS

DESCRIPTION

In 2026, the EEB's communications strategy will focus on strengthening its impact, engagement, and influence in EU environmental policy. This includes further formalising processes, enhancing digital literacy and optimising strategic communication tools, platforms and channels to better support policy work and visibility. Enhanced audience segmentation and tailored messaging will help the EEB communicate effectively with policymakers, members, citizen movements, and the broader public. The emphasis will be on evidence-based, data-driven communication to maximise reach and impact. The EEB will refine its digital presence, integrate narrative change and community-building approaches, and expand efforts to counter disinformation, ensuring environmental policies are framed effectively in a dynamic media landscape.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2026, the EEB will have strengthened its internal and external communication impact. The communications team will be more integrated across work areas, thereby improving collaboration, knowledge sharing, and workflows. A clearer organisational understanding of strategic communication will enhance synergy between policy and communication teams. Externally, the EEB's communications will be more compelling, accessible, and tailored to the audience. Digital channels will further increase the EEB's influence among key audiences, including policymakers and their teams, institutions, civil society, academia, progressive business, youth, and the broader public. Expansion into emerging traditional and social media platforms will enhance engagement with various audiences, with the aim of combating disinformation and scaling up the visibility of science communications.

ACTIVITIES

1. Further formalising communications.

In 2026, the EEB will continue to improve its communications infrastructure within the communications team by formalising processes and enhancing coordination across all teams. This will include refining workflows, deepening collaboration between communications and policy teams, and building on the work of existing internal task forces within the communications team focused on media relations, newsletter, social media, design, web, and analytics. These steps will help increase efficiency, improve message consistency and optimisation, and ensure that the communications team can more effectively support evolving organisational needs, including scaling up and sustaining content creation, developing a new website, a new CRM system and more.

2. Expanding Evidence-Based Strategic Communications and Capacity Building

To better tailor content and messaging, the EEB will further adopt an evidence-based, data-driven approach to its communications, using analytics and audience insights to improve performance across platforms. At the same time, it will expand efforts to support both internal teams and members through targeted capacity building. This will include providing training opportunities on digital tools and strategic communications, as well as encouraging greater knowledge-sharing within the network. These efforts aim to strengthen the overall communications capacity of the EEB and its members, enabling more consistent and coordinated engagement at both EU and national levels.

3. Optimising Digital Communication and Countering Disinformation

The EEB will refine its digital presence in 2026 to respond to changing media dynamics and user behaviours. This includes optimising content formats for key platforms and strengthening the organisation's capacity to produce timely, engaging, and fact-based communications. As concerns around disinformation continue to grow, the EEB will step up its work in this area, with a clearer focus on monitoring, identifying, and responding to false or misleading narratives related to environmental policy. Support for members in navigating these challenges will also be increased through shared resources and, where relevant, collaboration.

4. Enhancing Engagement, Narrative Influence, and Network Coordination

In the year ahead, the EEB will focus on deepening its strategic communication efforts by improving how it frames its messages and connects with key audiences - from policymakers and journalists to civil society and the wider public. Communications efforts will closely align with advocacy goals, while storytelling and audience-specific content will bring policy messages to life. Coordination with national members will be strengthened to support more consistent messaging across the network, where relevant and desired. The EEB will continue to invest in high-quality content across channels such as the New Leaf newsletter, the New Leaf website, social and digital media, and traditional media, and will refine key outputs, including our Annual Report and Presidency Papers. Efforts to increase communications capacity will remain a priority, including fundraising to support evolving needs.





MEMBERSHIP, PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS



MEMBERSHIP, PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS

DESCRIPTION

The work done under Membership, Partnerships and Events will focus on consolidating the EEB's membership and on targeted growth in countries and thematic areas where our network needs greater strength and expertise to become an even more comprehensive umbrella network. The EEB will ensure that all members are empowered to act, make an impact, and mobilise jointly by offering networking opportunities, capacity-building, and advocacy tools. There will be a special focus on a) boosting membership engagement in the working groups and encouraging joint projects and mobilisation, and b) further improving and extending the functionalities of the organisation's software platform for project and finance management, 'The Force'. In the next development steps, the platform will include a powerful advocacy database, an events portal, a membership engagement platform (members will be consulted first on needs and wishes), 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 2026, the EEB will have an even broader and more diverse membership, empowered and engaged, with increased capacity to advocate and navigate our rapidly changing world.

ACTIVITIES

1. Ensuring an empowered membership that is equipped to make an impact in a rapidly changing world

In 2026, the EEB will continue to ensure that all members are empowered to act by offering opportunities for close co-operation, networking, information exchange, and capacity building. The EEB will strive to offer skill sharing and capacity building moments for EEB members both on key environmental issues as well as how to best navigate major geopolitical changes, shrinking civic space, resilience and adaptability and communications challenges (disinformation, fake news etc.) and to create more networking spaces that support the development of joint projects among members. The working groups are the primary forum through which EEB members collaborate. The rules and guidelines governing the working groups are kept under regular review, and all new EEB staff receive an introduction to their purpose and functioning. Efforts will be made to further strengthen common ownership and actions and to boost membership engagement in the working groups in 2026. This will include regular exchanges between working group chairs on best practices. In addition, the EEB will explore how to better support bottom-up actions, peer learning between members from different regions, and member-driven campaigns, with the help of the EEB Council members. Throughout the year, the EEB will also continue to strive to apply for joint project funding with its members, where feasible. EEB will consult the membership on their needs and wishes for a future membership engagement platform, including optimised tools for file-sharing. The pace at which such a platform can be set up and rolled out depends on the identified needs, funding, and staff resources.

The EEB will do its utmost to provide support for members in countries or regions within its membership that are experiencing the effects of war, conflict or major disasters, either directly or indirectly. As such, 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 support them so they can continue their work, remain engaged in different European networks and coalitions, and/or work towards just peace in their country.



MEMBERSHIP, PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS

In 2026, the EEB will also consult its members as it develops a new proposal for the membership fee system for 2028-2032 for adoption by the General Assembly in 2027, when the current fee system ends.

Beyond membership, the EEB will continue to strengthen its partnerships with other networks, organisations and institutions for joint advocacy and policy activities, research, the exchange of best practices, fundraising, and other mutual support.

2. Promoting consolidation and targeted growth of the membership

In 2026, the EEB will continue to reach out to potential members, whether national, European, or other types of organisations, with a special focus on countries or topics where EEB membership is underrepresented or not yet represented. Countries where the EEB is underrepresented include Italy and France, as well as countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. To support increased membership from such countries, the EEB will seek to enhance engagement with NGOs in the region, with the facilitation and support of the Council members in the country (or neighbouring country if the EEB is not yet represented in the country in question). The EEB may also seek to attract associate members from outside Europe where those are strategic for certain of our policy areas. Topics where the EEB is underrepresented include health, youth, education and the interface between conflict and environment. To attract new members, the EEB will promote youth participation and encourage a more feminist and inclusive membership culture in line with its Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Policy endorsed by its members.

3. Organising well-attended and interactive events

In 2026, the EEB will continue to organise regular events that bring together members of the environmental movement across Europe with policymakers, other civil society actors, thought leaders, and entrepreneurs to debate shared challenges and opportunities. Specific 2026 focus areas include a) further improving the quality of EEB hybrid events (networking with other NGOs, communication tools, in-house capacity building and training to successfully manage and engage with two audiences), b) moving the EEB event portal and events contacts to the organisation's software platform 'The Force' in 2025/2026 and c) develop an alternative business model for events, including reflecting upon frequency, funding model and format of the traditional EEB Annual Conference.





STAFF, ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE



STAFF, ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE

DESCRIPTION

Strengthening both the people and the structure behind the movement is essential for long-term impact. The EEB's Organisational Development work 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) for 2020-2030, the EEB carried out a mid-term review in 2025 and agreed on a roadmap for the remaining five years of the LTS. The review will provide an opportunity to reflect on internal changes at the EEB since 2020 (team composition and changes to the organigram), as well as geopolitical changes, changes in the donor landscape, and changes in the conditions for civil society organisations to operate in Europe. The evaluation of the 2023 EEB governance reform (which established a smaller Board and simultaneously transformed the previous large Board into a Council with a more political role) will also be an integral part of the mid-term review. In 2026, the findings of the 2025 mid-term review will become an integral part of the EEB's work and be used to define priorities for the years to come. The EEB will continue to raise awareness around and implement its Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Policy and Policy on the protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) and on safeguarding within its staffing and governance structures. Ensuring diverse perspectives, particularly from underrepresented regions and communities, enriches the network and strengthens legitimacy.

One priority that will also remain is staff wellbeing, to develop and implement the internal training plan for staff and to put in place better tools for collaboration by extending the functionalities of the organisation's software platform for project- and finance management to also include a powerful advocacy database, a membership engagement platform and events portal and tools for core communications and outreach work.

OBJECTIVE

By 31 December 2026, 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 in-house software platform to serve the organisation.

ACTIVITIES

1. Boosting organisational development and capacity building

In 2026, the EEB will continue to ensure that the operational base and governance structure are fit for purpose by a) capturing and integrating lessons from the 2025 mid-term review of the LTS and b) offering training for staff and members, where feasible. In addition, the EEB will further enhance and extend the functionality of the organisation's software platform for project and finance management. In the next development steps, the platform will include a powerful advocacy database for strategic monitoring and extended outreach, a membership engagement platform and events portal and 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.



STAFF, ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE

2. Implementing the EEB Fundraising Strategy for a sustainable funding basis

The EEB will continue its work to secure long-term and sustainable funding to deliver on the EEB's mandate, in line with the strategic objectives set out in the EEB's Long-Term Strategy 2020–2030 and the EEB work programme for 2026. To this end, the EEB will work to closely monitor shifts in the donor landscape (linked to quickly evolving geopolitical changes), nurture donor relations, maintain funding from existing donors and secure funding from new donors, while keeping its total expenditure under control with sufficient balances and checks to ensure that projects are truly cost covering, and the organisation has contingency plans in place and maintains sufficient reserves. The new fundraising strategy for 2025–2030, adopted by the Board in 2025, will be complemented by annual action plans. A fundraising task force, consisting of members from the EEB Board and Council, was also set up in 2025 to further step up joint fundraising efforts by the Secretariat and membership, striving to make sure that competition with members is avoided and that joint projects with members (including via sub-granting) are promoted wherever possible.

3. Ensuring consolidation, sustainability and wellbeing of the EEB staff with secure IT systems

To remain a central player, the EEB needs to continue attracting and retaining highly skilled individuals by ensuring 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 HR clinics and in monthly staff meetings. Together with the Trade Union delegation, the Committee for Prevention and Protection at Work, and the EEB, the Committee will continue to implement health and safety and wellbeing measures to comply with legal requirements and support the EEB's staff wellbeing. This includes training, webinars, and access to an Employee Assistance Programme. The EEB will conduct a psychosocial risk assessment analysing risks related to, e.g., workload and the office environment, which will guide priorities, including burnout prevention, for a prevention strategy in 2026. The annual training plan, which offers various training and professional development opportunities for EEB staff, will, as usual, be co-created and implemented in 2026. The EEB will continue to focus on investigating options and finding solutions to make the best use of its office space and on reinforcing its organisational identity and shared sense of purpose among staff. The organisation's staffing, consolidation, and possible strategic recruitment needs are reviewed regularly throughout the year and feed into the participatory development of the budget for the following year (e.g., when developing the 2027 budget in spring 2026).

We will continue to maintain a high standard of cybersecurity and an ethical and legally compliant use of Artificial Intelligence through relevant security measures, the implementation of an AI policy, and staff training.



BUDGET 2026

BUDGET FOR 2026

GENERAL COSTS

Office Costs	312.502 EUR
Office Supplies	55.883 EUR
IT & Internal Communications & infrastructure	68.521 EUR
Depreciation	104.359 EUR
Financial costs	15.802 EUR
Other costs & unforeseen expenditures	257.589 EUR
Sub-total	814.656 EUR

ACTIVITIES AND SUBGRANTING

Management & Governance	22.000 EUR
Policy Divisions & Communications	1.687.517 EUR
Membership & Development Division	135.000 EUR
Finance, Personnel, IT and Office Management teams	199.378 EUR
Sub-total	2.043.895 EUR

SALARY COSTS

Management & Governance	326.358 EUR
Policy Divisions & Communications	4.359.052 EUR
Membership & Development Division	401.976 EUR
Finance, Personnel, IT and Office Management teams	829.462 EUR
Sub-total	5.916.848 EUR

TOTAL BUDGET

Total	8.775.399 EUR
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CURIOUS ABOUT JOINING THE EEB? MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN!

Our members are integral to the EEB at every level: from actively engaging and drafting the policy positions of Europe's largest environmental citizens organisation, to advocating our common positions across Europe and beyond, to participating directly in the organisation's governance.

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

Our Working Groups - a dynamic forum for collaboration

The EEB Working Groups play a vital role in the EEB's daily operations. They are the primary forum through which EEB members collaborate on substantive issues, bringing 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 the EEB's policy positions and to develop joint strategies to influence policies at the national, European, and international levels. 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.

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 the 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 2026

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

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