



Agriculture

[MEPs vote for farm income subsidy windfall with bare-bones environmental standards](#)

MEPs on the European Parliament's Agriculture committee have voted for income support payments to no longer be subject to the respect of certain minimum environmental standards – a move strongly criticised by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB).

[Tool development for reporting environmental impact in agriculture sector](#)

The agriculture sector faces increasing environmental risks, such as drought, flooding and erosion, related to climate change and resource degradation. With the appropriate information, investors and decision-makers can direct their capital toward agricultural practices with better environmental performances and lower risks. But environmental impact data is currently difficult to access. The Environmental Impact Reporting in Agriculture (EIRA) aims to mobilize such information that can drive the transition to sustainable agriculture.

Air Quality

[Microplastics also travel through the air, says new study](#)

Microplastics are not only found in the world's oceans but can also reach isolated areas through the air. Plastic fragments can be transported by wind, snow and rain, according to a study published in Nature Geoscience. Scientists made their discovery in a Natura 2000 area located in the heart of the Pyrenees at an altitude of 1,500 metres and five kilometres from a village.

Biodiversity

[Bending the curve of biodiversity loss: identifying drivers of conservation success in the EU](#)

IEEP has published a new report that presents success stories relating to habitats and species that are the focus of the EU nature directives and provides key lessons on effective approaches that can be shared to achieve better overall results. The study focuses on supporting EU action through better knowledge and evidence, and provides an important contribution to the current discussions on the EU and global biodiversity policy regime for the post-2020 era.

Circular Economy

[Links between circular economy, trade and sustainable development](#)

IEEP is undertaking a study to explore the links between trade, circular economy and sustainable development, providing policy recommendations for better policy coherence. The study aims to provide an evidence-based analysis of the global dimensions of the EU circular economy and its interlinkages with trade. In particular, it will explore the effects of the transition to circular economy in Europe on third countries and the EU's role in the development of a sustainable circular economy worldwide.

Climate Action

[Climate change is at the heart of the Future of Europe](#)

EU leaders must prioritise climate action to combat dangerous climate change when they gather in Sibiu for the 'Future of Europe' summit on 9 May, write the plaintiffs of the People's Climate Case, who are taking the EU institutions to court to protect their fundamental rights and to prevent dangerous climate change.



Brexit: Updates on NIEL's EU Policy work after the UK Referendum decision can be found [here](#).

[With high-end climate change the same old solutions are not enough](#)

What could a future above 2°C look like? What do we want our future to look like? The EU-funded IMPRESSIONS project found out that a more participatory and engaging scientific method can help identify solutions to climate change. The project researched what a future above 2 °C global warming could look like, defined as “high-end climate change”.

[Copenhagen demonstrates that local governments are leading the way in fighting climate change](#)

A recent article overviews Copenhagen’s efforts to become carbon neutral by 2025, reflecting the ways in which cities can and are leading the way in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Copenhagen is mitigating climate change through investing in renewable energy sources and mobility infrastructure and adapting to the local effects of climate change by, for e.g., using nature-based solutions to collect water before it drains.

[Almost all car makers met their 2017 CO2 emission targets on new sales, but overall progress towards the 2021 targets insufficient](#)

All but three car manufacturers met their specific emission targets in 2017, based on current European vehicle test rules. Nevertheless, average carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from new cars sold in the EU in 2017 rose by 0.4 grammes (g) of CO2 per kilometre (km) from 2016, according to final data published by the EEA.

Energy

[EU official: ‘Renewables could supply almost 80% of heating and cooling by 2050’.](#)

Reaching the EU’s target of increasing renewable heating and cooling by 1.3% each year will require a diverse array of solutions, says European Commission Spokesperson.

Environmental Governance

[Locking citizens out of environmental decision making is a threat to democracy – report highlights problems across the EU](#)

Restrictions placed on civil society are dangerous for both our democracies and our environment. A new report by the EEB reveals examples of EU governments failing to deliver on laws that should ensure public participation in environmental decision-making. The ‘Power for the people’ report compiles some of these cases and highlights the issues existing in the EU. It also gives recommendations on how to better include the public and NGOs in environmental matters.

[Environmental Implementation Review](#)

Commission helps Member States to better apply EU environment rules to protect citizens and enhance their quality of life. The Commission has published the second Environmental Implementation Review, part of its [initiative launched in 2016](#) to improve the implementation of European environmental policy and commonly agreed rules in all EU Member States.

Marine

[ClientEarth challenge EU’s lack of transparency around fishing quotas](#)

Lawyers have recently lodged a formal complaint to the European Ombudsman against the Council of the EU, after many years of unexplained fishing quotas set above the scientific advice for sustainable fishing limits. These decisions are made in meetings closed to the public and while it is understood that industry has easy access to decision-makers, the Council refuses to provide the public with the information they need to participate meaningfully in the decision-making process.

[Nordic countries call for global treaty on ocean plastic pollution](#)

In a major step forward in the fight against marine plastic pollution, Nordic governments have become the first in the world to formally call for a global treaty to tackle the plastic crisis in our oceans. The landmark declaration was made at a gathering of the environment ministers at the Nordic Council in Reykjavik.

[#Plastic in the ocean: The facts, effects and new EU rules](#)

Plastic carrier bags and other garbage pollution in ocean - Find out key facts about plastic in the ocean with these infographics, as well as how the EU is acting to reduce plastic litter in the seas.



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