



Air Quality

[Eleven governments ask EU to help hide their air pollution failure](#)

After breaching their national air pollution limits, eleven governments have asked the European Commission to effectively raise their 'emission ceilings'. Green groups have warned that the governments of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Spain and the United Kingdom are attempting to use a legal loophole to hide their failure to cut harmful air pollution.

Biodiversity

[Guidance on measuring, modelling and valuing ecosystem services](#)

New guidance by IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA) has been published to help practitioners assess ecosystem services within important sites for biodiversity conservation.

Circular Economy

[Integrating circular economy and bioeconomy would improve sustainability in Europe](#)

Europe uses natural resources unsustainably and the European Union has put in place policies on circular economy and bioeconomy in response. A new European Environment Agency (EEA) report argues that implementing these two concepts in tandem, by applying specific design principles within a systemic approach, would improve resource efficiency and reduce environmental pressures.

Climate Action

[While Europeans suffer from heat waves, a wave of climate litigation heats up the debate](#)

While Europe is experiencing another record hot summer, climate litigation is moving forward in the EU and US. The European General Court has just accepted the first EU wide climate change case, presented by plaintiffs as the People's Climate Case and was published in the [European Union Official Journal](#). This is an important initial step in the proceeding which is part of a wave of climate litigation composed of similar suits made against the governments of the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Colombia, Ireland, the UK, Switzerland, Norway, New Zealand, and the US.

[Sizzling weather may help 2018 U.N. climate talks in Poland](#)

Sizzling weather this summer will put pressure on almost 200 governments to reach a deal in Poland in December on the details of a global plan to limit climate change, the incoming president of the U.N. talks said. (Reuters)

[Extreme weather: FIVE measures that can help Europe tackle climate change](#)

From Greece to Sweden, record temperatures are bringing Europe to its knees. The heatwaves have been linked to devastating wildfires and deaths across the continent, with scientists now warning that [climate change has made such extreme weather events twice as likely](#). While heatwaves have always struck Europe, they are now striking at times and in places never seen before, said Dr Robert Vautar from the Laboratory of Climate and Environmental Sciences.

Energy

[Lower energy bills as EU retires wasteful light bulbs](#)



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

The imminent phase out of halogen light bulbs across the EU is set to deliver mammoth savings to consumers, according to Coolproducts campaigners and market experts. From 1 September, it may be harder to find halogen light bulbs across the EU as the shift to more efficient LED bulbs continues.

Freshwater

[Undervaluing 'hidden' benefits of rivers undermines economies and sustainable development](#)

As floods and droughts ravage communities and countries worldwide, a WWF report highlights the capacity of healthy rivers to help mitigate these natural disasters but warns that all these 'hidden' benefits of rivers could be lost if they continue to be undervalued and overlooked.

['Green' decontamination methods for solvent linked to cancer, found in paints & cosmetics offer promise of cleaner water](#)

The chemical 1,4 - dioxane, a solvent suspected of causing cancer, is very difficult to clean up once it enters the environment. However, hope is offered by recent scientific developments that use plants, bacteria and fungi to decontaminate water resources.

[Removing tens of thousands of obsolete dams in Europe will bring life back to rivers, says new report](#)

With only 40 percent of Europe's waterways in good condition, a new study calls for tens of thousands of redundant dams and other barriers to be removed to help restore rivers and lakes – boosting wildlife populations and benefiting communities across the continent.

Marine

[European Commission warned harmful subsidies risk overfishing](#)

Lawyers are warning the European Commission not to allow harmful subsidies that could lead to overfishing. The Commission has opened a [public consultation](#) on its plan to amend state aid fisheries guidelines that would authorise funding for the construction of fishing vessels in the EU's outermost regions – overseas territories administered by France, Portugal and Spain.

["Shocking" lack of effort from EU Member States to protect marine environment revealed](#)

Environmental lawyers have applauded a new [report](#) that highlights the lack of effort from several EU Member States in protecting the marine environment from pollution, biodiversity loss and unsustainable fishing. The report from the European Commission on the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), warns that, because of a lack of commitment, Member States will not be able to achieve the goal of a 'good environmental status' for all EU waters by 2020, as set by the MSFD.

Transport

[Hydrogen-powered bin lorries move closer to market](#)

A transnational LIFE project plans to start testing two hydrogen-powered bin lorries in Eindhoven this October. Led by the NGO, WaterstofNet, the [LIFE'N Grab Hy project](#) is demonstrating a zero-emission and low noise alternative to traditional refuse collection vehicles.

Other

[Europe's environmental bad guys - A nation-by-nation look at the Commission's environmental review](#)

The European Commission was careful to only name countries in order to praise them in its overview to the first [Environmental Implementation Review](#), but a closer look by POLITICO at the appended 28 country reports finds a lot more dirt on individual members. The report, issued Monday, assessed the performance of all member countries on the implementation of a wide range of EU legislation, from nature protection laws to waste and water management regulation and air pollution — where only Ireland and Estonia were within EU air quality standards. (Politico)



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