

EU MATTERS

NIEL's Monthly European Environmental News



Agriculture

[The European Commission launches public consultation on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy](#)
Modernising and simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), one of the European Union's longstanding policies, will allow it to better respond to today's social, political, environmental and economic challenges.

[Living Land campaign launch](#)

NGOs have launched the Living Land campaign. The aim is to mobilise at least 1000 European organisations – ranging from environmental, health and animal welfare groups to consumer and farmers associations to support a radical CAP reform. The campaign calls on European, national, regional and local organisations to fill out the ongoing Commission Public Consultation on the CAP and support their vision for CAP reform.

Air Quality

[Europe escalates action against UK for breaching air pollution limits](#)

UK fails to apply environmental law on air quality, water standards, and the conservation of several species, EU review reveals.

[EEB welcomes European Commission action on illegal air](#)

The European Commission will pursue infringement proceedings against France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK for having failed to protect their citizens' health against dangerous levels of air pollution. The infringement proceedings come just weeks after the EU agreed new emission limits in the NEC Directive. An EEB [report](#) shows how these limits can help countries reduce their overall levels of pollution.

Biodiversity

[Lack of scrutiny over future developments' impact on protected areas](#)

Required procedures for assessing the potential negative environmental impacts of future developments on protected areas in Europe are too often not carried out properly – and in some cases are being bypassed altogether. This malpractice is one of the factors contributing to the continued degradation of Europe's valuable natural heritage.

Climate Change

[The EU tackles growing aviation emissions](#)

The Commission is amending the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) making it fit for tackling CO2 emissions from aviation. This comes following an agreement by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to stabilise international aviation emissions.

[Review confirms climate change is threatening many ecosystem services](#)

Climate change is having mixed — but mostly negative — impacts on ecosystem services, suggests a new study. The research, which brings together the findings of over 100 other studies, found that 59% of reported impacts of climate change on ecosystem services are negative, while just 13% are positive.

Energy

[EU on track to meet renewable energy targets – but UK lags behind](#)

EU looks set to meet its 2020 goal of using 20% of energy from renewable sources but the UK is one of three member states to increase reliance on imported energy



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

[Joint position on the Energy Efficiency Directive Review](#)

NGOs argue that the Commission's proposal on the Energy Efficiency Directive review, as well as the rest of the legislative proposals of the Clean Energy for All package, is not consistent with the ambition of the Paris Agreement, which requires the immediate overhaul of EU climate and energy policies.

Marine

[More coordinated legislation needed to ensure the Good Environmental Status of European seas](#)

A range of legislation, including the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), is designed to ensure the 'Good Environmental Status' (GES) of EU seas by 2020. Researchers have assessed the MSFD in relation to existing maritime policies, concluding that coordination between directives is important to achieve GES.

[Europe could suffer major shellfish production losses due to ocean acidification](#)

Ocean acidification threatens marine ecosystems worldwide, but economic assessments of its impact are lacking. A recent study has predicted the future cost of ocean acidification on mollusc production in Europe and showed that the highest economic impacts would be in France, Italy and Spain. For Europe overall, the annual damage could be in the region of €0.9 billion by 2100.

Sustainable Development

A new guide to Sustainable Development Goals for NGOs

The EEB is creating a new website that will help environmental NGOs to learn more about opportunities that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer to the environmental movement. They are collecting tools (articles, presentations, speakers, social media, images, policy papers, monitoring & review, SDG coalitions, other) and trying to link them to the 17 SDGs. If you have any materials, ideas or want to know about this project, please contact [Nick Meynen](#), Project Officer at the EEB.

[European Sustainable Development Week 2017](#)

The registration for the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) 2017 is open! The ESDW is an annual European-wide initiative to stimulate and make visible activities, projects and events that promote sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Activities will be able to be registered and viewed on this website.

Waste

[10th anniversary of EU recycling rules marked by green groups](#)

On 13 February 2007, the European Parliament voted in pioneering waste rules that have led to higher recycling rates across Europe. The EEB, Friends of the Earth Europe and Zero Waste Europe have called on Parliament to keep momentum and vote for more ambitious recycling targets and binding waste reduction measures ahead of their vote in Strasbourg in mid-March.

[Volume of leachate and environmental impact from landfills reduced — but legacy effects remain](#)

Landfill leachate is the liquid that seeps through or out of waste deposits in landfill sites. EU regulations, such as the Landfill Directive have significantly reduced the volume of leachate produced, a study on leachate management in Ireland has found. Leachate, mainly from younger landfills is, however, stronger since implementation of the legislation, and the researchers say the future treatment of leachate under stricter environmental protection regulations will continue to be a long-term concern.

Other

[Environmental Implementation Review: new way to help Member States apply EU rules benefits citizens, administrations and economy](#). The Commission has adopted the Environmental Implementation Review, a new tool to improve implementation of European environmental policy and commonly agreed rules to help improve the application of EU rules on waste management, nature and biodiversity, air quality, water quality and management.



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