



Are we on the way to a Circular Economy?

European leaders have approved higher recycling targets and new measures to reduce waste across Europe. The laws were formally published in the Official Journal of the EU in June. Starting 4 July 2018, EU countries have 24 months to transpose the laws into national legislation.

The news comes seven months after the laws and targets were agreed by the European Commission,

Parliament and governments as part of the three-way negotiations known as trilogues.

EU countries will now be required to recycle at least 55% of their municipal waste by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. Other approved measures include a 10% cap on landfill by 2035, mandatory separate collection of biowaste and stricter schemes to make producers pay for the

collection of key recyclables. Recommendations also include economic incentives for reuse, deposit-return schemes, food donations and the phase-out of subsidies that promote waste.

Below is a table outlining the major agreements. Read here for more information or contact the EEB to learn more.

Topic	New EU law	EEB assessment
Recycling	65% target by 2035	😐
Producer Responsibility	Full cost coverage with derogations and modulated fees	😊
Biowaste separate collection	Mandatory separate collection with derogations	😊
Preparation for reuse	No separate target	😞
Waste prevention	No target, but review clause	😐
Packaging reuse	No target, but review clause	😐

#CircularEconomy

Photo: European Environmental Bureau, 2018



Albania approved the National Energy Strategy 2030

Albania is in the process of drafting and implementing a legal framework that will affect the energy sector, energy efficiency, and consequently will have an impact on climate change. The National Energy Strategy 2018-2030 (NES) was approved on July 31, 2018, aiming to develop an integrated and diversified regional energy system for the country. The latter sets out to meet the demand for energy, sustainable development and to ensure environmental protection, whilst minimizing the climate impact.

The implementation of NES is based on an optimal energy scenario that balances national interests with those of different energy subsectors. The most appropriate scenario for the development of the energy sector is the one that ensures the use of renewable energy sources, the implementation of

the law on energy efficiency, the promotion of the natural gas sector and the integration of electricity markets in Albania and Kosovo. This scenario has the potential to achieve significant results, such as:

- reducing import of energy by 32% compared to the baseline scenario;
- increasing the use of renewable energy sources by 42% in 2030;
- minimizing final energy demand by 15.5%;
- decreasing GHG emissions by 11.5% compared to the baseline scenario;
- increasing natural gas diffusion through the TAP project from 0.36% in 2015 to 19.81% in 2030.

In the National Energy Strategy, a package of measures has been developed, the implementation of which is necessary to improve the performance of the energy sector.



Photo: GazetaTema, 2018, web: www.gazetatema.net



Kosovo

Kosovo's Government approves Action Plan for Campaign to Clean Up Kosovo

It is already known that the Balkan Rivers are in threat of being dammed due to the big interests of corporate banks in the production of hydro-energy, which is one of the most damaging renewable energy sources on the planet that can vastly contribute to displace communities, send species into extinction, and exacerbate climate change.

Nevertheless this worrying scenario has shown a positive aspect: the resistance of the communities in the region, meaning a sort of a new age of the activism.

Together with the brave women of Kruščica, it is worth to mention the role youth are playing in this process. The photographer Lewis Khan travelled alongside the region to document the implications of the rivers' threat in people's lives; in his pictures it is possible to observe the positive spirit of the strong non-violent fight lead by youth to protect the environment.

The short film "Rivers run the Balkans" by Bec Evans and produced by Dazed also shows how young activists are engaged to preserve their nature.



Photo: ATRC, Kosovo, 2018

Cleaning campaign at the border crossing point in Merdare

On 2nd September 2018, dozens of volunteers took part in the environmental cleaning campaign at the crossing border between Kosovo and Serbia in Merdare. Within a day, about 200 garbage bags have been collected, which had been previously dumped by drivers and travelers along the road.



Photo: ATRC, Kosovo, 2018

Italy

"Rivers run the Balkans"

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Macedonia

Integrated waste management system: New Regional Waste Landfills in Prospect

Are we wasting the waste?

According to the data of the State Statistical Office, the total amount of collected municipal waste in the Republic of Macedonia in 2017 was 635 875 tones. Compared to 2016, the total amount of collected municipal waste increased by 4.2 %.

The highest amount of collected municipal waste was registered in the Skopje Region - 164 246 tones or 25.8 % of the total collected amount in the Republic of Macedonia.

Of the total amount of collected municipal waste, 527 700 tones or 83 %, were collected from households and the remaining 17 % from legal and natural persons (commercial waste).

By waste type, the highest amount of collected waste is mixed municipal waste, 554 280 tones or 87.2 %, and the lowest amount is rubber waste, 1 007 tones or 0.2 % of the total amount of collected waste.

Most of the collected municipal waste (99.4 %) is disposed of in landfills.

The total amount of generated municipal waste in the Republic of Macedonia in 2017 was 786 881 tones. The annual amount of generated municipal waste per person in 2017 was 379 kg per person, which is 1.3 % less than in 2016

Macedonia has eight regions and only one regional waste landfill – Drisla in Skopje – which is registered for the processing and disposal of hazardous waste and the gathering, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste. Waste in the other seven regions of the country is in temporary or unregulated landfills.

In February 2018, the officials from the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Macedonia announced the start of a project to set up regional waste landfills across the country in line with European standards which would be financed from European Union funds. Deputy Minister Jani Makraduli said he expects a tender to be announced soon for the first of those regional waste landfills. Intended timing of publication is November 2018

The aim will be Establishment of Integrated and Financially Sustainable Regional Waste Management System in East and North-East Regions of Macedonia. It will include construction of a Central Waste Management Facility (CWMF) in Municipality of Sveti Nikole (in the area of Meckuevci – Arbasanci) consisting of one sanitary landfill, one sorting plant, one Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant, one composting plant and one Green Point in. The CWMF will serve the Municipalities in the East and Northeast Regions of the country. It also envisages construction of six Local Waste Management Facility (LWMFs), each consisting of one transfer station, one composting plant and one green point in the following municipalities: Berovo, (serving Berovo and Pehcevo), Makedonska Kamenica (serving Makedonska Kamenica and Delchevo), Vinica (serving Kocani, Vinica, Zrnovci and Cheshinovo), Stip (serving Stip and Karbinci), Rakovce (serving Rankovce, Kriva Palanka and Kratovo), and Kumanovo (serving Kumanovo, Lipkovo, and Staro Nagoricane).

Once finalised, the system will largely improve the regional integrated waste management and the implementation of the law on waste management.



Photo: Landfill Drisla, Skopje; Source: 4x4x4, 2018

Legislation in waiting...

Even though the preparation of a new law on waste management, as part of the EU Twinning project titled "Strengthening Administrative Capacities to Implement the Framework Directives on Waste and Directives on Special Waste (packaging, batteries and electrical and electronic waste)", announced in December 2017, and anticipated to have its first draft published on the ministry website by March 2018, is not yet finalized.

In June, 2018, the Ministry launched a public debate on the draft new National waste management plan, envisaging the formation of the Environment Agency. Its role would be to implement policies and regulations and deal with matters such as issuing permits. The draft documents focus on preventing waste generation, but also deal with matters such as waste imports and exports. However, the text of this document is not yet available on the official site of the Ministry.

Under the draft waste prevention plan, manufacturers would be responsible for the disposal and recycling of used vehicles, tires, oils, etc. Part of the envisaged laws is to be adopted by the end of 2018, and the remaining by mid-2019.

The implementation of the waste management and waste prevention plans would help Macedonia strengthen the waste management capacities at both the national and local level, transpose the EU's environmental regulations, and work towards the zero waste target.

News from the Region

Extended deadline for comments on the draft Principles for Sustainable Hydropower in the Western Balkans and on the draft Indicative List of Projects associated with the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Hydropower in the Western Balkans.

According to the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) the goal of balancing the future role of hydropower in the region's energy choices – building up a low-carbon generation capacity and using indigenous resources which can reduce external energy dependency – with the need to develop hydropower in a much more sustainable fashion than in the past constitutes the essence of the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Hydropower in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia).

On 20 July at its website the WBIF announced that following the comments and suggestions received from various stakeholders over the past months, the European Commission has decided to extend the consultation period on the Principles for Sustainable Hydropower in the Western Balkans and on the Indicative List of Projects, associated

with the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Hydropower in the Western Balkans, over the summer, through bilateral discussions with key stakeholders at beneficiary country level.

As noted, these documents will be presented at the Energy and Environment Ministerial meeting, foreseen to take place by the end of the year.

More details at the official WBIF website: <https://www.wbif.eu/news-and-events/update-on-the-regional-strategy-for-sustainable-hydropower-in-the-western-balkans>



Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

Montenegro

Montenegro setting up Eco Fund, opening of chapter 27 expected by end-2018

Montenegro has opened 31 out of 35 chapters of EU membership talks so far, while the opening of the most demanding and expensive one, chapter 27, is expected by the end of 2018. Meeting obligations under the environment chapter will require EUR 1.4 billion in investments by 2035, and the Eco Fund is expected to be a key financing mechanism.

However, it appears the Eco Fund will not be set up by the August 18 deadline. Ivana Vojinović, general director of the Directorate for the Environment at the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, expects that the decision on setting up the Eco Fund will be sent to the Montenegrin government in late August or early September.

The Eco Fund is planned to be set up as a state-owned legal entity that would be financed under the polluter pays principle. The funds would be used for environmental remediation and pollution prevention.

Croatia's Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (EIHP) conducted a study, with the support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for the establishment of the Eco Fund. The study envisages three scenarios that could result in between EUR 500,000 and EUR 30 million in funding through the Eco Fund annually.

Montenegro pays EUR 7.5 million in renewable energy subsidies in hydropower plants

From May 1, 2014, when the incentives were launched, to the end of 2017, Montenegro paid EUR 7.5 million to producers of electricity from renewable energy sources, of which EUR 4.5 million

in 2017, according to data released earlier by the Montenegrin Electricity Market Operator (COTEE).

In its 2018 report on Montenegro, the European Commission advises the country to move to market-based support schemes for renewable energy production given that it overshoot its 33% renewables target for 2020 back in 2016, when the share stood at 41.6%.

"The country needs to move to an auction system compliant with the 2014-2020 Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy," the report reads.

Public debates on the amendments on Draft Law on Waste management

The adoption of the law is planned in the Program of work of the Government of Montenegro, the Program of Accession of Montenegro to the EU for the period 2018-2020, as well as the National Strategy for Transposition, Implementation and Implementation of the EU Legal Framework in the field of Environment and Climate Change with the Action Plan for the period 2016-2020. The deadline for passing the law is the IV quarter of 2018. In order to harmonize waste management with the EU legislation, and to meet the priorities of the stabilization and association process and to approximate the standards applied in the EU, the preparation of the Law on Industrial Emissions has been initiated with the aim of making the complete transposition of following directives: Directive 2008/98/EC, Directive 1999/31/EZ, Directive 94/62/EZ, Directive 2004/12/EZ i 2005/20/EZ, Directive 2006/66/EZ, Directive 2000/53/EZ, Directive 2008/33/EZ and 2008/112/EZ; Directive 2012/19/EU – WEEE, Directive 2011/65/EU, Directive 86/278/EEZ, Directive 2006/21/EZ, Direktivu 96/59/EZ. Public debates will have been held until the 10th of October.

Public debates on Draft of Spatial Plan for Spatial Propose for NP Skadar lake was held

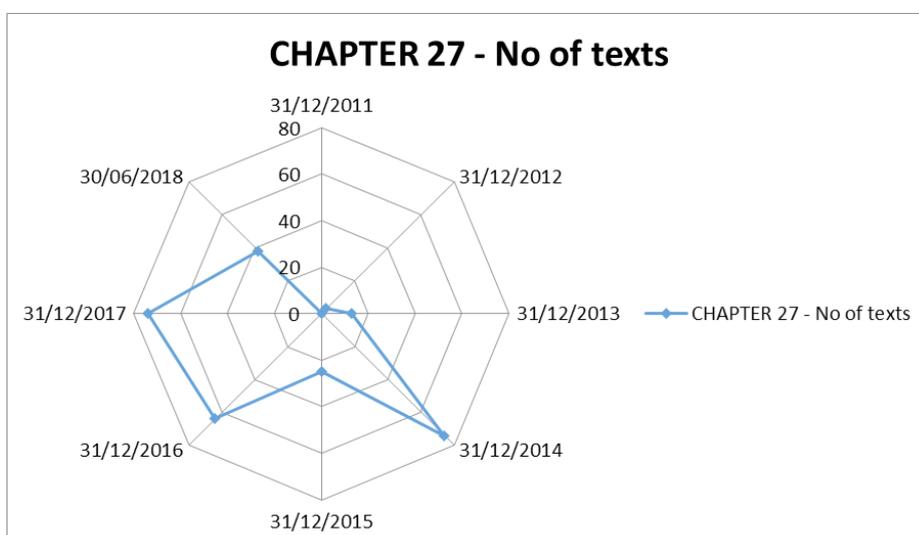
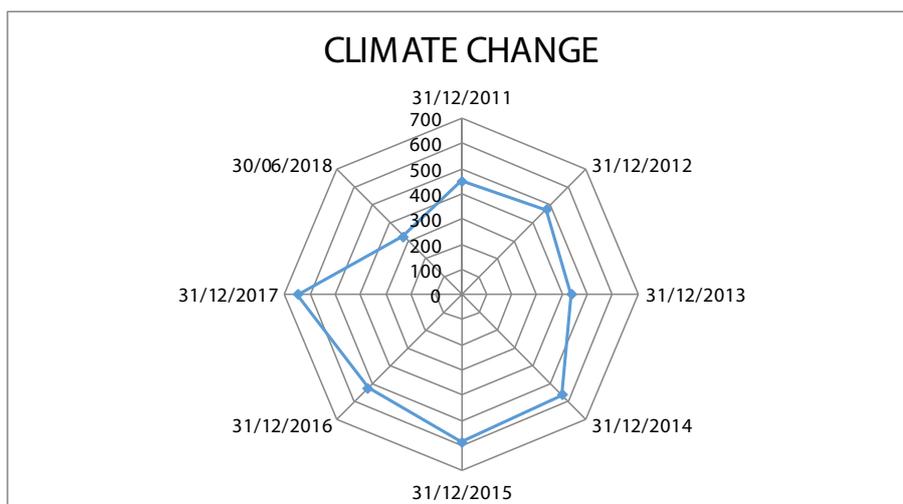
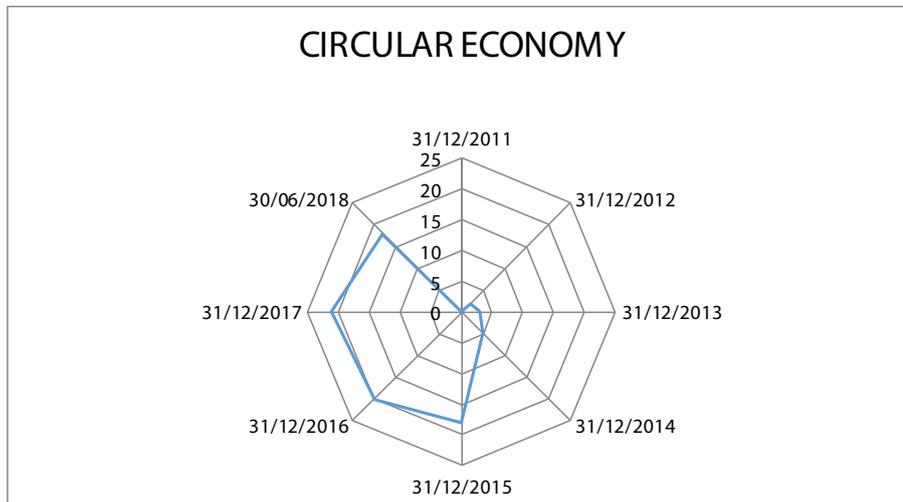
Ministry for Tourism and Sustainable Development was organized public debates on Draft of Spatial Plan for Spatial Propose for NP Skadar lake. Public debates had been organized in the period from 23rd of July until 6th of August. NGO Green Home had sent the comments on the proposed document.



Photo: Skadar Lake; Source: Green Home, 2018

Serbia Snapshots of Research on Environmental Sector and Media coverage

Within the ENV.net 3 project, EASD developed road –map to track possible influence and justification of the Project to media in Serbia through selected key words appearance. For this newsletter we extract some interesting and indicative results on thematic priorities of the project.



Beside the terms circular economy, climate change and chapter 27, we are also following terms: environment/ecology, waste, recycling/recycling rate, landfills, biodegradable waste/organic waste, and chemicals and energy efficiency (subject of detailed analyzing).

Analysis of frequency appearance in media (number of texts published in media) for period 2011-30 June 2018 is executed by "Ebart, medijski arhiv" (<http://www.arhiv.rs/>).

To note, that these results were discussed in paper "Sustainable Development Goals Implementation – EU Accession interface in the context of the Western Balkan more efficient and coherent sustainable development pathways", to be presented by the EASD Honorable President Prof. Dr. Andjelka Mihajlov, at the Conference "Sustainable Development and Climate Change: Connecting Research, Education, Policy and Practice", to be held at Rectorate of University of Belgrade, from 19 to 22 September 2018.

Negotiating position for Chapter 27 to be completed within a year

According the Chairman of the Chapter 27 Negotiating Group Ivan Karic, Serbia plans to prepare the final Negotiating Position for Chapter 27 within a year. It will then depend on the EU when Chapter 27 will be opened, but he thinks this could happen by the end of 2019. The Ministry of Environment is preparing directive specific implementation plans that will back the negotiating position. They will include details of measures that need to be taken, financial estimates, and all financing sources over the next 25 years. The Negotiating position will eventually have to be adopted by the Government and the Parliament.

Serbia sent a draft negotiating position to the European Commission for informal consultation on June 5. The draft focuses on the transposition of legislation and the toughest two areas – waste management and wastewater management.

The European Commission's three objections during talks in Brussels referred to independent financing, a normal functioning of the Green Fund, and a lack of experts in the Serbian government's environmental administration and at the local level. The EU has suggested that money intended for environmental protection must be spent on environmental protection, which is not the case in Serbia. (More at: <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/negotiating-position-for-chapter-27-to-be-completed-within-a-year/>).

Turkey

TEMA Foundation's volunteers from all over Turkey met Field Coordination Meeting in Istanbul

TEMA Foundation Field Coordination Meeting was held in Istanbul between 9-12 August. The meeting took place with the participation of more than 450 volunteers, from 67 provinces. Provincial Representatives, Provincial / District Supervisors, Young TEMAs Presidents, TEMAs Foundation board members and other volunteers got together with

the theme of “we are growing hope”. Several meetings and workshops were organised during the course of three days, in the fields of education, productivity, advocacy, climate change.



Photo: TEMA Foundation's volunteers ; Source: TEMA, 2018

The privatisation tender of Eskişehir Alpu Coal Fired Thermal power plant is postponed, once again

The privatization tender for Alpu Thermal Power Plant and Coal Mine, which is planned to be built in the province of Tepebaşı in Eskişehir, was announced to be held on 15 August. However, due to low demand for the tender, it is postponed to 17 October. The project will be transferred to the private sector with foreign exchange purchase guarantee. TEMA Foundation once again draws attention to the environmental, economic and social effects of the power plant, the tender of which has been postponed for the fourth time, now. It is clear that private sector does not want to be involved in this project, despite the purchase guarantee provided by the government. TEMA Foundation previously took note of the technical shortcomings and mistakes of the project in the Eskişehir Environment Plan (EPP) change, in the positive impact of the Environmental

Impact Assessment (EIA) and in the decision of the Soil Protection Board (TKK).

Bosnia-Herzegovina

- Air pollution represents a significant problem in BiH. Although the legislative framework is properly developed and EU Directives are transposed into local laws and policies, the polluters do not respect the limit of the emissions.

Biggest polluters in the BiH are Arcelor Mittal in Zenica, Natron-Hayat in Maglaj, Thermo-power plants in Gacko, Kakanj, Ugljevik and Tuzla, and Prevent in Visoko (according to reports delivered to the relevant authorities; <https://english.arnika.org/press-releases/biggest-polluters-of-bosnia-and-herzegovina-arcelormittal-steelworks-and-elektroprivreda-power-stations> old news but on English for easy understanding, the situation is still the same). These pollution sources are endangering the environment by 75-80%, while other polluters are traffic and households (20-25%). (Data collected by Federal Ministry of environment and tourism). The government of Zeničko-dobojski canton has the data that company Arcelor Mittal has the following emissions: 12-14000 t of sulphur-dioxide and 2000 t of dust. Good example is that this cantonal government formed the Centre for monitoring, and the results of the emission register should be shown this autumn. This example of best practice should be implemented in other BiH regions. In this manner, the emissions would be precisely recorded,

and the conditions for implementation of penalties by Inspectorates in respective entities would be reached in critical cases.

Habitants of Kruščica again stopped the investor to start the building the hydro-power plant on their river. This issue has lasted over a year, and the local community is against in order to protect area and to prevent environmental destruction of flora and fauna. The largest 50 power plants represent approximately 95% of the installed hydropower capacity. However, the main issue of the hydro-power plants is that the concessions are given to a large number of small HE, which would generate only remaining 5% of capacity, while at the same time having big impact to the environment.

GIKIL Global, involved in charcoal production, from Lukavac obtained the environmental permit in 2012, by promising that they will fulfil the obligation of protecting the environment and river Spreča. The pouring tar, ammonia and other hazardous substances are polluting the water, air and soil. The environmental permit expired before a year and a half, but the company continued to work, until mid-August 2018, when Federal Ministry finally forbade their work.

Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism announced that the directive for management of packaging waste (94/62/EC and 2004/12/EC) will soon be adopted. This issue is not regulated in FBiH yet, while in RS this directive is on force from May, 2011.

EEB Memorandum to the Austrian Presidency of the European Union

This Memorandum reflects on the issues that the EEB would like to see advanced during the Austrian Presidency. The most important issues are highlighted in the Ten Green Tests.

These were adopted by the EEB Board which has representatives from more than 30 countries and several European networks. At the end of December 2018, the Ten Green Tests will be used to evaluate the Presidency's performance over the coming months. This document has been prepared in cooperation with BirdLife Europe and Seas at Risk While the Memorandum is directly addressed to the Presidency, we recognize that progress depends upon the cooperation of the European Commission, the European Parliament and other Member States, as well as the Council President. However, Presidencies can often make a difference if they invest their political and technical capacities in the right issues and if there is sufficient political will. Memorandum can be downloaded here: <http://eeb.org/publications/112/eeb-publications-events/93560/>

Jeremy Wates, Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) said:

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There are opportunities for the Austrian EU Presidency to make a difference. Sustainability principles can be applied and mainstreamed in the EU Budget; negotiations on the Common Agricultural Policy can drive it towards offering genuinely sustainable food and farming policy. Austria can also help drive EU Climate and Biodiversity leadership, stimulate a transition to a resource efficient, circular economy, catalyse progressive biodiversity commitments on the international stage, help push countries to clean up their air and water, and take harmful chemicals off the market, out of our soils and out of the products we and our children use every day. //

TEN GREEN TESTS FOR THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENCY

We call upon the Austrian Presidency of the European Union to promote a greener, more sustainable Europe, where our destructive impact on the climate, biodiversity and public health in Europe and beyond is rapidly decreased in line with citizens' expectations and scientific imperatives, through the following measures:



1. Drive ambitious climate commitments to 1.5 degrees

- Drive ambitious climate diplomacy at the Katowice Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 24)
- Contribute to an update of the 2050 long-term strategy in line with the latest available science
- Bring the requirements for passenger and heavy goods vehicles and the Electricity Market legislation and Gas Directive in line with the Paris Agreement



2. Halt biodiversity loss: Protect our land and oceans

- Ensure an ambitious EU contribution to the discussions at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP 14, Sharm El-Sheikh Conference, in particular on the post 2020 biodiversity framework
- Negotiate for sufficient, efficient and effective financing for biodiversity in the post 2020 EU budget
- Scale up implementation of the EU's Nature Directives and follow-up on the Pollinators Initiative
- Drive commitments to Healthy Seas and Oceans and ensure sustainable fisheries



3. Transform food & farming systems through the Common Agricultural Policy

- Drive CAP negotiations to strengthen the provisions for environment and climate measures and ensure Member States' accountability
- Ensure that no subsidies harmful to the environment and climate are part of the CAP post 2020
- Provide platforms for an inclusive debate on the future of the CAP by involving environmental authorities and NGOs



4. Make the EU Budget work for people and planet

- Promote an EU budget for sustainability, EU added-value and catalysing change: ring-fence at least 50% of the CAP budget for climate, environment and nature conservation, ensure at least 1% of the budget on LIFE+ and EUR 15bn per year for biodiversity
- Improve the design of the proposed financial measure for non-recycled plastic packaging waste
- Encourage green finance, environmental fiscal reform and carbon pricing



5. Reduce air pollution to protect human health and the environment

- Ensure an ambitious contribution to the Ambient Air Quality Directive fitness check
- Address shortcomings in implementation of the Industrial Emissions Directive and set criteria on the determination of best available techniques (BAT) benchmarks with improved links to compliance promotion



6. Ensure clean and sufficient water for Europeans

- Ensure that the EC undertakes a balanced fitness check of the Water Framework Directive
- Negotiate for sufficient, efficient and effective financing for sustainable water management
- Prepare an ambitious Council position on the Drinking Water Directive and Water Reuse Regulation



7. Protect the public from hazardous chemicals

- REACH review: Agree council conclusions on concrete actions for improvement and timelines.
- Maintain leadership on the Minamata Convention on Mercury and ensure implementation in the EU.
- Call on the EC to prepare an ambitious Non-Toxic Environmental Strategy and promote chemicals substitution
- Classification Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation: Call on the EC to follow ECHA's opinion on titanium dioxide as a suspected carcinogen



8. Transition to an innovative, resource efficient, circular economy

- Progress EU Plastics Strategy measures to reduce plastic pollution and achieve a Plastics Free Ocean
- Ensure the adoption of an ambitious Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Package of measures
- Promote a more coherent EU Product Policy Framework



9. Strengthen democratic governance, the rule of law, and environmental justice

- Maintain pressure on the Commission to take steps to end EU non-compliance with Aarhus - promote access to justice, access to information and public participation
- Support better implementation and build confidence in the rule of law
- Ensure that trade agreements and Brexit do not jeopardize existing or future EU environmental standards
- Encourage measures supporting equity and environmental justice, and corporate accountability



10. Make Sustainable Development Goals drive the Future of Europe

- Have Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) drive EU policies for the future of Europe
- Launch the debate on the need for an ambitious 8th Environmental Action Programme