

**EEB 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**“From the Ashes of a Pandemic to an Ever Greener Deal:  
Securing Europe's Environmental Leadership”**  
**Date: Monday 9 November 2020**  
**Online Event**

**About the conference**

At the dawn of the new decade, humanity was already facing three fundamental challenges: climate breakdown, mass extinction and a flood of pollution that had reached every corner of the world. Now, the Covid-19 pandemic has further underlined the fragility of human society – and also reminded us of the possibilities for doing things differently.

As we grapple with the pandemic in Europe and try to draw lessons from it, we need a vision for a better future. A future where the enjoyment of fresh air, clean water and a safe environment is a right for people everywhere. Working with, rather than against, nature to boost our resilience to future threats.

Through the European Green Deal, the European Union has indicated it is serious about building a greener future, but will the actions proposed be sufficient to drive a real shift? Which other policies and measures do we need to achieve real sustainability? Will the EU's relations with other parts of the world act as a brake on its environmental ambition – or can they be the means for amplifying its impact?

Our conference will reflect on the first year of the European Green Deal and how the disruption caused by the pandemic can and must be used to accelerate the green transition rather than derail it. It will ask what still needs to be done for Europe to embrace and implement truly transformative policies that inspire action at home and abroad.

Scheduled to take place less than a week after the US elections, the gathering will look at the EU's position in the wider world and ask whether, when it comes to environment-related policies, we are punching above or below our weight, and what Europe can do better to support green transitions globally.

The 2020 EEB Annual Conference will bring together key players from the European environmental movement with political decision-makers at a crucial moment for the European Union. Join us on Monday 9 November 2020.

## PROGRAMME ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

Latest updates and full speakers' profiles will be available closer to the event at [conference.eeb.org](https://conference.eeb.org)

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKERS	DESCRIPTION
08:30	Conference Platform open		
09:00 – 09.15	Welcome & Opening	<p><b>Message of welcome</b> <b>Johanna Sandahl</b>, EEB President</p> <p>Welcome by conference facilitators: <b>Patrick ten Brink</b>, EEB EU Policy Director <b>Patrizia Heidegger</b>, EEB Global Policies and Sustainability Director</p>	<p><b>Short welcome speeches.</b></p> <p>Introduction to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The agenda and its “red thread”</li> <li>• Conference interaction: polls and questions.</li> <li>• Twitter #EEB20</li> </ul>
09:15 – 10.00	<p><b>SESSION ONE</b></p> <p><b>European Green Deal: system change or semantic change?</b></p>	<p><b>Keynote speech: How transformative are the EGD and the recovery measures?</b></p> <p><b>Kate Raworth</b>, Senior Research Associate, Oxford University</p> <p>15-minute TED-talk style talk followed by moderated Q&amp;A</p>	<p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How transformative is the European Green Deal? Is it a driver for the economic transition towards a carbon-neutral, zero pollution, wellbeing economy?</li> <li>• The EGD has been plugged as the EU's new growth strategy. Is it a green-washed version of the previous jobs and growth agenda or really a new kind of growth strategy – and if the latter, what kind of growth does it seek? Will it take us beyond GDP as the yardstick of success?</li> <li>• What are the transformative elements that are already in place, where do we need to push for more? The evidence suggests that we need real system change to address the environmental challenges - to what extent will the EGD create system change and what else is needed?</li> <li>• The EGD needs buy-in to be able to meet its potential. What would you recommend in order to get buy in for the EGD and green deals more widely?</li> </ul>

10:00 – 10:15	<b>Break</b>		
10:15 – 10:55	<b>SESSION TWO</b> <b>Building back better: the EU's environmental leadership</b>	<p>Sitting down with Environment Commissioner <b>Virginijus Sinkevičius</b></p> <p>Discussion with <b>Jeremy Wates</b>, EEB Secretary General</p>	<p>Through an interactive discussion, the Commissioner will be invited to reflect on the environmental progress achieved and difficulties faced during his first year in office, set out his hopes for a successful rollout of the European Green Deal in the years ahead and share his perspective on the upcoming challenges and potential pitfalls, and how to overcome them.</p>
10.55 – 11.15	<b>Break</b>		
11.15 – 12.45	<b>SESSION THREE</b> <b>Building back better, building back differently</b>	<p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Florika Fink-Hooijer</b>, Director General, DG Environment, European Commission</li> <li>• <b>Leonore Gewessler</b>, Austrian Minister of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology</li> <li>• <b>Pascal Canfin</b>, Member of the European Parliament, Chair Environment Committee</li> <li>• <b>Ana Colovic Lesoska</b>, Executive Director Eko-svest (North Macedonia), Goldman Prize Award winner 2019</li> <li>• <b>Tonny Nowshin</b>, Environmental justice activist</li> <li>• Joining for the Q&amp;A: <b>Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler</b>, Head of Directorate EU-Coordination Climate and Environment in the Austrian Minister of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology</li> </ul> <p>Followed by moderated Q&amp;A</p>	<p>The panellists will be invited to explore the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coming out of the deepest economic crisis in a century with governments having put in the place the EU's largest ever financial stimulus package, how are we <b>making sure we are building back not just better but differently</b>? How are we making sure that we are not <b>repeating the same mistake</b> of focusing on growth rather than sustainability and resilience for human and planetary well-being?</li> <li>• Are the <b>actions proposed sufficient to drive a real shift</b>?</li> <li>• Which <b>other policies and measures do we need to achieve deep sustainability</b>?</li> <li>• Which <b>role is the EU playing and should it play in the wider world</b>?</li> <li>• How is the <b>EU ensuring its leadership role globally in driving sustainability</b> and progressive environmental policies and what should its international priorities be in the coming year?</li> <li>• Is there a risk that weaker environmental standards in other countries will act as a drag on EU environmental ambition? Should the EU be more</li> </ul>

			assertive in insisting on green conditionality in its trading relations – including with post-Brexit Britain?
12.45 – 13:00	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>Wrap-up and conclusions</b> <b>Jeremy Wates</b> , EEB Secretary General	
13.00 – 14:30	<b>SESSION THREE</b> <b>EEB project fair</b>	<b>PROJECT FAIR</b>  <b>Network and engage!</b> During the project fair there will be presentations of ongoing and upcoming projects and campaigns from all over Europe online!  More info on the projects will be added here closer to the event.	
14.30		<b>End of public conference and project fair</b>	

## ORGANISER

### About the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Set up in 1974, the EEB is Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations, bringing together over 160 organisations from more than 35 European countries (all EU Member States plus some accession and neighbouring countries), including a growing number of European networks, with a combined membership of an estimated 30 million people.

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*This communication reflects the organizers' views and does not commit the donors.*

