



EEB 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
“Changing Landscapes
- *Protecting the environment in a new Europe*”
Date: Monday 6 November 2017
Venue: Dynamic Earth
Edinburgh, United Kingdom

About the conference

In the midst of the political discussions on the future of an EU of 27 Member States and the relationship that the future EU might have with the UK, the European Environmental Bureau will hold its annual conference in Edinburgh, to debate how to put people and planet central in these uncertain times for the EU, the UK and Scotland.

The Brexit vote in June 2016, followed by the UK government letter triggering Article 50 in March 2017, represented the most significant development in the evolution of the European Union since its inception. For many it was not just a political event but an emotional experience, challenging identities formed over decades, even through lifetimes, with reactions ranging from devastation to exhilaration. Across the Atlantic, the Brexit vote was followed by the Trump election victory and the subsequent announcement that the US would withdraw from the Paris Agreement, reversing the hard-won progress in bringing the US in line with the growing consensus on the need for urgent action on climate change. Even if earlier fears that these landmark events would be followed by similar results in the elections in e.g. the Netherlands, France and Germany have been allayed, the political uncertainty can be expected to continue for several years.

The rise of Euroscepticism in many EU countries has raised fundamental questions about the identity and purpose of the EU. Some have argued that too much interference by the EU in national and local affairs is to blame for its unpopularity and that deregulation would placate the Eurosceptics. Others point out that Cameron’s ‘less Europe’ settlement package failed to persuade UK voters and argue that many EU laws bring direct and practical benefits to ordinary citizens, protecting the environment, public health, consumers and workers among others.



One thing that is clear, confirmed by successive polls, is that a large majority of Europeans value the EU's role on environmental matters and want to see more EU action on the environment. Despite this, and despite the fact that as recently as 2015, European governments signed up to the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, environment and sustainability have barely featured in the recent debates among EU leaders on the future direction of Europe.

More than ever, the EU needs a positive narrative to counter the spread of populist narratives based on fear and division. Sustainable development should be the overriding theme of that narrative, with environment enjoying a centre-stage position. The rise of President Trump and his appointment of what is undoubtedly the most anti-environmental US cabinet in living memory has made European leadership on the environment more important than ever.

The EEB conference will address these issues as well as explore a number of related questions: How can we ensure that environmental protection will not be negatively affected by the ongoing negotiations? Will access to EU markets be made conditional on the UK agreeing to be bound by the EU's present and future environmental laws? How will environmental policy fare in a post-Brexit Britain? And in Scotland, whose population voted 62% for 'remain'?

These questions are not posed or answered in a vacuum. Whatever the nature of the relationship the EU and UK will have, both the EU and the UK, including the Scottish Government, are committed to the implementation of the world's Sustainable Development Goals as well as the Paris Agreement and the path of transformational change that these instruments imply.

This year's conference will bring together members of the environmental movement from across the EU, the UK and Scotland, together with policy makers, civil society and thought leaders as well as entrepreneurs to debate shared challenges and opportunities in fighting climate change, re-orienting public spending and investment, undertaking a deep reform of agriculture policies and safeguarding our marine environment. It will draw on examples of the way these issues have arisen and been addressed in Scotland.

PROGRAMME

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKERS	DESCRIPTION
09.00 – 09.40	Welcome coffee and registration	Registration desk/area	
09.40 – 09.45	Welcome & Opening	Message of welcome: Joyce McMillan, Scottish Environment LINK President	
09.45 – 10.15	Keynote speeches: The EU and Scotland during the Brexit years	Keynote speech: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Scotland Mikael Karlsson, EEB President 	In the opening keynote speeches, Roseanna Cunningham will outline Scotland's position on the environment during the Brexit years and in particular the ambitious sustainability agenda the Scottish government has pursued. Her speech will be followed by a keynote by EEB President Mikael Karlsson who will set the scene for the conference and draw on his experience as EEB President for more than a decade to share reflections on the future of the EU as it moves through and beyond Brexit.
10.15 – 12.00	High-level panel discussion: Pursuing sustainability in times of uncertainty	Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesley Riddoch, Independent radio and podcast broadcaster, Scotland Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Creagh, Chair of the Environmental Audit Select Committee, UK Parliament Ian Jardine, National Adviser on Environmental Policy, 	In addition to the ongoing uncertainty on what Brexit will actually look like, a number of key EU Member States will have newly elected governments by November 2017 or soon thereafter which creates a window of opportunity for the EU to put environment centre stage in the final two years of the Juncker Commission's term as well as in the

		<p>Scottish Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremy Wates, EEB Secretary General • Anne McCall, Director, RSPB Scotland 	<p>elections for a new European Parliament in May 2019. The panel will address the current threats, their impacts on environment policies at a time when more concerted action is needed and possible solutions for overcoming the identified threats.</p>
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	Registration area	
Parallel break-out sessions			
		<p>Three parallel breakout sessions will provide the opportunity to explore in greater depth three topics that are critical to the EU's ability to achieve its global commitments and which will play a prominent role in the debate on the future of the EU27 as well as in its new relationship with the UK.</p>	
13.00 – 15.00	Parallel break-out session: Climate change and Energy	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ewan Hyslop, Head of Technical Research and Science, Historic Environment Scotland <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Ballantine, Chair of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katherine White, Head of Strategy and Projects, Energy and Climate Change Directorate, Scottish Government • Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings • Claire Roumet, Executive Director, Energy cities • Paul Vertegaal, Head of Programme, Climate Buffers Coalition, the Netherlands 	<p>At EU level, we are grappling with the implementation of the Paris Agreement (to be further complicated by Brexit and the United States' intended withdrawal from the agreement), as well as the 2050 Energy agenda. Likewise the UK and Scotland will need to review their own climate commitments post Brexit including sectors like land use and active travel.</p> <p>This break-out session will address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the EU27 and UK's existing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Morris, Manager, Local Energy Scotland 	<p>commitment to the Paris Agenda translate into sufficiently ambitious policies and measures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much more needs to be done to put world on track to a 1.5 degree target? What would be the most effective way for the EU and UK to continue cooperation on this topic?
13.00 – 15.00	Parallel break-out session: Marine and Fisheries	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carole Cowan, Post EU-Referendum Co-ordinator, Marine Scotland <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helen McLachlan, Fisheries Governance Programme Manager WWF UK/ Scottish Environment LINK Marine Group <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Ruskell, Member of the Scottish Parliament, Scottish Green Party Thord Monsen, Head of Section, Directorate of Fisheries, Norway Björn Stockhausen, Fisheries Policy Officer, Seas at Risk 	<p>As a sector impacting marine biodiversity and providing communities around the world with a livelihood and source of protein, fisheries are critical to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With the EU's recently reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) currently being implemented, time has come to assess what more needs to be done for fisheries to achieve the 2030 SDGs.</p> <p>This break-out session will address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How should the CFP be further reformed to achieve the 2030 SDG's? What will the implications be of the UK withdrawing from the CFP?

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can Scotland move towards a more sustainable system and how will this impact a new UK and EU Fisheries Policies?
13.00 – 15.00	Parallel break-out session: Sustainable food and farming and biodiversity	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faustine Bas Defossez, EEB Policy Manager for Agriculture and Bioenergy <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nikolai Pushkarev, Policy Coordinator for Food, Drink and Agriculture, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Scheele, Head of Unit at the Directorate General for Agricultural and Rural Development, European Commission Helen Browning, Chief Executive Soil Association UK and organic farmer Konstantin Kreiser, Head of International and EU conservation at NABU, Germany Olga Kikou, European Affairs Manager, Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) 	<p>As the main driver of biodiversity loss and increasingly a major contributor to climate change, the agricultural sector is in need of transformational change. At EU level, the looming debate on the new EU budget post-2020 and the inevitable cuts linked to Brexit has made another CAP reform inevitable. In the UK and Scotland, efforts are being made to reset the legislative framework under a post-Brexit scenario.</p> <p>This break-out session will address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How should the CAP be further reformed to achieve the 2030 SDGs? Is there a case for a continuation of the CAP post-2020 and if so, what should it look like? How can the EU27 and the UK support a transition in farming post-Brexit?

15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break	Registration area	
15.30 – 16.15	Feedback and reporting from parallel sessions	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesley Riddoch, Independent radio and podcast broadcaster, Scotland <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Break-out session Rapporteurs 	In this session, we will hear back from the three break-out sessions. The Rapporteurs' summaries of the key points will be followed by a Q&A.
16.15 – 17.15	High-level panel discussion: Looking back from 2030, how did we succeed?	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesley Riddoch, Independent radio and podcast broadcaster, Scotland <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Dame Anne Glover, former EU Chief Scientist, member of the Standing Council on Europe leading on environment Shaun Spiers, Executive Director, Green Alliance James Curran, Professor and Honorary Fellow of Scottish Environment LINK 	In this high level panel, we will imagine the world of 2030 where the SDGs have been achieved and look back at the key enablers for having achieved them. This interesting thought experiment will help us imagine the developments and breakthroughs in policy, technology, science and politics which could be crucial to getting the world there.
17.15 – 17.30	Conclusions and the way forward	Closing remarks by Jouni Nissinen, EEB President	
17.30 – 19.30	Conference reception	Registration area & themed rooms	



About the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Set up in 1974, the EEB is Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations, bringing together around 140 organisations from more than 30 European countries (virtually all EU Member States plus some accession and neighbouring countries), including a growing number of European networks, with a combined membership of an estimated 15 million people.

About Scottish Environment LINK

Established in 1987, LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment community, with over 35 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society. Collectively these organisations represent half a million people. LINK works with allies in Scotland and with sister Links and other networks in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and is a member of the EEB and IUCN. LINK is a Scottish charity (SC000296) and Scottish company (SC250899).

Organizers: European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and Scottish Environment LINK

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