



MEDIA PACK

Ensuring a resilient future for the European Green Deal

Wednesday 27 March 2024
BEL Brussels, Av. du Port 86C, 1000 Brussels

Organised by



Under the auspices of



About the Think2030 conference 2024

IEEP organises the 2024 edition of the biannual Think2030 conference on 27 March.

Taking place in Brussels, the Think2030 biannual conference will be tailored to the Belgian context. From 1 January to 30 June 2024, Belgium will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. An honest broker for Council meetings, the Presidency also has a direct influence on setting the priorities to be discussed. The Council is the most powerful player to increase ambition and accelerate the EU Green Deal implementation, while individual member states are facing big challenges due to their different circumstances.

In 2024 the EU will be in a critical phase, both to deliver the European Green Deal and to ensure its sustainability principles influence the future direction of the EU beyond 2024. The current political struggle challenges the idea that European Green Deal should remain the framework for the EU's action, influencing Europarties' political manifestos and the future Commission. The conference sessions will address sustainability issues against the backdrop of the EU's main political debates on the impacts of the environmental policies approved and planned. It will focus on emerging priorities and work of the Belgian Presidency, but also of the current Trio Presidency, which began with Spain followed by Belgium and Hungary.

The conference will also explore how science can better inform policy to create the enabling environment for these recommendations to be brought to scale, focusing on innovations and best practices.

More info: <https://think2030.eu/2024-conference/>

Social media:

- X (former Twitter): [@IEEP_eu](https://twitter.com/IEEP_eu)
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/institute-for-european-environmental-policy>
- Hashtags: #Think2030 #EU2024BE #EUGreenDeal #GreenDealBarometer

Contacts

- For general information and logistics: Suzanna Walton – swalton@ieep.eu
- For media and communications: Carla Coppola – ccoppola@ieep.eu and Darragh Cunningham – dcunningham@ieep.eu

Conference outline

High-level panel - How can we ensure the resilience of the European Green Deal's objectives towards the 2024 elections and beyond?

Alain Maron - Minister of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region, responsible for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Participatory Democracy (@alainmaron @EU2024BE)

Saskia Bricmont - Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA) (@saskiabricmont @greensEFA @Ecolo)

Veronika Hunt Šafránková - Head of UNEP Brussels Office (@UNEP)

Janez Potočnik - Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel (@JanezPotocnik22 @UNEP/IRP)

Leena Ylä-Mononen - Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (**available for media interviews**) (@YlaLeena @EUEnvironment)

Science4Policy session 1 - Making adaptation and resilience a priority in nature restoration plans

This session will focus on how to make adaptation and resilience a priority in nature restoration plans. The question of funding availability and leveraging opportunities for the private sector will also be a key aspect of the success of the Law. Based on these parameters, a robust framework for monitoring and reporting will be needed to ensure that Member States are on track. More info:

<https://think2030.eu/think2030-conference-session-focus-making-adaptation-and-resilience-a-priority-in-nature-restoration-plans/>

Evelyn Underwood - Head of Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Institute for European Environmental Policy (@Evelyn_IEEP @IEEP_eu)

- **Luc Bas** - Director, Belgium Climate and Environment Risk Assessment Center (@lucbas1 @BE_CERAC)
- **Elena Višnar Malinová**, Head of Unit at Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change, DG Clima, European Commission (@EUClimateAction)
- **Sabien Leemans** - Senior Biodiversity Policy Officer, WWF European Policy Office (@SabienLeemans @WWFEU)
- **Adeline Rochet** - Programme Manager - Corporate Leaders Group Europe, CLG - University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (@cool_adeline @ClimateCLG)
- **Barbora Chmelová** - Research Fellow at AMO, Member of [Think Sustainable Europe network](#) in Czech Republic - Environmental Policy Officer (EU Biodiversity) at the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic (@Barbora_Hops @AMO_cz)

Reading list and references

From risk to resilience: the business imperative of Nature Restoration (2023)

<https://ieep.eu/publications/from-risk-to-resilience-the-business-imperative-of-nature-restoration/>

Successfully navigating the Nature Restoration Planning process

<https://ieep.eu/news/successfully-navigating-the-nature-restoration-planning-process/>

Science4Policy session 2 - Reaching climate neutrality in agri-food – identifying the right policy mix

This session will discuss the policy mix that the EU could put in place to deliver on these reduction targets. What policy levers are needed to deliver climate mitigation in agriculture? How can this be done in a way that supports the agriculture sector in a just transition and is complementary to achieving other societal goals, including biodiversity protection, animal welfare and public health? More info:

<https://think2030.eu/think2030-conference-session-focus-on-agri-food/>

Harriet Bradley - Head of Programme CAP & Food, Institute for European Environmental Policy (@HarrietFBradley @IEEP_eu)

Julia Bognar - Head of Programme Climate & Land Use, Institute for European Environmental Policy (@MJuliaBognar @IEEP_eu)

- **Aaron Scheid** - Fellow at Ecologic Institute, member of [Think Sustainable Europe network](#) in Germany (@EcologicBerlin)
- **Valeria Forlin** - Policy Officer at DG CLIMA, European Commission (@valeria_forlin @EUClimateAction)
- **Marion Picot** - Secretary General at European Council of Young Farmers (@picotmarion @_CEJA_)
- **Megan Waters** - Senior Policy Advisor, FAIRR (@FAIRRIInitiative)
- **Marco Contiero** - EU Policy Director on Agriculture, Greenpeace (@ContieroM @GreenpeaceEU)

Reading list and references

Securing greater environmental and climate performance from EU agricultural funds (IEEP 2024)

<https://ieep.eu/publications/securing-greater-environmental-and-climate-performance-from-eu-agricultural-funds/>

Applying the polluter pays principle to agricultural emissions (IEEP 2023)

<https://ieep.eu/publications/applying-the-polluter-pays-principle-to-agricultural-emissions/>

Transforming EU land use and the CAP: a post-2024 vision (IEEP 2023)

<https://ieep.eu/publications/transforming-eu-land-use-and-the-cap-a-post-2024-vision/>

Science4Policy session 3 - Just transition: aligning climate and environmental action with social equity and well-being – with ZOE Institute

This session will address challenges and opportunities arising from the just transition and practical actions to be taken, analyse how to foster prosperity within planetary boundaries, as well as reflect on the social acceptability of measures undertaken to tackle climate and environmental concerns. More info: <https://think2030.eu/think2030-conference-session-focus-just-transition-aligning-climate-and-environmental-action-with-social-equity-and-well-being/>

Chiara Antonelli - Head of Programme Climate and Circular Economy, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)

Elizabeth Dirth - Managing Director, ZOE Institute (@elizabethdirth @zoe_institute)

- **Maria Nikolopoulou** - Vice-President NAT section, European Economic & Social Committee (@MariaNikolo @EU_EESC)
- **Ella Huys** - Climate Policy Expert at Federal Climate Change Department, Belgian Presidency (@ellahuys @climate_be)
- **Mikael Leyi** - Secretary General, SOLIDAR (@LeyiMikael @Solidar_EU)

- **Sébastien Treyer** – Executive Director IDDRI, member of [Think Sustainable Europe network](#) in France (@SebastienTreyer @IDDRI_English)
- **Michal Len** – EU representative, Clean Air Fund (@mik_le @CleanAirFund)

Reading list and references

Advancing the EU's just transition policy framework: what measures are necessary?

<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/agenda/our-events/events/advancing-eus-just-transition-policy-framework-what-measures-are-necessary>

Enabling the green and just transition (ZOE Institute 2023)

<https://zoe-institut.de/en/publication/governing-green-just-transition/>

By Disaster or by Design? (ZOE Institute 2023)

<https://zoe-institut.de/en/publication/by-disaster-or-by-design/>

Building back better? (ZOE Institute 2024)

<https://zoe-institut.de/en/publication/building-back-better/>

Science4Policy session 4 - Towards an EU resource management law: how to tackle excessive use and consumption of materials

This session will provide an opportunity to discuss different policy approaches that could be taken, including the introduction of a new overarching EU material resources law with a headline consumption reduction target. More info: <https://think2030.eu/think2030-conference-session-focus-on-eu-resource-management-law/>

Antoine Oger – Research Director, Institute for European Environmental Policy (@antoine_oger_ @IEEP_eu)

Emma Watkins – Senior analyst, Institute for European Environmental Policy (@EmWatki @IEEP_eu)

- **Lasse Miettinen** – Director of Sustainability Solutions at the Finnish Innovation Fund - SITRA (@lassemiettinen @SitraFund)
- **Janez Potočnik** – Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel (@JanezPotocnik22 @UNEPIRP)
- **Bram Soenen** – Senior expert product policy, Belgian Presidency (@SanteBelgique @be_gezondheid @FPSHealth)
- **Nazaré Couto** – CENSE, member of [Think Sustainable Europe network](#) in Portugal (@NazareCouto @CENSEFCTNOVA)
- **Joe Papineschi** – Chairperson, Eunomia (@Eunomia_RandC)

Reading list and references

The missing piece of the EU Green Deal - The case for an EU resources law (TULIP Consulting and IEPP 2023)

<https://ieep.eu/publications/making-the-case-for-an-eu-resources-law/>

Resource management and polluter pay for the Climate 2040 targets

<https://ieep.eu/news/resource-management-and-polluter-pay-for-the-climate-2040-targets/>

Conclusive session – Recommendations for ensuring the resilience of the European Green Deal

Ben Reynolds – Executive Director of the Institute of European Environmental Policy UK (@IEEP_uk)

- **Ester Asin** – Director, WWF European Policy Office (@EsterAsinEU @WWFEU)
- **María José Sanz** – Scientific Director, Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3) member of [Think Sustainable Europe network](#) in Spain (@BC3Research)
- **Etienne Hannon** – Science & Policy Manager, Belgium Climate Center (@climatecentrebe)
- **Patrick Anthony Child** – Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Environment (@EU_ENV)
- **Chiara Martinelli** – Director, Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe (@MartinellChiara @CANEurope)

Reading list and references

WWF 2024 EU elections check (WWF 2024)

<https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf-2024-eu-elections-check.pdf>

The fair way forward (WWF 2024)

<https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/just-transition-report-final.pdf>

High-level panel references



Alain Maron - Minister of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region, responsible for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Participatory Democracy.

Alain Maron began his political career at the Council of Saint-Gilles in 2004, before joining the Parliament of the Brussels-Capital Region in 2009. In 2019, he is appointed the new Minister of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region, responsible for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Participatory Democracy.



Saskia Bricmont - Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA), elected in 2019.

Saskia Bricmont is heading the Ecolo's list for the 2024 European elections. She has been a member of the European Parliament since 2019. She is a member of the LIBE (Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs) and INTA (International Trade) committees. The respect of human rights is the common thread of her political commitment. Her objective is to make the European Union the first Fair Trade continent.

Saskia Bricmont wants to be the relay within the European Parliament of those who commit themselves daily to the climate, social justice, democracy and human rights.



Veronika Hunt Šafránková - Head of UNEP Brussels Office since April 2019.

Veronika Hunt Šafránková is responsible for promoting and facilitating partnership building between UNEP and EU institutions, as well as key EU stakeholders in Brussels. At the Czech Ministry of Environment, she addressed a wide range of issues including multilateral environmental agreements and relations with international organisations, strategic and policy work in the field of environment and sustainable development. Veronika led the drafting and negotiation of the Czech State Environmental Policy 2012-2020 and was a member of the governmental group on preparation of the National Reform Programme. She also successfully managed several European Union funded projects in other countries - Romania, Bulgaria, the Republic of Serbia and Ukraine. She has served as a member of various national decision-making bodies and was a member of the Management Board of the European Environment Agency for several years. From 2015 to early 2019, she has been working in the academic sector. Until late 2017 she was Director of International Relations Office at the Charles University in Prague responsible for academic partnerships, teaching exchanges and the ERASMUS programme.



Janez Potočnik - Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel Member of the College of the French Community Commission (COCOF), responsible for Social Action and Health.

Dr Janez Potočnik is an economist graduated from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He served as Director of the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development in Ljubljana. He was appointed Head of Negotiating Team for Accession of Slovenia to the EU and served as Minister responsible for European Affairs. In 2004 he joined the European Commission as Commissioner responsible for Science and Research. In 2010 he became Commissioner for Environment. After the mandate he was appointed as a Co-Chair of UNEP Environment International Resource Panel. He is also Partner at SYSTEMIQ.



Leena Ylä-Mononen - Executive Director of the European Environment Agency since June 2023.

Leena Ylä-Mononen has worked with national, European, and international environmental policy and administration for over 30 years. Before joining the European Environment Agency, Leena Ylä-Mononen was Director General at the Ministry of the Environment of Finland. She was in charge of the Ministry's Climate and Environmental Protection Department, dealing with environmental policy issues and EU files related to climate change, air pollution, industrial pollution abatement, circular economy, sustainable consumption and production, waste management and the prevention of environmental risks from chemicals. Before joining the Ministry in April 2019, Ylä-Mononen worked for over 11 years in management positions in the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki, first as a Head of Unit and then for over eight years as one of the Directors. Before joining the then newly established ECHA in 2007, she worked in the European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment in Brussels for over five years on policy files related to chemicals and pesticides and multilateral environmental agreements related to chemicals. The first part, over ten years, of her career she worked in the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) in Helsinki. As an environmental expert and team leader, she worked in particular on environmental risk assessment and management of industrial chemicals, biocides and pesticides.



Eero Yrjö-Koskinen - Executive Director IEEP since November 2022.

Eero has extensive experience in environmental management and sustainable development, having worked for 13 years as Executive Director of the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, the biggest environmental NGO in Finland. After this, Eero was the Executive Director of Green Budget Europe, a think tank based in Brussels, and the Sustainability Adviser of the Finnish Chamber of Commerce. Eero has also worked at the European Parliament after Finland joined the EU in 1995.

About Think2030

Launched by IEEP and its partners in 2018, Think2030 is an evidence-based, non-partisan platform of leading policy experts from European think tanks, civil society, the private sector and local authorities.

By focusing on producing relevant, timely and concrete policy recommendations, Think2030's key objective is to identify science-policy solutions for a more sustainable Europe.

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Think 2030

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sustainable Europe