

EEAC SUMMER

NEWSLETTER

October 8 2024, EEAC Annual Assembly, Ghent



A message from the Board

Dear colleagues,

As we move through the summer months and reflect on the period from May to August, we take this opportunity to highlight the continued momentum of the EEAC Network. This edition highlights some of the achievements, changes, and collaborations in the Network. Now we look forward to meeting you all at the EEAC Assembly in Brussels in late September.

This newsletter has been prepared by the EEAC secretariat and opens with an overview of recent EEAC activities. It highlights key events and engagements from May 2025 until August 2025, showcasing the breadth of EEAC's involvement across Europe. On the last pages, you can find some of the most recent publications of our councils and upcoming working group activities. If you would like us to include any specific reports/achievements from your council in the next Newsletter, please send it to us by 15th November.

[Follow our linkedIn for upcoming activities](#)



May 9th – Financing Biodiversity and Climate through COPs

The start of May saw the Climate and Energy Working Group hold a high-level webinar to discuss both recent biodiversity and climate COPs in preparation for the upcoming COP30. The event was a huge success, with over 70 participants listening to the expert insights of Charlotte Streck (co-founder of Climate Focus) and Pieter Pauw (professor at Eindhoven University of Technology). Streck elaborated on the lessons learnt from the Paris Agreement and Global Biodiversity Framework, whereas Pieter Pauw gave his predictions for COP30 and the reasons for stagnation or success in certain cases.

May 27th – ESDN Warsaw Forum

Fee Kirsch (Secretariat) and Cathleen Seeger (RNE) had the opportunity to represent the EEAC and RNE while attending the ESDN 2030 Agenda Stakeholder Forum in Poland. This was a valuable moment to connect with public administration bodies and businesses to accelerate actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The forum fell nicely after the EEACs successful ‘Beyond the 2030 Agenda’ conference in April, ahead of the EEAC’s contribution to the ESDN’s upcoming event in November



June 1st – New Secretary General at the Rli

On May 1st the Rli were sad to see Secretary General Ron Hillebrand leave after a successful 12 years running the council. However, June saw Stefan Berndsen take the reins of the Rli. With previous experience at the Dutch Safety Board, he brings great new insights and leadership to the team.

June 4th – Nature Restoration Law Conference



The Ecosystem Services Working Group was busy in the Spring organising a Nature Restoration Law conference in Brussels. The event turned out to be a great success with speakers from WWF, Birdlife Europe and others, sharing their knowledge and facilitating useful exchanges which will help our member councils advise on their National Restoration Plans.



From One Chapter to the Next: The EEAC Secretariat Evolves

June 13th – Farewell to Hanna...

In mid-June we said goodbye to Hanna Kiessling who has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the Secretariat runs smoothly and to support the Network Coordinator. Starting as an intern and then becoming the Junior Policy Officer, Hanna brought a can-do-attitude to all her work, and her enthusiasm to her role and the EEAC has helped ensure activities, events and processes were successful. Hanna leaves for Berlin to complete a MSc in International Relations.



June 30th – ...and goodbye to Fee

June 30th was the last day of Fee Kirsch as Network Coordinator of the EEAC. Fee joined the EEAC in March 2023 and has brought excellent new energy to the EEAC, boosting activity and engagement from the board, working groups and council members as well as doing extensive work behind the scenes for the Secretariat. One of her major achievements was organising the annual conferences and assemblies. Fee leaves the EEAC to go work for the European Commission at DG Clima.



July 1st – New (interim) Network Coordinator



In July, Mari-Carmen Pineda from the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS) stepped into the role of interim Network Coordinator. Mari-Carmen is a marine environmental scientist with international experience as a sustainability and science-policy consultant, as well as project manager. Having spent the past year at CADS, she is no stranger to the EEAC Network and is committed to ensuring the Secretariat continues to run smoothly during this transition.

August 18th – New Interns

In August the Secretariat opened its doors to two new interns: Yaelle Reed and Zuzana Mária Chobotová. Yaelle is currently completing her Master's degree in Environmental Policy at Sciences Po's Paris School of International Affairs. Her background in social sciences, combined with her previous internship experience at ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, makes Yaelle a valuable addition to the EEAC team. Zuzana is in her last year of European Studies at The Hague University of Applied Sciences, where she also coordinates the ES Tutoring Program. Zuzana has previous experience interning at the Slovak Governance Institute, and she will be a great support to the Secretariat during her placement.



RECENT COUNCIL UPDATES



Our members have had a busy few months, working on a variety of inspiring projects. Although all work of our councils is important, for the purpose of keeping the newsletter concise, the Secretariat has highlighted a selection of the recent council activities and publications.

Sustainable futures in Finland

The Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development, 25/26-05-2025

At the end of May the Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development hosted an event "Room 2050", which presented the final phase of the council's project on building positive images of potential futures. In the "Room 2050" visitors had the chance to experience what life might look like for a three-person Finnish family after the sustainable transformation. The event was a great success, with over 250 people attending. The event received positive feedback, and many attendees left feeling hopeful about the future.

New council members

The Luxembourg High Council for Sustainable Development, 02-05-2025

May 2025 marks the start of the new mandate for the CSDD. Eight members of the council were reappointed and another seven members are new to their positions. The new council will be chaired by Mike Poiré with Christina Mayer and Nancy Thomas taking the role of vice-presidents. A warm welcome to the new members from the EEAC!

Making the most of the EU water resilience strategy

The German Advisory Council on Global Change, 08-07-2025

In July the WBGU released a policy paper reacting to the EU Commission's Water Resilience Strategy, launched the previous month. The paper offers a series of recommendations to supplement the Commission's strategy, notably proposing 'climate-resilient water management' as a guiding principle for European water policy.

Building for the future: developing homes with sustainable materials

The Council for the Environment and Infrastructure, The Netherlands, 19-06-2025

The Rli released a report analysing the possibilities of reducing carbon emissions in housing construction. The report created in light of the updated Energy Performance of Buildings Directive identifies five key strategies essential to implement to achieve sustainable transformation in construction. These include: using less building material; using fewer/lighter technical installations; reusing building materials; using bio-based building materials; using low-carbon versions of conventional building materials.

Climate change and public health: The impact of heat waves and extreme temperatures in Romania

Consultative Council for Sustainable Development, Romania, 02-09-2025

In the beginning of September the CCSD published a report analysing the effects of climate change on Romanian citizens. Romania is experiencing increasingly higher temperatures each year, and the intensifying heat waves have a serious impact on public health. The extreme heat is linked to an increased occurrence of cardiovascular, respiratory and also mental health issues. Moreover, the mortality rate is affected, with heat-related deaths now being 30% higher than 20 years ago. To protect vulnerable communities, the council calls for greater integration of climate considerations in the national and local health strategies.

Contribution to the National Nature Restoration Plan in Portugal

National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Portugal, 25-07-2025

In July, the CNADS published strategic guidance for the development of Portugal's National Nature Restoration Plan. Their contribution emphasises scientific grounding, territorial governance, and integration with broader security and sustainability policies, aiming to ensure effective implementation aligned with EU regulations and national ecological priorities.

International Trade Dependencies and the Energy Transition

The National Economic and Social Council, Ireland, 30-07-2025

In July NESC prepared a report examining the Ireland's international trade dependencies in the energy sector and how these will be affected by the energy transition. Ireland still heavily relies on fossil fuel imports, which slows down the progress towards net-zero emissions, but also poses risks to the security of energy supply. To support the energy transition the NESC proposes recommendations such as formulating a Long-term National Plan for Strategic Clean Energy Reserves or engaging in greater EU-UK negotiations on CBAM.

Upcoming EEAC Activities

September 15th, 2025 - Competitiveness Webinar

Co-organised by the Sustainable Development and Energy and Climate working groups, this webinar will explore the impact of the EU's new focus on competitiveness on broad welfare.

September 29, 30 & October 1, 2025 - Annual EEAC Assembly: From Green to Clean

The annual EEAC assembly, this year held in Brussels, will focus on the Commissions push towards competitiveness and simplification and what this means for advisory councils. Specific topics of discussion will be on energy and the circular economy, agriculture and water, and health and well-being.

November 26th – Annual Plenary Session

The 2025 Annual Plenary Session will take place online (via Teams) on the 26th of November.