# Revised programme of the EU Green Week 2021 conference

| Thematic strand | Description |
|---|---|
| **Health** | Different types of pollution through air, freshwaters, seas and soil, and toxic elements in several products can all harm our health. To prevent or reduce pollution and build a toxic-free environment, all relevant actors across economic sectors, civil society levels need to contribute. Actions for zero pollution go hand in hand with our public health policy efforts and the green transition. |
| **Biodiversity & Ecosystems** | Pollution is one of the main threats to biodiversity and ecosystems. An integrated effort to prevent or reduce pollution will help to bring us more in line with planetary boundaries, and contributes to international efforts, too. |
| **Production & Consumption** | Steering the EU towards zero pollution requires more sustainable industrial systems, cleaner technologies, less polluting business models and consumption habits. We need to make sure that both production and consumption modes become more sustainable. In other words, the zero pollution ambition is part of the transformation towards a clean, climate-neutral and circular economy. |
| **Enabling change in the EU and abroad** | Pollution results from multiple activities in most economic sectors, it is regulated by different authorities at international, EU, national, regional and local level, and ultimately affects all people and the environment across the globe. The zero pollution ambition aims at boosting collective action and change across society. Everyone has a role to play in creating the zero pollution transformation together and promoting zero pollution change worldwide. |

# Tuesday 1 June 2021

| Pre-Conference Events | |
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| **10:30**<br>**12:30** | **European Week for Waste Reduction Awards**<br>**Event organised by the European Committee of the Regions, Brussels** |

| Tuesday 1 June | | | |
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| 13.30<br>15.00 | **Opening session**<br><br>**For healthier people and planet – can you imagine a world without pollution?**<br><br>**<u>High level political session</u>** | | |
| 15.00-15.30 Break | | | |
| 15.30<br>16:15 | **1.1**<br>**A healthy environment for healthy lives**<br><br>**<u>High level</u>** | **1.2**<br>**Lightening the load - removing environmental pressures to set global biodiversity on a path to recovery in Kunming**<br><br>**<u>High level</u>** | **1.3**<br>**Inspiring good habits – behavioural change through storytelling and tools** |

## Pre-Conference Events

**European Week for Waste Reduction Awards Ceremony – waste reduction champions towards zero pollution**

**Event organised by the European Committee of the Regions**

The European Week for Waste Reduction annual Awards Ceremony will be hosted in June 2021 and will celebrate the most **outstanding actions related to waste reduction** organised during the EWWR campaign from 21 to 29 November 2020. The 12th edition of this international initiative witnessed over 10,600 actions organised all over Europe (and beyond) by citizens, public authorities, schools, NGOs and businesses towards zero waste and pollution.

The 2020 edition of the EWWR drew attention to the topic of "Invisible waste", namely the large amount of waste and related CO2 generated during the manufacturing process of products, which the consumer does not see. This includes waste generated by extracting resources, transporting, producing fuels and electricity, manufacturing, which may even be hazardous. By raising awareness on the impact generated by these industrial processes, the EWWR encouraged all stakeholders to take action for more sustainable production and consumption practices that prevent waste generation and its impact on air, soil and water pollution and help to create a toxic-free environment.

This will be a virtual event. Join us online on 1 June 2021 to discover the stars of the EWWR 2020!

The EWWR Awards will contribute celebrating best practices and highlighting the link between waste and pollution.

# Tuesday 1 June 2021

### Opening session:

### For healthier people and planet – can you imagine a world without pollution?

The Zero Pollution Action Plan for air, water and soil will set out a vision for the zero pollution ambition in the wider context of the green transition. It will highlight the fact that reducing pollution goes hand in hand with achieving our climate neutrality and biodiversity objectives and will help to transform the EU into a clean and circular economy. But how will such a world without pollution look like? The opening session sets out the current challenges and future opportunities of zero pollution world. This will be put into the wider political context and will bring in other actors of society, namely cities and regions, sports personalities and artists to discuss how a zero pollution perspective affects positively all walks of life.

**Keynote speech**

**Panel**:

**Closing remarks**:

**Moderator:**

- Katrina Sichel, Wit and Word Communications

Break

**1.1 A healthy environment for healthy lives**
**In collaboration with the European Environment Agency**

This event highlights the multiple links between the quality of our environment and the health and well-being of European citizens. A significant proportion of the disease burden in Europe continues to be caused by environmental pollution resulting from human activity**.** Updated information on the health impacts from air pollution, unsafe water, noise and hazardous chemicals will be provided, highlighting the latest knowledge from the EEA. In addition, the health and well-being benefits attainable through a healthy environment and adequate access to green/blue spaces will be stressed.

**Speakers**:

- Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA)
- Dr Hans Kluge, Regional Director for Europe, World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Génon K. Jensen, Executive Director, Health & Environment Alliance (HEAL)
- Marius Vaščega, Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Sinkevičius - Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission

**Moderator**:

- Aminda Leigh, Moderators Europe

**1.2 Lightening the load - removing environmental pressures to set global biodiversity on a path to recovery in Kunming**

Pollution is a key driver of biodiversity loss and has a harmful impact on our health and environment. While the EU has a solid legal framework in place to reduce pollution, greater efforts are still required. Biodiversity is suffering from the release of nutrients, chemical pesticides, pharmaceuticals, hazardous chemicals, urban and industrial wastewater, and other waste including litter and plastics. All of these pressures must be reduced. The EU is ready to lead all efforts – working with like-minded partners around the world - on Zero Pollution Ambition as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Speakers**:

- Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director-General, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission
- Anna Engleryd, Chair, Executive Body, Air Convention
- Isaura Rabago Juan-Aracil, Chair, Working Group on Effects
- Carlos Martin Novella, Deputy Executive Secretary, Basel-Rotterdam-Stockholm Conventions
- Mark A. Sutton, Environmental Physicist, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

**Moderator**:

- Aleksandar Rankovic, Sciences Po, author of IDDRI Brief “Mobilising the chemical conventions to protect biodiversity”, 2019

**1.3 Inspiring good habits – behavioural change through storytelling and tools**

The road to (eco) hell is paved with good intentions! This workshop will explore different approaches to transforming people's intentions ("I really should do something") into long-term habits which are better for the environment, our health and the economy. Speakers will showcase different tools which make people more aware of their impact on the planet by looking at lifestyle or consumption habits, measuring the impact of actions and sharing easy to apply tips. The European Climate Pact is about awareness and action. It is an EU-wide initiative inviting people, communities and organisations to participate in climate action and build a greener Europe. Find out how it's ambassadors, pledges and challenges are inspiring people across the EU to take action. Join us!

**Speakers**:

**Moderator**:

## Wednesday, 2 June 2021

| Wednesday 2 June | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10:00<br>11:00 | **2.1**<br>**Safe and healthy with sustainable mobility**<br><br>**High level** | **2.2**<br>**Microplastics pollution: risks, occurrences & the case of synthetic textiles** | **2.3**<br>**The Special Programme: catalysing progress towards the sound management of chemicals and waste** | **2.4**<br>**Clean seas with a sustainable blue economy – challenges and opportunities** |
| 11:00-11:15 Break | | | | |
| 11.15<br>12.30 | **LIFE awards**<br><br>**High level** | | | |
| 12.30-13.00 Lunch break | | | | |
| 13.00<br>14.00 | **3.1**<br>**Building cleaner, more circular industrial plants: challenges and opportunities from the review of the Industrial Emissions Directive** | **3.2**<br>**Tackling pollution through Citizen Science: effective actions in the field** | **3.3**<br>**Stemming the plastic tide: global partnerships to reduce pollution** | **3.4**<br>**Towards clean air in the Western Balkans**<br><br>**High level** |
| 14:00-14:15 Break | | | | |

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| 14:15<br>15:15 | **4.1**<br>**Upgrading the ambition of EU Air Quality legislation**<br><br>**<u>High level</u>** | **4.2**<br>**Safe and Sustainable-by-design: from greenwashing to competitive advantage** | **4.3**<br>**Counting down to a cleaner future: monitoring the risks of hazardous chemicals** | **4.4**<br>**Space is the place – monitoring the planet's health with Copernicus**<br><br>**<u>High level</u>** |
| 15:15-15:30 Break | | | | |
| 15:30<br>16:30 | **5.1**<br>**Dirty footprints on the magic carpet – the impacts of soil pollution on human health**<br><br>**<u>High level</u>** | **5.2**<br>**Farewell PFAS – calling time on the Forever Chemicals** | **5.3**<br>**Money talks! Everything you always wanted to know about the "EU taxonomy" (but were afraid to ask)** | |
| 16:30-16:45 Break | | | | |
| 16:45<br>17:45 | **6.1**<br>**Rebuilding greener! Maximising the environmental co-benefits in times of recovery** | **6.2**<br>**Making waves – young people's views on water pollution**<br><br>**<u>High level</u>** | **6.3**<br>**Zero Pollution and the new Horizon Europe** | **6.4**<br>**Cleaning our rivers and seas – quantitative modelling of water & marine pollution** |

# Wednesday 2 June 2021

**2.1 Safe and healthy with sustainable mobility**
**In collaboration with the Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport**

Transport represents a major source of pollution in urban areas, with serious consequences on public health and mortality. For 20 years European Mobility Week, the European Commission's awareness-raising campaign on sustainable urban mobility, has been inspiring people to re-consider their mobility habits in towns and cities. This year's theme "Safe and Healthy with Sustainable Mobility" aligns with Green Week's zero pollution ambition aims by inspiring a shift towards active and sustainable mobility, with a special focus on road safety and on physical and mental well-being. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, European Mobility Week is also promoting public transport as a safe and reliable alternative to car use.

Join us for some inspirational examples from the legacy of European Mobility Week and its well-known Car-Free Day, as we showcase towns and cities creating a safer and healthier living environment, and take a closer look at the importance of improving our health and wellbeing with urban mobility.

**Speakers**:
- Juan Caballero, Head of European Secretariat, EUROPEANMOBILITYWEEK
- Shane O'Mara, Professor of Experimental Brain Research, Trinity College, Dublin, Author of 'In Praise of Walking'
- Annika Stienen, Deputy Director of EU Department, International Association of Public Transport (UITP)

**Moderator**:
- Matthew Baldwin, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Mobility & Transport, European Commission

**2.2 Microplastics pollution: risks, occurrences & the case of synthetic textiles**

Microplastics are widespread in the environment causing rising concerns in terms of environmental pollution and potential risks to human health. Available evidence shows that precautionary measures are needed to reduce their presence in the environment. The session will discuss risk and occurrence of microplastics, in particular from synthetic textiles during their entire life-cycle e.g. washing and transmission of microplastics into waste water treatment.

**Speakers**:
- Professor Richard Thompson, Marine Biologist and Director, Marine Institute, University of Plymouth
- Elena Buzzi, Policy Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Frédérique Mongodin, Senior Marine Litter Policy Officer at Seas at Risk, Rethink Plastic Alliance
- Mauro Scalia, Director, Sustainable Businesses, The European Apparel and Textile Industry, (EURATEX)

**Moderator**:
- Jacki Davis, Meade Davis Communications

**2.3 The Special Programme: catalysing progress towards the sound management of chemicals and waste**
**In collaboration with the Directorate-General for International Partnerships**

Exploring the role of the Special Programme in supporting the sound management of chemicals and waste through its ongoing projects and its contribution to achieving the zero pollution ambition, in the context of the discussions on the post-2020 international chemicals management and EU strategies.

**Speakers**:

- Monika MacDevette, Chief of Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division, UNEP (home of the Special Programme Secretariat)
- Santos Virgilio, Coordinator, National Chemicals and Waste Management Coordinating Unit, Ministry of the Environment, Angola
- Tatiana Tugui, Environmental Pollution Prevention Office (EPPO), Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova

**Moderator**:

- Aminda Leigh, Moderators Europe

**2.4 Clean seas with a sustainable blue economy – challenges and opportunities**

**In collaboration with the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs & Fisheries and the Joint Research Centre**

Human activities may exert multiple pressures on the marine environment and its ecosystems. Blue Economy sectors, but also land-based activities (notably agriculture and urban/industrial settlements), cause a range of widespread pressures across Europe's seas (e.g. emissions of nutrients, organic matter, microbial pathogens, litter, energy and sound, but also extraction of resources and physical disturbances).

Maritime activities are dependent upon the natural capital (either abiotic, biotic or both) held in Europe's seas. The importance of using the marine environment sustainably is vital so that marine ecosystems and their services can be maintained, and hence, also the human activities that depend on them.

Benefits from the marine environment are not only limited to the blue economy sectors but the marine environment plays an important role in, among many other things, providing food, water and other materials, regulating the climate (e.g. carbon sequestration), weather and air quality.

The aim of the European Union's Marine Strategy Framework Directive is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. This is complemented with the annual EU Blue Economy Report that aims to provide up-to-date knowledge and evidence on the marine and maritime sectors to support the economic growth of these sectors in a sustainable way.

**Speakers**

**Moderator**:

Break

**LIFE Awards 2020:**

**In collaboration with the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency**

The LIFE Awards recognise the most innovative, inspirational and effective LIFE projects in the fields of nature protection, environment and climate action. Winners from each of these 3 categories will be voted by expert jury members and announced on the day of the Ceremony. A fourth category is set for the LIFE Citizen's Prize, where people can vote for their favourite project among all 15 finalists through a dedicated online voting platform.

**Speakers & presenters**:

- Bas Eickhout, Vice-Chair, ENVI Committee, European Parliament

- Dr Janez Potočnik, Co-Chair, United Nations Environmental Programme, International Resource Panel (UNEP IRP); Chair of Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA) & Partner at SYSTEMIQ
- Ester Asin, Director, World Wide Fund for Nature, European Policy Office (WWF EPO)
- Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director-General, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission

**Moderator**:
- Jennifer Baker

Break

**3.1 Building cleaner, more circular industrial plants: challenges and opportunities from the review of the Industrial Emissions Directive**

**In collaboration with the Joint Research Centre**

The session will use the current revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) to explore its potential towards introducing greater circularity and industrial symbiosis in the transition to the 2050 objectives of climate neutrality and zero pollution. Its aim is to source ideas to enhance the IED, especially in the area of green transition and resource efficiency.

**Speakers**:
- Aneta Willems, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- Nicolas Humez, Chairman of Hazardous Waste Europe (HWE)
- Marcin Wisniewski, Counsellor to the Minister, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Poland
- Aliki Kriekouki , Senior Policy Officer for Industrial Production, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

**Moderator**:
- Sonja Van Rensen

**3.2 Tackling pollution through Citizen Science: effective actions in the field**

**In collaboration with the Joint Research Centre**

Introducing and discussing selected citizen science initiatives, this session will show that citizens can provide valuable and detailed information about pollution. We will highlight how citizen science can contribute to policy making & monitoring and what can be done to improve the uptake of citizen science in environmental monitoring. Lessons can also be learned from successful citizen science in other domains, e.g. biodiversity.

**Speakers**: -
- Stéphane Isoard, Head of the Water and Marine Group, European Environment Agency (EEA)
- Hester Volten, Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM),
- Ana Cristina Cardoso, Project Manager, Scientific Research, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Steffen Fritz, Programme Director, Strategic Initiatives Programme, International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA)

**Moderator**:
- Sven Schade, Project Leader, Digital Economy, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

**3.3 Stemming the plastic tide: global partnerships to reduce pollution**

**In collaboration with the Directorate-General for International Partnerships**

The session will discuss how best the EU can contribute to global efforts to switch to circular models and tackle plastic pollution. It will highlight EU efforts to reach a global agreement on plastics as well as international initiatives to promote the uptake of a circular economy approach on plastics. Interventions will discuss different strategies and cooperation areas contributing to these objectives.

Projects supported by the EU will be introduced as practical examples of partnerships promoting a circular economy, including action against plastic pollution.

**Speakers**:

**Moderator:**

- Chris Burns, Burnstorm Communications

**3.4 Towards clean air in the Western Balkans**

**In collaboration with the Joint Research Centre and the Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations**

Air Quality is one of the main health and environmental concerns in the Western Balkans. The process of accession of these countries imposes the approximation with the EU acquis in the area of environment and climate change, among others. This is a major challenge and at the same time an opportunity to improve not only the serious pollution situation in the Western Balkans but also to help the neighbouring EU member states to achieve their objectives in the area of air quality management. In this regard, the ambitious Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans (9 billion Euros) connected to the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans could be a key instrument for the sustainable development of this region. The focus of the session will be on the air pollution from coal combustion and on the policies that are – or could be – planned or implemented to decarbonise the region for better air quality and healthier lives.

**Speakers:**

- Vlatka Matkovic, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)
- Peter Vajda, Energy Community Secretariat
- Claudio Belis, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Petros Kokkalis, Member of the European Parliament
- François Wakenhut, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- Naser Nuredini, Minister of the Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of North Macedonia

**Moderator:**

- Anya Sitaram, Moderators Europe

Break

**4.1 Upgrading the ambition of EU Air Quality legislation**

This session will explore how to translate the zero pollution ambition into the revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directives, notably how to align the EU air quality standards more closely with the World Health Organization recommendations. The revised WHO Air Quality Guidelines, anticipated for the first half of 2021, are expected to include updated guideline exposure levels for a number of air pollutants, and in particular for the most harmful fine particulate matter (PM2.5). Speakers and

participants will discuss how to define the right level of ambition in aligning more closely with the revised guidelines, and how improvements to other provisions of the Directives could support more effective action, for instance through provisions on penalties and public information as well as on air quality monitoring, modelling and plans.

**Speakers**:

- Vladislav Smrž, Czech Deputy Minister for Environment
- Javi López, Rapporteur for the European Parliament report on Ambient Air Quality Directives (AAQ Directives)
- Elke Van den Brandt, Regional minister for mobility, Brussels
- Alain Maron, Regional minister for environment, Brussels

**Moderator**:

- Chris Burns, Burnstorm Communications

**4.2 Safe and Sustainable-by-design: from greenwashing to competitive advantage**
**In collaboration with the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation**

Safe and Sustainable-by-design is included in the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability as a crucial approach towards the zero pollution ambition. How can this be achieved in a realistic timeline while empowering companies and citizens and supporting the competitiveness of EU industry? While the Commission is in the early stages of developing criteria for safe and sustainable-by-design in the coming two years to combat greenwashing, the session will be a platform for experts to explain what is meant by the term, and for designers, frontrunner companies and NGOs to put forward challenging ideas and solutions towards the EU's zero pollution and climate goals.

**Speakers**:

**Moderator**:

- Katrina Sichel, Wit and Word Communications

**4.3 Counting down to a cleaner future: monitoring the risks of hazardous chemicals**
**In collaboration with the European Environment Agency and the Joint Research Centre**

The protection of human health and the environment from the threat of chemical pollution is a shared objective across EU chemical and environmental policies. Environmental monitoring in general, and chemical monitoring in particular, is essential to verify compliance and to track progress towards objectives and thereby to identify how best to prevent and mitigate chemical pollution. Over the last decades monitoring data of increasing amounts, complexity and precision have become available through regulatory provisions and scientific research. The next years will see huge developments in the way digital technologies are used to monitor and communicate information on Europe's environment.

The EU chemical strategy for sustainability envisages a common open data platform on chemicals to facilitate the sharing, access and re-use of information on chemicals. To make best use of monitoring data across policy areas, the Commission has developed the Information Platform for Chemical Monitoring (IPCHEM), which will become an integral part of the common open data platform on chemicals. Using examples from recent or ongoing regulatory assessments, this session will show how chemical monitoring data and IPCHEM can help achieving the EU Zero Pollution Ambition as well as other EU strategies such as the Chemicals strategy for sustainability.

**Speakers**:

- Caroline Whalley, Water Industries and Pollution Expert, European Environment Agency (EEA)
- Marco Falconi, Water and Land Expert Team Leader, European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)

- Stephanie Bopp, Project Officer, Scientific Research, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission
- Antonio Franco, Technical Officer, Sustainable Chemicals for Public and Environmental Health, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission
- Bernhard Berger, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission
- Bruno Dujardin, Senior Scientific Officer, Evidence Management Unit, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- Prof. Christina Ruden, Department of Applied Environmental Science (ITM), Stockholm University
- Prof. Robert Barouki, University of Paris School of Medicine, Head of National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM) Research Unit

**Moderator:**

- Aminda Leigh, Moderators Europe

**4.4 Space is the place – monitoring the planet's health with Copernicus**

**In collaboration with the Directorate-General for Defence Industry & Space and the Joint Research Centre**

From sea to land to atmosphere, pollution harms our health and our environment. It is the largest environmental cause of multiple diseases and premature deaths. In addition, pollution is the main driver behind the exponential loss of biodiversity that our planet has experienced in recent years. Pollution reduces the ability of ecosystems to provide us with goods (from staples to materials) and services (from carbon sequestration and, in turn, climate regulation, to decontamination). EU Green Week 2021 marks the launch of the newly adopted action plan of the European Commission: "Towards a Zero Pollution Ambition for air, water and soil – building a Healthier Planet for Healthier People".

Copernicus, European Commission's Earth Observation Programme, provides Europe with a continuous, independent and reliable access to satellite Earth Observation data and information. Millions of gigabytes of global data from satellites and ground-based, airborne, and seaborne measurement systems, provide free and openly accessible information to help service providers, public authorities, and other international organisations to improve European citizens' quality of life and beyond. From water quality to CO2 concentrations, find out how Copernicus can assist in identifying sources of pollution at sea, on land, rivers, lakes, and in our atmosphere, so that successful steps can be taken in clean up our planet.

**Speakers**:

- Timo Pesonen, Director-General of the Directorate-General for Defence, Industry & Space (DG DEFIS), European Commission
- Vincent-Henri Peuch, Director of the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) and Deputy Director for Copernicus Services at the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)
- Stuart Crane, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Dr Laurence Crosniern, Head of the Market and Service Department at Mercator Ocean International, delivering the Copernicus Marine Service for the European Commission
- Ana Abascal, Senior Researcher at the Environmental Hydraulics Institute (IHCantabria)

**Moderator**:

- Karen Coleman, Planet Podium

Break

**5.1 Dirty footprints on the magic carpet – the impacts of soil pollution on human health**

**In collaboration with the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation**

Point-source and industrial soil pollution is omnipresent in the EU, with 14% of an estimated total of 2.8 million potentially polluted sites expected to require remediation (= 390,000 sites). By 2018, only some 65,500 of these sites were remediated. Diffuse soil contamination by atmospheric deposition, pesticides, antibiotics, excess fertilisers, microplastics, sewage sludge and waste is also widespread. Both the Zero Pollution Action Plan for air, water and soil and the new Soil Strategy will be adopted in 2021, before Green Week, and will address the problem of soil pollution. This session will focus on the impact of soil pollution on human health.

**Speakers**:

- Matthias Braubach, Technical Officer Urban Health Equity, World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Violette Geissen, Professor of soil degradation and conservation, Wageningen University
- Ivano Iavarone, Senior researcher, Department Environment and Health, Italian Institute for Health
- Martin Hojsik, Member of the European Parliament

**Moderator:**

- Rene Wyndham, Moderators Europe

**5.2 Farewell PFAS – calling time on the Forever Chemicals**

The European Chemicals Agency's (ECHA) databases contain more than 2,000 individual poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are on the EU market. The OECD identified almost 5,000 PFAS and a recent study from ETH of Zurich found more than 200 specific uses for 1,400 PFAS.

The EU plans to ban all PFAS as a group for all uses, except when the use is essential for society. In the session, we will debate questions like: How will the EU make this happen? Where and how is PFAS polluting our environment? How will we substitute PFAS in products? Is it a problem that PFAS are found in our blood? Can we do something about PFAS in the environment?

PFAS are used in a wide variety of consumer products and industrial applications because of their unique chemical and physical properties, including oil and water repellence, temperature and chemical resistance, and surfactant properties. PFAS are used in firefighting foams, non-stick metal coatings for frying pans, paper food packaging, creams and cosmetics, textiles for furniture and outdoor clothing, paints and photography, chrome plating, pesticides and pharmaceuticals.

PFAS are ubiquitous in the aquatic environment and organisms across Europe, and have been detected in air, soil, plants and in people. They hardly degrade in the environment. Areas around industrial production, manufacturing and application sites have been found to be particularly contaminated by PFAS. This has led to contaminated drinking water around factories in Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands, and around airports and military bases in Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The total number of sites potentially emitting PFAS is estimated to be in the order of 100,000 in Europe.

**Speakers**:

- Nick Marchesi, Senior Environmental Specialist, Environment, Climate and Social Office (ECSO), European Investment Bank (EIB)

**Moderator**:

- Chris Burns, Burnstorm Communications

**5.3 Money talks! Everything you always wanted to know about the "EU taxonomy" (but were afraid to ask)**

**In collaboration with the Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union and the Joint Research Centre**

In order to meet the EU's climate and energy targets for 2030 and reach the objectives of the European Green Deal and the upcoming zero-pollution action plan, it is fundamental to direct investments towards sustainable projects and activities that reduce pollution along with performing on other environmental objectives. The current COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need to redirect capital flows towards sustainable projects in order to make our economies, businesses and societies, in particular health systems, more resilient against climate and environmental shocks and risks. Moving towards a toxic-free environment would have clear co-benefits for health and the environment. To achieve this capital shift, a common language and a clear definition of what is 'sustainable' is needed. This is why the action plan on financing sustainable growth called for the creation of a common classification system for sustainable economic activities, or an "EU taxonomy", with its underlying six environmental objectives including in the area of "pollution prevention and control".

**Speakers**:

**Moderator:**

- Nathan FABIAN, Chief Responsible Investment Officer, Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)

**Break**

**6.1 Rebuilding greener! Maximising the environmental co-benefits in times of recovery**

The objective for the session is to reflect on recent development in environmental mainstreaming through the lenses of the recovery and resilience process, the use of "do no significant harm principle" across sectorial policies and creation of environmental co-benefits of strategic investments. The Recovery and Resilience Facility is closely tying the economic and environmental axes in a strategic way and allowing further greening in areas of energy, infrastructure, fiscal policies, etc. With do no significant harm principle at its core, this instrument is building on the strategic vision of Green Deal and bringing clear benefits to Zero pollution strategy.

The session would like to reflect on following questions: What are the most relevant reform and investment opportunities for Member States in times of recovery? What benefits for the economy and citizens across the EU are to be expected? How is the do no significant harm principle applied and what benefits it brings for other sectorial policies? How is the EU action fitting in the frame of a wider international context?

**Speakers**:

**Moderator**:

**6.2 Making waves – young people's views on water pollution**

Climate change, biodiversity, overconsumption of resources and pollution are the four ecological crises affecting our planet. The holistic approach of the European Green Deal strategy aims to tackle them. In particular, the **zero pollution ambition for a toxic free environment** has the objective to secure clean air, water and soil, healthy ecosystems and a healthy living environment for Europeans. The EU needs to better prevent, remedy, monitor and report on **water pollution** and mainstream the zero pollution ambition into all its policy developments. The aim is to decouple economic growth from the increase of pollution, and strengthen the inter-linkages between environmental protection, sustainable development and people's health and well-being. In this context, water protection and remediation plays a crucial role. Water is life. It is a precondition for human, animal and plant life as well as an indispensable resource for the economy. Water also plays a fundamental role in the climate regulation cycle.

Experts know what water pollution is, how existing policies act on it, and that the European Green Deal and, more specifically, the Zero Pollution Action Plan provide the necessary momentum to better tackle it. However, policy makers and European Institutions might not be so close to society's perception of water pollution. Keeping in mind the future of our planet, we need to be able to answer questions such as, what do children/youth/young professionals think of water pollution and its consequences? Are we considering their perspective, their needs and fears? Learning about younger generations' views can enrich the way we act and prioritise at policy level, and can teach us lessons on how we want to communicate the Zero Pollution Action Plan. We should be able to transfer conclusions and results of this session to the air and soil policy areas.

Thus, the aim of this session is to connect with and highlight young and fresh perceptions of water pollution. Through collected videos and visual material produced by youngsters that show their views and opinions, we can reflect upon and discuss concrete solutions. The expected results of the sessions are to create positive impacts together with future generations.

**Speakers**:

- Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission
- Josefina Maestu, Adviser to the State Secretary, Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge
- Naomi Timmer, Director, European Junior Water Programme
- Joana Bacallo, Individual Advocate
- Maros Halama, Vice-Dean for Research, Innovations & International Affairs, Technical University of Kosice
- Jeremy Tormos, IoT Solutions Architect, Birdz
- Bettina Doeser, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- Veronica Manfredi, Director, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

**Moderator**:

- Naomi Timmer, Director, European Junior Water Programme

**6.3 Zero pollution and the new Horizon Europe (TBC)**

**Description to come**

**Speakers**:

**Moderator**:

**6.4 Cleaning our rivers and seas – quantitative modelling of water & marine pollution**
**In collaboration with the Joint Research Centre**

Protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems and water resources is a key priority of the EU Green Deal and EU water and marine policies (Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive). From inland to coastal waters and seas, European aquatic ecosystems are subject to human-induced pressures, such as pollution, hydrological and morphological alterations, changes in biological composition and overfishing. Nutrients and litter pollution are examples of well-known and new challenges to protect our rivers, lakes and seas, and all the benefits these ecosystems provide to society. Quantitative assessment of freshwater and marine pollution through modelling can contribute to understand the impact of current and future policy measures and can support the policy implementation process. In this session, we will explore how quantitative modelling tools can support the assessment of policy measures to reduce nutrients and litter pollution in Europe. We will consider the connection between freshwater and marine environment and we will discuss the uncertainty of quantitative modelling of sea pollution through the lens of ensemble modelling.

**Speakers:**

- Bruna Grizzetti, Senior Researcher, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

- Rene Friedland, Senior Researcher at Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde,
- Diego Macias Moy, Senior Researcher at the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) Instituto de Ciencias Marinas de Andalucía (ICMAN)

**Moderator**:

- Sheila Heymans, Executive Director of the European Marine Board

## Thursday 3 June 2021

| Thursday 3 June | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 09:15<br>09:45 | **Zoom into the future Integrated Monitoring and Outlook Framework for Zero Pollution** | | | |
| 09:45-10:00 Break | | | | |
| 10:00<br>11:00 | **7.1**<br>**Environmental sustainability and equality: dilemma or opportunity?**<br><br>**High level** | **7.2**<br>**Burning wood to heat our homes: challenges & solutions to limit indoor and outdoor air pollution** | **7.3**<br>**LIFE for clean air– EU funding in pollution hotspots** | **7.4**<br>**Exhaust & non-exhaust emissions: putting transport research & health impacts in perspective** |
| 11:00-11:15 Break | | | | |
| 11.15<br>12.15 | **8.1**<br>**Who pays for pollution?** | **8.2**<br>**Walking tall and treading light – creating sustainable lifestyles with the environmental footprint tool** | **8.3**<br>**Ecosystem services at the local level – the power of nature-based solutions** | |
| 12.15-13.00 Lunch break | | | | |
| 13.00<br>14.00 | **9.1**<br>**The search for sustainable buildings: innovative solutions from Level(s) and the New European Bauhaus**<br><br>**High level** | **9.2**<br>**Clean, green, digital solutions for improving waste management** | **9.3**<br>**The Natura 2000 logo for goods and services - supporting a healthy, clean environment and local communities** | |
| 14:00-14:15 Break | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14:15<br>15:15 | **10.1**<br>**How will young Europeans #DiscoverEU while polluting less** | **10.2**<br>**Hubs for Circularity (H4C) – co-benefits from a zero-pollution perspective** | **10.3**<br>**Investing in water for a toxic free environment** | **10.4**<br>**Popular objectives, controversial measures – increasing the acceptance of ambitious measures in cities** |
| 15:15-15:30 Break | | | | |
| 15:30<br>16:30 | **11.1**<br>**Water legislation in practice – flowing freely or clear as mud?** | **11.2**<br>**Filling the knowledge gaps on exposure to pollution: a holistic approach with the Human Exposome Network** | **11.3**<br>**Steering innovation in energy-intensive industries – challenges and opportunities** | **11.4**<br>**Right to clean air : mock trials comparative session**<br><br>**<u>High level</u>** |
| 16:30-16:45 Break | | | | |
| 16:45<br>17:45 | **Film on plastic ocean pollution, followed by panel debate**<br><br>**<u>High level</u>** | | | |

# Thursday 3 June 2021

**Session on "Where to zoom into the future Integrated Monitoring and Outlook Framework for Zero Pollution"**

Break

**<u>7.1 Environmental sustainability and equality: dilemma or opportunity?</u>**

Pollution does not discriminate but its impact do. Being a man, a woman, a child, a person with disabilities or part of vulnerable and marginalised group is often a decisive factor in determining the levels of risk faced from environmental degradation, climate change and pollution. This session aims at starting a conversation on how improvements in people's lives can be sustained in an era of environmental and climate instability. We need to understand the inequalities, different needs, vulnerabilities, roles and capacities of men and women in order to have more inclusive environmentally sustainable solutions to the benefit of people.

How to make sure that everyone has equal opportunity when it comes to access to natural resources, healthy environment, environmental risk reduction, distribution of food and energy, participation in green economy, as well as access to capacity and technology?
Do we need a collective consciousness about equality?

How to navigate the inevitable trade-offs?
How to gather meaningful data?
How to push for principles and values to prevail over cynicism and pragmatism?

**Speakers**:

- Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission
- Elizabeth Werner, Deputy Secretary-General and Head of the Equality Taskforce of the European Commission
- Patrizia Heidegger, Director for Global Policies and Sustainability, European Environmental Bureau ( EEB)
- Michael O'Flaherty, Director, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

**Moderator**:

- Katrina Sichel, Wit and Word Communications

**7.2 Burning wood to heat our homes: challenges & solutions to limit indoor and outdoor air pollution**

Wood-based bioenergy in domestic heating can lead to high levels of air pollution if inefficient appliances and/or fuels are used. Since these emissions often take place in densely populated areas, impacts on health can be substantial. Eco-design requirements are set to limit air pollutants emissions from new appliances put on the market. However, air pollutant emissions also depend on consumers' behaviours in terms of use and maintenance of the devices. The session would gather speakers from the environment and health communities, bioenergy appliances associations and local authorities, and would allow to gather views on best practices, technology improvements, consumer information needs and possible further regulatory needs to assess and reduce air pollution from this sector.

**Speakers**:

- Vlatka Matkovic, Senior Health and Energy Officer, Health and Environmental Alliance (HEAL)
- Guido Lanzani, Head of Air Quality Unit, Environmental Monitoring Area of ARPA Lombardia (Lombardy Regional Protection Agency)
- Rein Gelten, Secretary General, CEFACD (EU representative of individual heating and cooking appliances producers)
- Patrick Huth, Clean Heat Project Coordinator

**Moderator**:

- Aminda Leigh, Moderators Europe

**7.3 LIFE for clean air– EU funding in pollution hotspots**
**In collaboration with the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency**

Do you know where the hotspots are for air pollution in Europe? What has been done to improve the situation? More importantly, what can still be done? Join us to share your answers to these questions, learn more about such issues from LIFE projects working on these challenges, and find out how the next LIFE programme will continue to help pave the way towards zero pollution and not only of our air.

**Speakers**:

- Mario Lionetti, Project Manager, LIFE Environment Unit, European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)
- Wilhemus De Wilt, Policy Officer, Clean Air Unit, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- Frank Appelman, Project Coordinator, Province Zuid-Holland
- Aleksandra Pup, Senior Air Quality Specialist, Malopolska Region (Marshal Office)

- Angelo Salsi, Head of Unit, European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)

**Moderator**:

- Yael Meroz, NEEMO

**7.4 Exhaust & non-exhaust emissions: putting transport research & health impacts in perspective**
**In collaboration with the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation**

The session will present data from EU funded projects and other experts to shed light on the relative contributions to pollution indicators and the resulting health impacts of the different sources of pollution, in particular from transport.

The effects of different types of combustion particles and of brake, road and tyre abrasion will be put in perspective and the ranking in terms of abatement needs will be discussed.

**Speakers**:

- Andrea Remuzzi, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, University of Bergamo & Director, Istituto Mario Negri
- Kaspar Daellenbach, Paul Scherrer Institut
- Miriam Gerlofs, Centre for Sustainability, Environment and Health

**Moderator**:

- Arvea Marieni, Brainscapital

Break

**8.1 Who pays for pollution?**

Economists came up with a market based solution to deal with pollution about a hundred years ago… but the pollution challenge still seems far from solved – what are the issues at stake, and if the polluters haven't paid who has? Against the backdrop of recent studies on taxation, subsidies and market based instruments, and in the context of policy goals of resilience, sustainable recovery and zero pollution, this session will explore through different viewpoints, who is actually paying and has been paying for pollution in the last 100 years, and is it fair.

**Speakers**:

- Lucas Chancel, Co-Director of World Inequality Lab, Affiliate Professor, Sciences Po, Associate Researcher at Paris School of Economics & Iddri

**Moderator**:

**8.2 Walking tall and treading light – creating sustainable lifestyles with the environmental footprint tool**
**In collaboration with the Joint Research Centre**

Environmental pollution has major negative effects on human health and ecosystems. Emissions into the environment (air, water, soil) occur along the entire value chain of products, means a comprehensive and life cycle-based assessment is necessary to achieve Zero Pollution. Tools and methods supporting consumers to identify the least polluting options in the market are key towards ensuring less polluting lifestyles. The session will present the use of life cycles to assess the environmental impacts of pollution. Also, understanding the extent to which our lifestyle is affecting the environment is pivotal for a transition

towards sustainability. Understanding which are the main hotspots is crucial as well as to be able to assess individual footprint and the contribution to zero pollution ambitions.

Join us to find out more about how to achieve a less polluting lifestyle with deeper knowledge of the Consumption and Consumer Footprint Indicators. A virtual tour to the Consumer Footprint Calculator will display how EU citizens can calculate the impacts of their own lifestyle.

**Speakers**:

- Serenella Sala, Deputy Head of Unit, Land Resources Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Fulvio Ardente, Team Leader Environmental Footprint, Land Resources Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Esther Sanye Mengual, Scientific Officer, Land Resources Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

**Moderator**:

- Rick Thompson, Moderators Europe

**8.3 Ecosystem services at the local level – the power of nature-based solutions**
**In collaboration with ICLEI**
Description to come

**Speakers**:

**Moderator**:

- Cathy Smith, Moderators Europe

Break

**9.1 The search for sustainable buildings: innovative solutions from Level(s) and the New European Bauhaus**

This session will explore the search for sustainable and zero pollution buildings and what it means in practice for Europeans, from extraction of materials through the use of buildings to their deconstruction, and the expected benefits for the comfort of people, the costs and improvements for health and environment.

It will explain the New European Bauhaus initiative by the Commission, set up to explore how real building projects can make a difference by applying principles based on “beautiful, sustainable, together”. In this session we will also outline how Level(s)* can support the Bauhaus initiative, as it provides a robust and tried and tested methodology to assess and report on the sustainability and circularity of buildings.

* https://ec.europa.eu/environment/topics/circular-economy/levels_en

**Speakers**:

- Alexandra Mitsotaki, World Human Forum, President & Co-Founder
- Simon Davies, Directeur AIA Environment
- Matti Kuittinen, Senior Adviser at the Ministry of Environment of Finland
- Bernard Magenhann, Deputy Director General, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Christophe Hutin , Architecte DPLG, Commissioner of the French Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2021

**Moderator**:

- Peter Woodward, Quest Associates

**9.2 Clean, green, digital solutions for improving waste management**

**Description to come**

**Speakers**:

**Moderator**:
- Arvea Marieni, Brainscapital

**9.3 The Natura 2000 logo for goods and services - supporting a healthy, clean environment and local communities**

The session will introduce the Natura 2000 logo and the opportunities to use it for promoting sustainable services and goods that contribute to the objectives of the EU Natura 2000 network of protected areas. The Natura 2000 logo supports well-functioning, healthy ecosystems that provide for our basic needs in terms of clean air, water and healthy food. It aims to create new partnerships and help rebuilding a post-Covid-19 economy that recognises our ecologically planetary boundaries promotes the protection and restoration of nature. The session will highlight examples from across the EU, including from Natura 2000 Award finalists, and discuss the use of the logo for recognising the efforts in the management of the Natura 2000 network while giving visibility to activities that aim to preserve its values for the benefit of nature, our health and the economy.

**Speakers**:
- Noelia Vallejo, Head of Sector on conservation plans and strategies, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the demographic challenge of Spain
- Jelke Brandehof,, Communications and Membership Officer, Eurosite – the European Land Conservation Network
- Carlotta Maggio, Project Officer of Oasi's Initiative, WWF Oasi
- Concepción Gálvez, co-Coordinator of the Pro-Biodiversity brand campaign 2020/2021, Fundación para la Conservación del Quebrantahuesos (Foundation for the conservation of the Bearded vulture)
- Javier Gil,co-Coordinator of the Pro-Biodiversity brand campaign 2020/2021, Fundación para la Conservación del Quebrantahuesos (Foundation for the conservation of the Bearded vulture)

**Moderator**:
- Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

Break

**10.1 How will young Europeans #DiscoverEU while polluting less?**
**In collaboration with the Directorate-General for Education & Culture and the Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport**

DiscoverEU is part of the Erasmus+ programme and encourages young Europeans aged 18 years old to green travelling by offering them railway passes. But is the railway the greenest mode of transport? How green are cars and aircrafts? What do young generations think?

Representatives from the road, railway and aircraft sector will showcase how polluting less is the common challenge, and how they are preparing for this.

Participants can tease them with on-line questions!

This session is organised in the context of 2021 European Year of Rail.

**Speakers:**

- Josef Doppelbauer - Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Railways
- Sigrid de Vries –Secretary General of the European Association of Automotive Suppliers

**Moderator:**

- Beatriz Rios

**10.2 Hubs for Circularity (H4C) – co-benefits from a zero-pollution perspective**
**In collaboration with the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation**

The ambition is to trigger a step change towards implementation of industrial symbiosis, industrial-urban symbiosis and circularity, taking advantage of favourable regional specificities. Setting up several H4C should lead to the reuse of hundreds of millions of tons of waste and water, avoiding landfill and decreasing pressure on water resources. They would also allow GHG emission reductions in the same range, while drastically decreasing the emission of hazardous substances in the environment. H4C will create attractive opportunities for municipalities/regions presenting a high job creation potential in addition to sustainability benefits. These hubs should become lighthouse examples of win-win cooperation between industry, public authorities and civil society on circular economy beyond 2025 spreading all over the EU and contributing significantly to 2030 sustainability target.

**Speakers**:

**Moderator**:

- Arvea Marieni, Brainscapital

**10.3 Investing in water for a toxic free environment**
**In collaboration with the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and the Recovery and Resilience Task Force**

The European Green Deal is our growth strategy to overcome current challenges and to improve our well-being and standards of living. It will make the European economy competitive but also innovative and sustainable. The European Green Deal provides a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources, outlines investments needed and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.

To implement the Green Deal, the Commission is mobilising a variety of financing instruments such as InvestEU and the Just Transition Fund, the EU Funds under the next Multi-annual Financial Framework, as well as the special initiatives for the recovery (REACT-EU and the Recovery and Resilience Facility).The Commission directs the processes for funding under the MFF and NextGenerationEU, by negotiating the Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes, assessing the National Recovery and Resilience Plans and by publishing guidelines explaining how it will evaluate these plans.

Water and nature are an integral part of the European Green Deal and across policy areas.. It is important to mobilise water sector stakeholders to take an active part in the implementation of the Green Deal, since water as part of the natural environment has great potential to promote sustainable economic growth and job creation during the crisis but more importantly afterwards.

The aim of this session is to convey the message to a broader audience (non-water specialists, start-up businesses, post- doc students) including decision-makers in the public and private sector that investing in water is a sustainable finance opportunity and to disseminate the environmental benefits of investing in water as well as the contribution to the recovery process. This session will also offer a forum for the participants to share good investment ideas, practises and expertise from several countries across the EU. The interactions between the participants will inspire further initiatives for investing in the water sector that could enhance cooperation between stakeholders and countries and might deliver other critical environmental improvements.

**Speakers**:

- Ifigenia Kagkalou, Chair, Management Body of the Eco-Development Area of Lake Karla (Thessaly, Greece)
- Maximilian Lüdtke, Senior Adviser, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
- Tom De Vits, Policy Advisor to the Flemish Minister of Environment, Cabinet of the Minister of Justice & Enforcement, Environment, Energy & Tourism in Flanders
- Veronica Manfredi, Director, Directorate- General for Environment, European Commission

**Moderator**:

- Cathy Smith, Moderators Europe

**10.4 Popular objectives, controversial measures – increasing the acceptance of ambitious measures in cities**

Reducing pollution and improving air quality in cities is an objective usually finding widespread support across policy levels and in the population. The question of which measures and actions to take to move towards this objective on the other side are frequently leading to heated debates and even sparking opposition from different actors in form of protests, legal procedures and other means aimed at stopping measures from being applied.

This session will take up the question of "how to get all responsible actors on board effectively and increase public acceptance of change in public spaces?" with city representatives from urban planning and public relation offices. Introducing recent successful or contested examples ranging from measures such as extending biking lanes and car-free zones to renovation and refurbishment of buildings or waste and plastic regulations, cities will share recent experiences in short pitch presentations before diving into what successful mediating and conflict prevention strategies that are getting everyone on board for important changes to public spaces and habits effectively could look like.

**Speakers**:

- Luis Tejero Encinas, Engineer, Directorate of Sustainability and Environmental Control, City of Madrid
- Alpo Tani, Climate Change Mitigation Specialist, City of Helsinki, Finland
- Giorgia Rambelli, Coordinator, Sustainable Resources & Climate Resilience, ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability European Secretariat)
- David Joyce, Director of Services, Roads and Environment Operations Directorate, Cork City Council

**Moderator**:

- Jennifer Baker

Break

**11.1 Water legislation on the ground – flowing freely or clear as mud?**

Fully applying European water rules is key to achieving better water quality in our rivers, lakes and seas, and to reduce nutrient loss by 50 % by 2030 as set out in the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. To be applied properly, the different pieces of legislation need to fit together and form a coherent whole for practitioners and stakeholders. As the deadlines for the Water Framework Directive approach, and the EU continues its action to enforce the Nitrates Directive, what does it all mean for farmers, inspectors and those with a stake in the water ecosystem? Are we making good use of compliance tools? How can we move faster? Where do we need to go further to meet the objectives of the European Green Deal?

**Speakers**:

**Moderator**:

**11.2 Filling the knowledge gaps on exposure to pollution: a holistic approach with the Human Exposome Network**

**In collaboration with the European Human Exposome Network ( EHEN)**

The mathematical formula for our state of being reads rather simple: genes plus environment equals our health score. We've sequenced our genes to identify the genetic component of disease, but the environment remains the biggest unknown part of our health equation. The EU Green Deal calls for a strategy to protect citizens' health and well-being from pollution and environmental deterioration – the Zero Pollution Action Plan. The strategy will address air and water quality, dangerous chemicals, industrial emissions, pesticides and endocrine disruptors. The Human Exposome is the field of study of how elements we are exposed to via our diet, lifestyle and the environment we live and work in, affect our health. Exposome research is a fundamental shift in research as it regards pollution, environmental deterioration and human health as a complex system with its interdependencies that need to be understood to enable better disease prevention and health promotion.

This session will discuss the role that Exposome Research plays in the EU Green Deal Strategy. Questions to be asked include, How can we curtail the risk from chemicals? How can we make healthier cities and workplaces? How can we use novel technologies to provide actionable data for politicians and citizens? How can we guarantee a healthy start to life?
Speakers and the audience will debate these questions and more, with a view to finding new opportunities for action.

**Speakers**:

**Moderator**:

- Anya Sitaram, Moderators Europe

**11.3 Steering innovation in energy-intensive industries – challenges and opportunities**

**In collaboration with the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises**

Future breakthrough technologies will often contribute to both carbon neutrality and pollutant emission reduction.

The objective is for speakers representing Industry, Member States, NGO, and policy makers to reflect on such synergies and on how their roll out can be jointly promoted by economic and command and control instruments. This session will also explore the future role of the Industrial Emissions Innovation Observatory in monitoring progress in ongoing innovations for the benefit of the IED sectoral BAT Reference documents (BREFs).

**Speakers**:

- Chris Allen, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission
- Kier McAndrew, Project Director, Wood
- Danny Croon, Director Environment & Research, European Steel Association (Eurofer)
- Christian Schaible, Policy Manager for Industrial Production, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
- Marco van Valburg , Strategic Program Director, LIFE OPTIMELT Project
- Sara Tapola , Project manager, Green Foundry LIFE
- Markku Tapola , Project Coordinator ,Green Foundry LIFE
- María Olga Fraile Paredes , Head of Industrial Sustainability Area, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain

**Moderator**:

- Sonja Van Rensen

**11.4 Right to clean air : mock trials comparative session**

As part of the Green Week partner events, virtual Moot Courts on European Environmental Law were organised by Utrecht University, Lyon Catholic University, Ghent University, Muenster University, Gothenburg University, the University College Dublin and the Brussels Bar Association. All participating teams worked on the same case study which concerned air pollution.

During this session, students from the participating Universities and young lawyers from the Brussels Bar will share the results of their sessions with the public. The aim is to identify similarities and differences in court structures, standing and procedural rules and practice. Of particular interest is how the same legal conundrum can result in very different outcomes when debated by different legal teams before different arbitration panels.

We will be looking to see how these fictional national courts implement EU law: what arguments were put on the table and what was the conclusion of each trial? The interesting thing is the comparison and how it can filter through to different results for the same case, depending at least in part on the national forum in which it is heard.

**Speakers**:

- Professor Dr. Chris Backes, Law, Economics and Governance, Utrecht University School of Law, Utrecht Centre for Water, Oceans and Sustainability Law
- Giulia Terlizzi, Lecturer and Researcher at Lyon Catholic University
- Marc Clément, President of Chamber at the Administrative Court of Lyon
- Christina Olsen Lundh, Associate Professor, School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg and judge at the District Court of Vänersborg,
- Dr. Andrew Jackson, Assistant Professor in Planning and Environmental Law at University College Dublin
- Sophie Berger, Lawyer, Brussels Bar Association
- Tangui Vandenput, lecturer in environmental law at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes Commerciales and lawyer, Brussels Bar Association
- Pierre Moërynck, Lecturer at the Facultés Universitaires Saint-Louis of Brussels, and lawyer, Brussels Bar Association

**Moderator**:

- Sarah Ziane, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate- General for Environment, European Commission

Break

**Film on plastic ocean pollution, followed by panel debate**

**Speakers**:

- Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director-General, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission
- Eirik Lindebjerg, Global Plastics Policy Manager, WWF
- Mandy Barker, Photographer

**Moderator:** Truus Huisman, IKEA Foundation

# Friday 4 June 2021

| Friday 4 June | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10:00<br>11:00 | **12.1**<br>**Achieving zero-pollution cities through regional policy and the Green City Accord**<br><br>**High level** | **12.2**<br>**Redirecting sustainable investment: green bonds and beyond** | **12.3**<br>**Cancer & environment pollution – how to better protect citizens** |
| 11:00-11:30 Break | | | |
| 11:15<br>11:45 | **Results from Hackathon on "Generation Heroes Fight for Zero Pollution"**<br><br>**High level** | | |
| 11:45-12:00 Break | | | |
| 12:00<br>13:30 | **Closing session**<br>**Together towards zero pollution - becoming the change we need**<br><br>**High level political session** | | |

# Friday 4 June 2021

**12.1 Achieving zero-pollution cities through regional policy and the Green City Accord**

**In collaboration with European Committee of the Regions and Eurocities**

Launched by the European Commission in October 2020, the Green City Accord is a movement of European mayors committed to making cities cleaner and healthier.

This session will present the Green City Accord and it will show how this initiative can support the delivery of the zero-pollution ambition at local level. Signatory cities, including members of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), will then present their Green City Accord commitments and the actions they will take to improve air and water quality and to minimise waste and noise. The practical challenges of achieving zero-pollution cities will also be covered.

**Speakers:**

- Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission

**Moderator:**

- Rene Wyndham, Moderators Europe

**12.2 Redirecting sustainable investment: green bonds and beyond**
**In collaboration with Joint Research Centre and European Investment Bank**

**Description to come**

**Speakers**:

**Moderator**:

**12.3 Cancer & environment pollution – how to better protect citizens**
**In collaboration with the Directorate General For Health and Food Safety**

Europeans rightly expect to live in healthy, sustainable environments. Yet, despite extensive legislation on environmental pollution, environmental causes are thought to be behind over a quarter of a million cancer deaths in Europe every year. Environmental pollution has a particularly harmful effect on young children. Air pollution is a main driver of mortality, with pollutants from a wide range of sources, including energy, transport, agriculture and industry - contributing to 400,000 premature deaths per year, including from lung cancer, heart disease and strokes. Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, adopted in February 2021, will support Member States and stakeholders in actions to reduce outdoor air pollution. This session will focus on how such actions can help to reduce the incidence of cancer. We will see how outdoor air pollution can be reduced, hear about the exact relation between air pollution and cancer, and see what citizens can do themselves to reduce their cancer risk related to outdoor air pollution.

**Speakers**:
- John F. Ryan, Director, Directorate General For Health and Food Safety, European Commission
- Veronica Manfredi, Director, Directorate General For Environment, European Commission
- Maria Neira, Director, Environment, Climate Change and Health, World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Martin Adams, Head of Programme 'Health and Sustainable Resource Use' , European Environment Agency (EEA)

**Moderator**:
- Claire Doole, Claire Doole Communications

Break

**Results from Hackathon on "Generation Heroes Fight for Zero Pollution"**

After three intense idea-generation days, the young entrepreneurs who are participating in the Junior Achievement Europe Zero Pollution Hackathon will pitch their innovative solutions on ways to deliver a zero pollution environment. Commissioner Sinkevičius will announce the winning team.

**Moderator:**
- Beatriz Rios

Break

## Closing session:

**Together towards zero pollution - becoming the change we need**

The Zero Pollution ambition can only be realised by working together and joining forces of all actors of society. To this end, this session launches the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform, which will carry forward

the discussions from the EU Green Week towards more regular exchanges and sharing of good practices. Together with the Committee of the Regions, the Commission will organised regular interactions on topics of common interest with the aim to meet again for the next Zero Pollution ambition conference in 2023 (TBC).

The closing session will look at the environment and health nexus, which are fundamental to steering together our recovery and resilience efforts. It will explore challenges and opportunities for society, businesses, young people and others in particular in the regional and urban context. All participants will be asked to present their expectations towards the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform and, in conclusion, we will take stock of the main messages coming from this year's Green Week.

**Keynote speech**

**Panel**:

**Closing remarks**:

**Moderator:**

- Katrina Sichel, Wit and Word Communications