

8th Environment Action Programme – the way forward

Date: Thursday, 18 April 2024, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Venue: **Please note: new location:** Climate Lab, Spittelauer Lände 45, 1090 Vienna

With the Environment Action Programmes (EAP), the European Union has been setting the objectives and fields of action in European environmental policy since the 1970s.

The current 8th EAP was adopted in March 2022 and serves as a guide for the implementation and achievement of EU environmental policy objectives up to 2030. The 8th EAP aims to accelerate the ecological transition in a fair and inclusive manner and achieve the long-term goal for 2050 of "Living well, within planetary boundaries". In July 2022, the Commission adopted a list of 26 (current 28) headline indicators to monitor progress towards achieving the EU's environmental and climate targets as set out in the 8th EAP.

The first monitoring report published by the European Environment Agency in December 2023 shows that the EU may not achieve most of the monitoring targets set out in the European Commission's 8th EAP monitoring communication. To make faster progress, Member States need to strengthen the implementation of existing legislation, take additional measures and integrate climate and environment policies into other policy areas.

The 8th EAP is one of the main priorities of the Belgian Council Presidency in the area of the environment. In June, the Environment ministers are due to adopt Council conclusions in this regard as part of the Environment Council.

Based on the mid-term review of the 8th EAP published by the EU Commission on 13 March 2024, the Austrian Ministry for Climate Action and Environment, the EU Umwelt Büro Vienna and the European Environmental Bureau are organising a **hybrid** workshop.

Agenda

2 p.m.

Setting the scene

- **Opening**
Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler, Head of Unit - Austrian Ministry for Climate Action and Environment
- **Kick-off presentation 8th EAP**
Barbara Steffner, Head of Economic and Social Affairs – Representation the European Commission in Austria
- **Perspectives from the European Parliament**
Rose Ní CHLÉIRIGH, Parliamentary Assistant to MEP Grace O'SULLIVAN rapporteur for the 8th EAP – European Parliament
- **Perspectives from civil society**
Patrick ten Brink, Secretary General - European Environmental Bureau
- **Presentation of the Belgian Council Presidency's priorities for the 8th EAP**
Perrine Laurent, Attachée - Service public de Wallonie

3.15 p.m.

Panel discussion

Are we achieving the 8th EAP targets and how can we address the lack of progress?

- Johannes Schilling, Deputy Head of Unit – European Commission DG ENV
- Catherine Ganzleben, Head of Group on Enabling Systems Change - European Environment Agency
- Patrick ten Brink, Secretary General - European Environmental Bureau
- Dirk Messner, President - German Environment Agency (tbc)

Chair: Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler

4.30 p.m.

Wrap-up

Bernhard Zlanabitnig, Director - EU-Umwelt Büro Vienna

4.45 p.m.

End of Meeting

Registration

Please register at: martina.blei@bmk.gv.at by 15.04.2024.

Note: The workshop will be held mainly in English. This is a hybrid workshop. The link to the event will be provided at a later date.

Legal notice

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