

Policy Forum

Shaping the Future of EU Environmental Policy

From the 7th to the 8th Environment Action Programme – Status, Challenges, and Next Steps

Wednesday, 13th June 2018

Haus der Europäischen Union

Wipplingerstraße 35

1010 Wien

9.30 am – 5.00 pm



The event is part of the project “AT 18 - From the Austrian Council Presidency to the 8th EU Environment Action Programme“, which is being carried out with the support of the Austrian Federal Government and the European Union.

Organisers:



In cooperation with:



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Policy Forum

Shaping the Future of EU Environmental Policy

From the 7th to the 8th Environment Action Programme - Status, Challenges, and Next Steps

The European Union (EU) is a powerful actor in environmental politics and policy-making across its 28 member states: on average, 80% of what becomes national environmental legislation in EU Member States originates at EU level.

Since the mid-1970s, EU environmental policy-making has been guided by Environment Action Programmes (EAPs). The current 7th Environment Action Programme (7EAP) entitled "Living well, within limits of our planet" was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union in November 2013 and came into force in January 2014. Its stated aim is to

"to step up the contribution of environment policy to the transition towards a **resource-efficient, low-carbon economy** in which **natural capital** is protected and enhanced, and the **health and well-being of citizens** is safeguarded."

The programme provides an overarching framework for environment policy to 2020 and identifies **nine priority objectives** for the EU and its Member States to attain. Responsibility for achieving the goals and objectives is shared by the EU and its Member States and priority objectives need to be met by 2020.

What can be said so far about the success of the programme?

The aim of this policy forum is to explore the status of implementation of the 7EAP – at EU and Austrian levels – and to create a basis for discussing challenges for environmental policy in the next decade and what its priorities should be with regard to an 8th Environment Action Programme (8EAP). Participants are invited to actively contribute towards the development of an Action Plan for an 8EAP.

Join us for a high-level policy forum on EU and Austrian environmental policies and discuss with expert speakers including high-level representatives from the European Commission and Parliament, the European Environment Agency (EEA), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), representatives from Austrian politics and administration, NGOs as well as policy experts from other EU member states.

Conference Programme

13th June 2018

Moderator: **Mia Forbes Pirie**

9.15 **Registration**

9.30 **Welcome Address**

Wolfgang Bogensberger, Deputy Head of the European Commission Representation in Austria
Jouni Nissinen, Head of the Environmental Policy Unit, Finnish Association for Nature Conservation and President, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

9.40 **Introductions and Opening of the Conference**

Mia Forbes Pirie, Moderator

9.55 **Keynote** (Video Message)

Elisabeth Köstinger, Austrian Minister of Sustainability and Tourism (BMNT)

Introductory Session

10.00 **Keynotes from EU Institutions:
The 7th Environment Action Programme – making a difference?!**

Astrid Schomaker, Director for Global Sustainable Development, Directorate General for the Environment, European Commission

Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) (Video Message)

Jock Martin, Head of Programme of Integrated Assessments, European Environment Agency (EEA)

10.40 **Coffee Break**

11.00 **Presentation of the EEB/UWD background paper:
Implementing the 7th EAP – Status, Challenges, and Next Steps Towards an
8th EAP: EU and Austrian Perspectives**

Patrick ten Brink, EU Policy Director, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Julika Dittrich, Project Director, Umweltdachverband (UWD)

Panel Discussion

11.30 **High Level Panel Discussion, followed by Q&A:
State of Environment and Challenges for the next Decade: 7th EAP
progress and policy needs for 2021-2030**

Moderator: **Mia Forbes Pirie**

Panellists:

Astrid Schomaker, Director for Global Sustainable Development, Directorate General for the Environment, European Commission

Jock Martin, Head of Programme of Integrated Assessments, European Environment Agency (EEA)

Karl Vella, Climate Policy Lead, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

Rob Williams, Senior Consultant, Trinomics

- How has the 7EAP been working? On what issues has the most/ the least progress been made?
- What about the suggestions coming out of the EEB/UWD background paper?
- What specific aspect is most important to focus on?
- What issues will be priorities for an eventual 8EAP that covers 2021-2030?

12.30 **Lunch Break**

Programme subject to change

1.30 Parallel Break-Out Session: Natural Capital

Moderator: **Bjela Vossen**, Director EU-Koordinationsbüro, Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)

Rapporteur:

Jouni Nissinen, Head of the Environmental Policy Unit, Finnish Association for Nature Conservation and President, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Speakers:

Laure Ledoux, Deputy Head of the Biodiversity Unit, Directorate-General for the Environment, European Commission

Andreas Beckmann, Managing Director, WWF International Danube-Carpathian Programme

Sergiy Moroz, Senior Policy Officer for Water and Biodiversity, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Marina von Weissenberg, Senior Ministerial Adviser, Department of the Natural Environment/Biodiversity, Finnish Ministry of the Environment

- What were the ambitions of the 7th EAP?
- What has been done within the 7th EAP context?
- Results: where do we currently stand?
- Interpretation: successes and failures in the process – seized and missed opportunities
- Should this be a priority for an 8th EAP and why?
- What specific aspect is most important to focus on in the next 5-10 years?
- How can this contribute to the achievement of specific SDG goals and/ or other international policy goals?
- What should Austria do – policies, implementation, and contribution to EU policy processes?

1.30 Parallel Break-Out Session: Resource-Efficient, Green, and Competitive Low-Carbon Economy

Moderator: **Patrick ten Brink**, EU Policy Director, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Rapporteur:

Julika Dittrich, Project Director, Umweltdachverband (UWD)

Speakers:

Constanze Adolf, Project Coordinator, Lumenion GmbH

Stefan Sengelin, Advisor, Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism (BMNT)

Sigrid Stagl, Head of the Institute for Ecological Economics, Vienna University of Economics and Business

André Weidenhaupt, Premier Conseiller de Gouvernement, Luxembourg

Matthias Neitsch, Managing Director, Reuse and Repair Network (RepaNet)

- What were the ambitions of the 7th EAP?
- What has been done within the 7th EAP context?
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- Should this be a priority for an 8th EAP and why?
- What specific aspect is most important to focus on in the next 5-10 years?
- How can this contribute to the achievement of specific SDG goals and/or other international policy goals?
- What should Austria do – policies, implementation, and contribution to EU policy processes?

1.30 Parallel Break-Out Session: Environment-Related Pressures and Risks to Health and Wellbeing

Moderator: **Sandor Fülöp**, President, EMLA

Rapporteur:

Attracta Ui Bhroin, Council Member, An Taice, Vice President, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Speakers:

Marco Martuzzi, Programme Manager Environment and Health Impact Assessment, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health

Sophie Perroud, Policy Coordinator, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), Brussels

Brigit Staatsen, Senior Researcher Healthy Living Environment, National Institute of Public Health and Environment (RIVM), The Netherlands

Robert Thaler, Head, Division Mobility, Transport & Noise, Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism

- What were the ambitions of the 7th EAP and what has been done within the 7th EAP context?
- Results: where do we currently stand?
- Interpretation: successes and failures in the process – seized and missed opportunities
- Should this still be a priority for an 8th EAP and why and what specific aspect is most important to focus on in the next 5-10 years?
- How can this contribute to the achievement of specific SDG goals and/or other international policy goals?
- What should Austria do – policies, implementation, contribution to EU policy processes?

3.15 Coffee Break

Concluding Plenary Session

3.30 Conclusions: Priorities for an 8th EAP and the way forward, followed by Q&A

The concluding plenary session will hear reports back from the break-out sessions and a closing panel discussion.

Moderator: **Mia Forbes Pirie**

Reports back from the break-out sessions by the Rapporteurs:

- Should this be a priority for the 8th EAP and why?
- What specific aspect is most important to focus on?

Respondents:

Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler, Director, EU Environmental Affairs, Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism, Austria

Julia Werner, Head of Unit, European Union: Strategic and Legal Aspects, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

Marina von Weissenberg, Senior Ministerial Adviser, Department of the Natural Environment/Biodiversity, Finnish Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Anne Saudmont, EU Policy Officer, Brussels Environment Administration – IBGE, Belgium

- What do you think of the suggestions made for priorities and should they be in an 8EAP? What should be in and what out?
- The structure of EAPs is important – any suggestions for the form and focus of an 8EAP?

4.45 Closing remarks and close of conference

Bernhard Zlanabitnig, Director, EU Umweltbüro and Vice President, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

7th EAP – The general Union Environment Action Programme to 2020

Living well, within the limits of our planet

Since the mid-1970s, EU environment policy has been guided by action programmes defining priority objectives to be achieved over a period of years. The current programme, the seventh of its kind, was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union in November 2013 and covers the period up to 2020.

The programme is guided by a long-term vision:

“In 2050, we live well, within the planet’s ecological limits. Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society’s resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society.”

The programme lists nine priority objectives and what the EU needs to do to achieve them by 2020:

Thematic objectives /Key objectives

1. to protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s **natural capital**
2. to turn the Union into a **resource-efficient**, green, and competitive low-carbon economy
3. to safeguard the Union’s citizens from **environment-related pressures** and risks to health and wellbeing

Enabling objectives

4. to maximise the benefits of the Union’s environment legislation by improving **implementation**
5. to increase **knowledge** about the environment and widen the evidence base for policy
6. to secure **investment** for environment and climate policy and account for the environmental costs of any societal activities
7. to better integrate environmental concerns into other policy areas and ensure coherence when creating new policy

Horizontal objectives

8. to **make** the Union’s cities **more sustainable**
9. to help the Union **address international environmental and climate challenges** more effectively.