

# Environmental Indicator Report 2017



# The legislative context : Article 4.1 of the 7th EAP






Article 4.1 requires the European Commission to monitor the 7th EAP in the context of the regular monitoring process of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Article 4.1 provides a specific role for the EEA:


















*‘This process shall be **informed by the European Environment Agency’s indicators on the state of the environment** as well as **indicators used to monitor progress** in achieving existing environment and climate-change legislation and targets such as the climate and energy targets, biodiversity targets and resource efficiency milestones.’*



# Scoreboard results – how to read them



























EU indicator past trend		Indicative outlook of the EU meeting the selected objective by 2020	
	Improving trend		It is likely that the objective will be met by 2020
	Stable or uncertain trend		It is uncertain whether or not the objective will be met by 2020
	Deteriorating trend		It is unlikely that the objective will be met by 2020

# Priority objective 1: ‘to protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital’, 2017 results

	EU indicator past trend	Outlook of the EU meeting the selected objective by 2020
Exposure of terrestrial ecosystems to eutrophication due to air pollution		
Gross nutrient balance in agricultural land: nitrogen		
Land take		
Forest: growing stock, increment and fellings		
Status of marine fish stocks		
Abundance and distribution of selected species (common birds and grassland butterflies)		
Species of European interest		
Habitats of European interest		
Status of surface waters	N.A.	



















## Priority objective 2: 'to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy', 2017 results

Resource productivity		
Waste generation in Europe		
Recycling of municipal waste		
Use of freshwater resources		
Total greenhouse gas emission trends and projections		
Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption		
Progress on energy efficiency in Europe		
Energy consumption by households		
Greenhouse gas emissions from transport		
Animal product consumption (animal protein)		
Share of environmental and labour taxes in total tax revenues		
Employment and value added in the environmental goods and services sector		
Environmental protection expenditure in Europe		



## Priority objective 3: ‘to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being’

	EU indicator past trend	Outlook of the EU meeting the selected objective by 2020
Exceedance of air quality limit values in urban areas (nitrogen dioxide: NO <sub>2</sub> ; dust particles: PM <sub>10</sub> ; ozone: O <sub>3</sub> ; fine particulate matter: PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	 NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub>  O <sub>3</sub>	
Emissions of the main air pollutants in Europe (sulphur oxides: SO <sub>2</sub> ; nitrogen oxides: NO <sub>x</sub> ; ammonia: NH <sub>3</sub> ; non-methane volatile organic compounds: NMVOCs; fine particulate matter: PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	 SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> , NMVOCs, PM <sub>2.5</sub>  NH <sub>3</sub>	 SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> , NMVOCs, PM <sub>2.5</sub>  NH <sub>3</sub>
Bathing water quality		
Number of countries that have adopted a climate change adaptation strategy and/or plan	N.A.	
Exposure to environmental noise		
Consumption of chemicals, by hazard class		
Total sales of pesticides		

# Changes to the 2017 results compared with 2016

- The outlook of meeting the EU and international ammonia emission reduction 2020 commitment was revised from 'likely to be met' to 'uncertain'.
- The outlook for meeting the 2020 land take milestone was revised from 'uncertain' to 'unlikely to be met'.
- Additional efforts are necessary to stay on track to meet the 2020 energy efficiency target. There is also an increasing risk that the EU will miss its objective of reducing the overall environmental impact from the mobility sector. The 2020 outlooks for these two cases remained, nevertheless, unchanged this year compared with last year.
- We can see in several other indicators a slowing in positive evolution or negative evolution the past couple of years. These developments do not translate to increased risks that the EU will miss the related 2020 objectives because previous progress has been more than enough to keep the EU well on track, or it is anticipated that positive evolution will resume or because it is already known that the objectives will not be met.





# Overall results

The lower economic activity level in the EU following the 2008 financial crisis, contributed to several of the positive past trends seen in the selected indicators. As EU economic growth is returning, increased efforts are likely to be necessary in the coming years in order to maintain progress.

There is a need to further:

- implement existing EU environmental legislation;
- mainstream environmental objectives into socio-economic policies.

Looking beyond 2020 a greater magnitude of change will be required to achieve the EU's 2050 vision of 'living well within the limits of our planet' or its commitments under the UN SDGs.

# Thank you

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The Environmental Indicator Report 2017 and the supporting online briefings are available at [www.eea.europa.eu/airs/2017](http://www.eea.europa.eu/airs/2017)

# The legislative context I: Article 4 of the 7th EAP

Article 4 of the 7th EAP commits the European Commission to monitor and evaluate the 7th EAP.



It stipulates a support role for the EEA by requiring:

- the use of EEA state of the environment indicators in the monitoring of the 7th EAP;
- the use of the EEA State of the Environment Report (SOER) in the evaluation of the 7th EAP.

# Methodology

- Focus on the more detailed objectives of the 7th EAP thematic priority objectives (§28, 43, 54).
- Map key (preferably quantitative) aspects of these against available indicators.
- Develop scoreboard type assessments based on selected indicators and objectives – 29 scoreboard assessments available as online briefings.
- Publish the Environmental Indicator Report 2017, which is based on indicators and scoreboard assessments, and use of other information.

# Example of a scoreboard entry (Priority Objective 3)

Indicator	EU indicator past trend	Selected objective to be met by 2020	Indicative outlook of the EU meeting the selected objective by 2020
Bathing water quality		Increase the number of bathing waters classified as 'excellent' or 'good' under the Bathing Water Directive	

The share of bathing waters that meet excellent and good quality standards are likely to increase further due to implementation of the Bathing Water Directive, in particular the effect of measures on poor quality waters.

# Main indicator selection criteria

## Relevance

- Indicator should represent a chief aspect or is considered a good proxy of a detailed objective (or parts of it) of one of the three 7EAP thematic priority objectives.

## Measurability

- Indicator should be able to measure progress towards a 2020 threshold (e.g. milestone, target, goal) associated with the achievement of a detailed objective (or parts of it) of one of the three 7EAP thematic priority objectives.

# Results by 7<sup>th</sup> EAP thematic priority objective, 2017

- Priority objective 1 (natural capital) – EU seems off track (prevalence of red traffic lights) although the 7<sup>th</sup> EAP states that ‘the Union’s economic prosperity and well-being is underpinned by its natural capital’.
- Priority objective 2 (resource efficiency and low carbon economy) – EU on track to meet climate and energy related targets. There have been resource efficiency improvements. Improvements did not prove successful in reducing sufficiently some of the environmental pressures or impacts. The 7<sup>th</sup> EAP recognised the need for resource efficiency targets, such targets have not been defined to-date.
- Priority objective 3 (environment and health) – EU shows mixed progress. Progress is also unclear due to lack of appropriate data (especially in the cases of reducing risks from chemicals and from climate change impacts).

The above statements were drawn based on the selected policy objectives and indicators per thematic priority objective.