



Fridays for Future school strike in Berlin © Jörg Farys / WWF

Putting youth and future generations at the centre of the climate change debate

19 September, 2019

Climate change, both in its impacts and in the need for mitigation action to address it, creates a broad range of distributional issues, which need to be considered in any serious discussion of climate policy.

Without a drastic and urgent policy change, the climate crisis will result in increased injustice – not only will those least responsible and least able to pay bear the worst effects, but we will also leave the future generations with a legacy of risks and hardships.

We owe the youth and future generations the opportunity to have long, peaceful and fulfilling lives. We need to ensure that they have a voice and are allowed to participate in climate change debates. I welcome the fact that the youth will play such a prominent role at the climate summit in New York. However, to safeguard their future, we need to go much further.

Each time we make policy decisions, we have to ask ourselves, are we doing this in the interest of the next generations or do we risk locking them in destructive pathways of high-carbon emissions? Is the investment going to be viable in the long term or is it undoing any positive change?

Many young people around the world today face high risks of poverty and unemployment. We must ensure that they fully benefit from the transition, and that the transition for them means better jobs, better opportunities and better livelihoods.

This is the key message I will bring to ministers and other leaders assembled at the NYC summit during the [event on climate justice](#) which I will facilitate.

Céline Charveriat, Executive Director

UN Climate Change Summit



Will world leaders face the generational divide at the heart of the climate crisis?

Following the impressive demonstrations by young people around the world, the issue of inter-generational equity will be at the centre of the UN climate change summit in New York, write Céline Charveriat and Thorfinn Stainforth.

[Read the article](#)

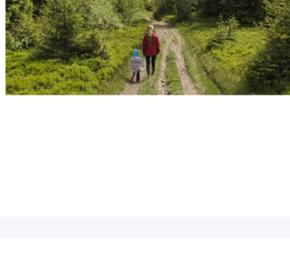


Background paper on climate justice

Ahead of the New York Climate Summit, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and its partners are hosting a side event in New York on September 19-21.

As one of the partners, IEEP drafted a background paper on climate justice in the build-up to the event.

[Read the paper](#)



Establishing an EU 'Guardian for Future Generations'

Our study from 2015 found that the EU's decision-making structures do not adequately reflect the interests of future generations. Four years on, the need for an EU Guardian for Future Generations is more urgent than ever.

[Read the report](#)

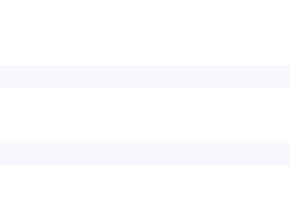
From our blog



The von der Leyen Commission: First reactions on its priorities

What do the nominated Commissioners – and their priorities – mean for Europe's environment and sustainability? IEEP's Martin Nesbit has taken a first look.

[Read the article](#)



Linking Europe's environmental and security agendas: What next for the new European Commission?

As we enter a new political cycle for the EU, it is worth pondering whether environmental risks and scarcities feature high enough on Europe's security agenda.

[Read the article](#)

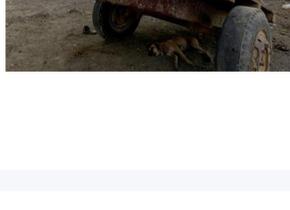
In the news



The new European Parliament: tackling the triple injustice of climate change

The recent election to the European Parliament marked a turning point in the EU's history: for the first time, rising concerns about climate change and environmental degradation became a significant factor in electoral choices. Climate change and social inequality, however, are linked.

[Read the article](#)



Can Europe make trade into a tool for fighting climate change?

Many increasingly see environmental crises like the fires in the Amazon as global concerns. But how can remote actors like the EU make a difference, especially when regional players seem uninterested?

[Read the article](#)

Upcoming events



UNited for Climate Justice

Ahead of the New York Climate Summit, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and its partners are hosting a side event in New York on September 19-21. We are part of the Climate Justice Steering Group and will be attending the event.

[Find out more](#)



Sustainable Future Summit

The Politico Europe Sustainable Future Summit is taking place on 14 November in Brussels. We've decided to become the summit's knowledge partner to help foster constructive discussions on the most pressing sustainability issues of our time.

[Find out more](#)

Resources

EU and the SDGs

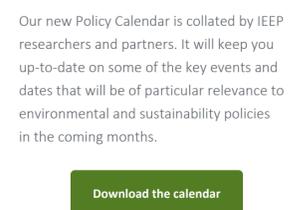


Earlier this summer, we published a special briefing that reviews the European Union's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The briefing was produced in advance of July's UN High-Level Political Forum, but is highly relevant for the SDG Summit on 24-25 September.

[Download the brief](#)

- [Eurostat 2019 report shows mixed picture of EU's progress on SDGs](#)
- [Global SDG assessment shows the EU needs to step up its efforts](#)

Policy Calendar



Our new Policy Calendar is collated by IEEP researchers and partners. It will keep you up-to-date on some of the key events and dates that will be of particular relevance to environmental and sustainability policies in the coming months.

[Download the calendar](#)



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The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) is an independent sustainability think tank with offices in Brussels and London. As a not-for-profit organisation with over 40-years of experience, we are committed to advancing impact-driven sustainability policy across the EU and the world.

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