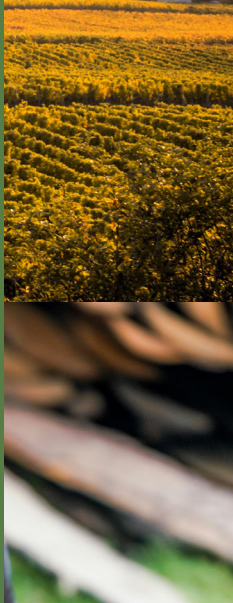





Institute for European Environmental Policy

Annual Report
July 2023 - June 2024





The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) is the only Brussels-based think tank specialised in environmental policy and sustainability. Established in 1976, IEEP has advised generations of experts and policymakers since the very beginning of European environmental legislation.

As an independent, unbiased, impartial, and evidence-based institute, we are committed to supporting organisations to better navigate the European environmental policy landscape and advance impact-driven sustainability policy across the EU and beyond. Our multidisciplinary team works with EU institutions, foundations, industry, and civil society, providing integrated approaches and multiple perspectives across several research areas.

IEEP's work is produced with the financial support of the LIFE Programme of the European Union.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



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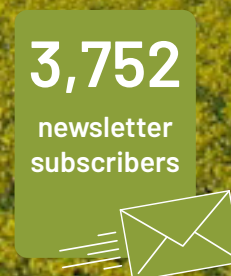
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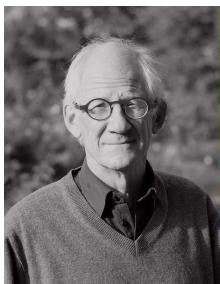
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IEEP's Carbon
Footprint

The year in numbers

Through research, impactful communications, innovative policy recommendations, and cross-sector initiatives, and together with our partners and supporters, IEEP continues to drive critical conversations that can advance the transition toward a healthier planet and a more equitable future. In a nutshell, our work in 2023-2024 consisted of the following highlights:





Foreword by the Chair of the Board



Hans Wolters

This past year, much of IEEP's attention went to the European Green Deal and the need to start its implementation with the same passion and dedication as its conception. This annual report demonstrates that IEEP contributed with research and ideas towards this implementation.

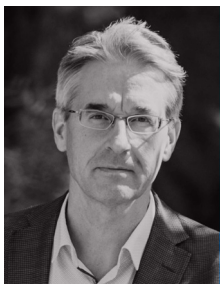
The implementation of the Green Deal is not only important to bring our European food production, our transport infrastructure, our industry, our energy systems, and all the rest on a more sustainable path, but it is also essential to demonstrate the EU's will and commitment to take its global responsibility. If the EU claims the right to hold other major players like the US and China accountable for their policies and practices, the EU needs to deliver on its plans, policies, and legislation. If the EU wants to remain the leading environmental actor worldwide, if the EU wants to mitigate climate change and restore biodiversity it needs to act now. However, some recent decisions such as the postponement of the deforestation legislation and the following delay of the introduction of rules banning agricultural products from logged forests, don't bear well. This report gives a lot of evidence why that is a self-defeating approach.

In this report, we give an overview of IEEP's research and innovative ideas about the implementation of the Green Deal. However, we also point to the essential role of the EU on the global scene. IEEP continued to produce evidence on the negative spillovers of EU consumption outside its borders, on the effects of agricultural practices on deforestation and biodiversity loss, and on its double standards in protecting Europe's industry. If the EU is not able to align its internal green policies and practices with its external environmental responsibility, it will lose its position to lead and guide towards a more sustainable future.

I believe that organisations such as IEEP play an essential role in bringing these kinds of issues to the fore. Environmental think tanks need to link the best possible scientific research and best innovative ideas to policy-making and designing legislation. This report demonstrates that IEEP continues to do that. We cooperate with other think tanks in our unique Think Sustainable Europe network including with our colleagues at the IEEP UK; we partner with environmental organisations from the NGO community; and we cooperate with progressive industries, which want to become part of the solution. With this cooperation, we bring the best of our knowledge and ideas to the places where they matter most. Our dedicated staff deserves a praise for continuing to do that under challenging conditions and when confronted with sometimes very discouraging circumstances.

We are grateful for the support we get from the European Commission, philanthropic donors, and other partners. At the same time, we want to give a clear signal that IEEP needs more support and financial assistance to continue our role in convening policy-makers with all necessary stakeholders, providing high-quality research, and identifying innovative ideas. Supporting think tanks like ours should be seen as an essential investment in a more sustainable future.

I want to thank my good colleagues on the Board, our colleagues at IEEP UK, and our dedicated staff in Brussels, led by its resilient senior management team, for a year of good cooperation and excellent work. The report which follows is evidence of that.



Foreword by the Executive Director

Eero Yrjö-Koskinen

The work covered in this report coincided with the final year of the first Ursula von der Leyen's European Commission. Despite the general frustration due to the rising cost of living, and the increasing concerns caused by farmers' demonstrations, the European Commission managed to get through the majority of its legislative acts related to the European Green Deal.

To support the Commission's work, IEEP intensified its efforts to provide science-based research and policy recommendations to defend further action toward environmental protection and climate change mitigation.

In the field of agriculture, IEEP highlighted the lack of clear direction and funding that would allow the just transition of the sector, and the introduction of new, sustainable, and resilient agriculture systems. Similarly, we demonstrated the direct link between adopting sustainable practices and increasing the resilience of agricultural production to extreme weather events caused by climate change.

To achieve the EU's climate targets, IEEP pointed out that substantial efforts will be needed to reduce GHG emissions in all land use sectors, including agriculture and forestry. In addition, IEEP called for new policy incentives and appropriate funding that would reduce emissions and scale up carbon farming practices among land managers.

Furthermore, IEEP continued to press for new measures that would reduce consumption in all sectors. Despite the adoption of the Fit for 55 legislative package and a clear increase in the production of renewable energy, there remains a persistent need for investments in clean energy, energy efficiency, and consumption reduction. Apart from the negative impacts in Europe, our consumption patterns have serious social and environmental implications also beyond our borders: 10% of global deforestation and 40% of our emissions occur in third countries due to excessive consumption in the EU. Therefore, IEEP called for the introduction of new transformative policies that would address these spillovers.

IEEP continued to coordinate its pan-European networks and platforms, including Think Sustainable Europe, the European Sustainable Agriculture Dialogue, the Well-Being Economy Coalition, and the Green Trade Network.

We organised high-level events in conjunction with the Spanish and Belgian Presidencies of the Council of the EU, bringing together key stakeholders from governments, industry, civil society, and other interest groups to discuss topics of common concern that would lead to concerted and decisive action in these fields.

Looking back at all these achievements, I am grateful to our staff and the organisations that supported our activities. IEEP remains open to new partners wanting to join our cause to secure a more sustainable future in Europe and beyond.



Governance

The IEEP General Assembly mandates the IEEP AISBL Board of Directors, which meets four times a year, to discuss priorities and to ensure that IEEP delivers its mission effectively and respects its financial sustainability criteria.

The governing body of IEEP AISBL is the General Assembly, meeting once per year, with eight full members with voting rights. During the financial year 2023-2024, IEEP had seven Board members. The members of the Board were:



The members of the IEEP's membership network, [Think Sustainable Europe](#), are also observing members of the IEEP General Assembly.



Strategic Advisory Council

IEEP's Strategic Advisory Council provides IEEP with accurate and diverse insights on European environmental policy, advice on the strategic priorities of the Institute and external accountability issues linked to transparency and independence, as well as evaluates IEEP's impacts in line with its mandate.

The Council consists of highly respected and accomplished individuals with a background in science, law, academia, and/or governance, whom IEEP's management and Board have appointed for a four-year term. Members of this advisory body provide input and inspiration on new projects and activities and give feedback on the political and societal implications of the Institute's pursuits.

The Council was chaired by Sirpa Pietikäinen, a Member of the European Parliament and former Minister for the Environment of Finland, until December 2023. From that moment, the SAC was chaired by IEEP Board Chairperson, Hans Wolters.

The members of the SAC during the financial year 2023-2024 were:

1. Luc Bas (Chair) - appointed in June 2024 - Director of Belgium Climate and Environment Risk Assessment Center
2. Sirpa Pietikäinen - Member of the European Parliament
3. Sandrine Dixson-Declève - Independent Consultant, Co-President of The Club of Rome
4. Chiara Martinelli - appointed in June 2024 - Director of Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe
5. Petros Fassoulas - European Movement International, Secretary General
6. Andrea Kohl - Former Acting Director and EPO Programme Director, WWF European Policy Office
7. Christian Hey - Director for Climate, Sustainable Urban Development and Biodiversity (the Hessian Ministry for the Environment, Climate, Agriculture and Consumer Protection)
8. Derek Osborn - Former IEEP Board member
9. David Stanners - Former Programme Head at the European Environment Agency, IEEP UK Board member
10. Nick Molho - Consultant, currently Head of Climate Policy, Aviva Investors
11. Ralph Hallo - Brussels Strategics, Founder and Director
12. Claudia La Donna - appointed in June 2024 - Managing Director, Hanover Brussels



IEEP strategy

IEEP developed its strategy for 2023-2027 to comply with the new needs for policy action.

This led to an additional focus on the networks that IEEP coordinates, including Think Sustainable Europe, the network of 17 European sustainability think tanks. Furthermore, IEEP continued to coordinate the Think2030 platform, which brings together representatives from different interest groups to discuss EU policy developments and priorities of each Presidency of the EU Council.

IEEP coordinates the Green Trade Network, the Well-Being Economy Coalition, and the European Sustainable Agriculture Dialogue (ESAD), which have an important role in defining sustainable solutions and policy measures in the five focus areas stated in IEEP's long-term strategy.

The topics remained unchanged, but minor modifications were made to their contents. As a result, IEEP will continue to develop new ideas in the following five sectors:



NEW ECONOMIC THINKING BASED ON PLANETARY BOUNDARIES



SUSTAINABLE GREEN TRANSITION



SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS



INTERLINKAGES OF EU CLIMATE AND NATURE RESTORATION GOALS



EXTERNAL IMPACTS OF EU TRADE RELATIONS



Think Sustainable Europe – IEEP’s membership network

Think Sustainable Europe is a pan-European network of sustainability think tanks that collectively provides science-informed and impact-driven policy recommendations to decision-makers at national and European levels, thanks to its unique combination of EU policy area expertise and deep knowledge of Member States and implementation. The network was established by IEEP as its membership network in 2019 and has been coordinated by IEEP since then.

As the first and only established pan-European network of think tanks on sustainability, Think Sustainable Europe informs debates and engages key decision-makers intending to increase the ambition of the Council and other policymakers on the European Green Deal.

Network members are non-profit and independent entities established in a European country with a track record of excellent research in environmental policy and a willingness to support the membership’s objectives.

Think Sustainable Europe 17 members (including [The Institute for European environmental policy - IEEP](#) as its coordinator based in Brussels), covers 16 European countries and global-scale issues thanks to the international outreach of some of its members:

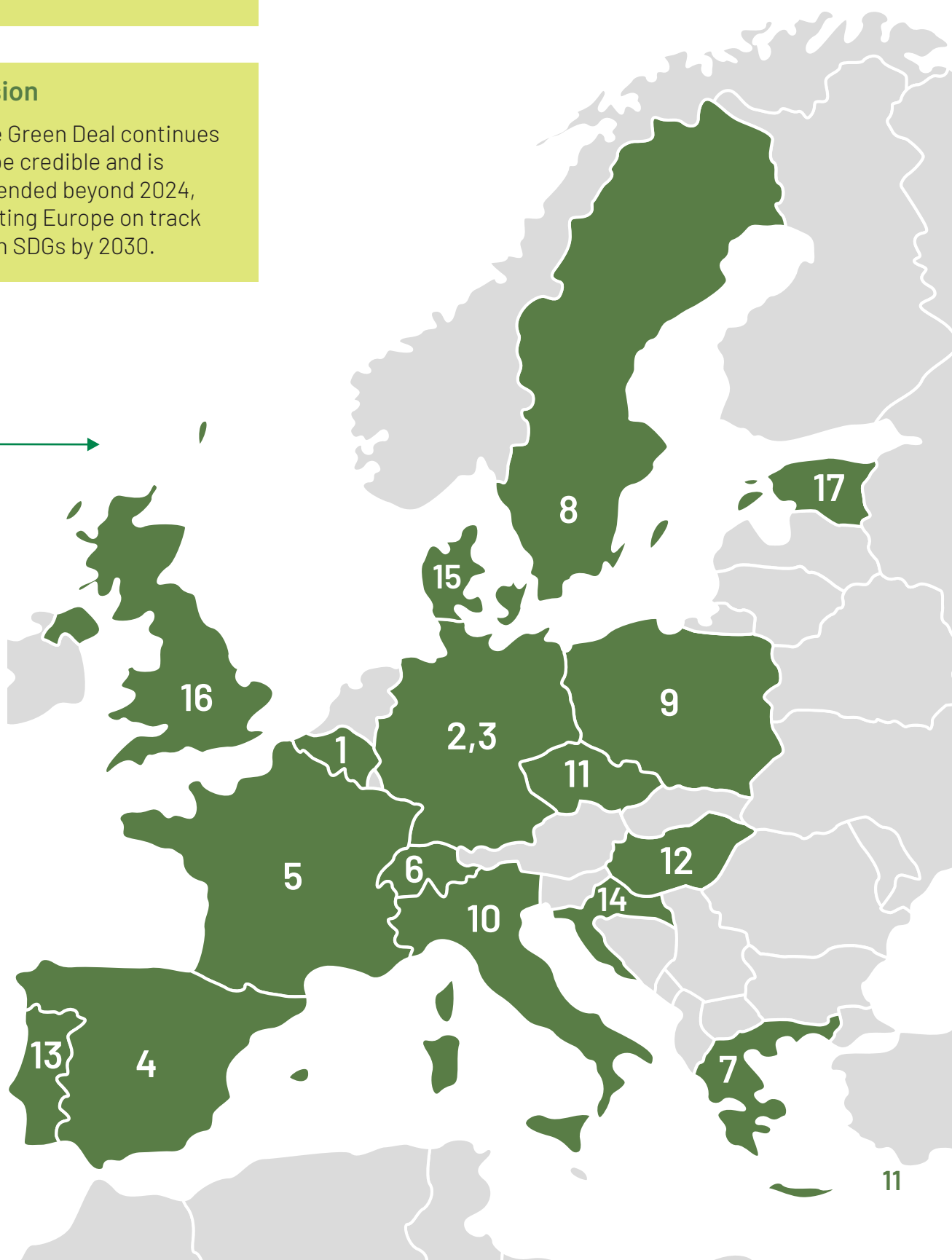
1. THE INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY - IEEP (BELGIUM)
2. ECOLOGIC INSTITUTE (GERMANY)
3. TMG RESEARCH GGMBH (GERMANY)
4. ASOC. BC3 BASQUE CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE - BC3 (SPAIN)
5. FONDATION INSTITUT DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE ET DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES - IDDRI (FRANCE)
6. THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - IISD (SWITZERLAND)
7. THE GREEN TANK (GREECE)
8. THE STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE - SEI (SWEDEN)
9. WISEEUROPA (POLAND)
10. FONDAZIONE PER LO SVILUPPO SOSTENIBILE (ITALY)
11. AMO – ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (CZECH REPUBLIC)
12. ENERGIAKLUB (HUNGARY)
13. CENSE (PORTUGAL)
14. DOOR (CROATIA)
15. CONCITO (DENMARK)
16. IEEP UK (UK)
17. THE STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE - SEI TALLINN (ESTONIA)

Mission

Support science-informed decision-making in environmental policies at the national and European levels.

Vision

The Green Deal continues to be credible and is extended beyond 2024, putting Europe on track with SDGs by 2030.



Global Challenges and SDGs



It is now largely documented that the EU generates adverse environmental and social spillover effects on other countries. Over 10% of global deforestation and 40% of the EU's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions still occur outside of its borders, while the export of toxic pesticides and waste leads to severe health conditions in third countries.

These phenomena are a direct consequence of the EU's trade policy and supply chain management in responding to domestic unsustainable practices, and notably its consumption patterns. Macroeconomic and financial policies are other sources of negative spillovers, including unfair tax competition, profit shifting, and financial secrecy. Transformative EU policies must thus be designed to address these detrimental external spillovers.

The EU has recently given clear signs that it recognises this global impact and aims to steer its relevant policy framework in a more inclusive and sustainable direction, including beyond its borders. This trend is exemplified by the revision of the EU's Trade and Sustainable Development Strategy designed to improve the sustainability-related provisions in the EU Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) published in 2022 or the introduction of several autonomous measures designed to increase the sustainability of the EU's supply chains over the past years, including the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

Throughout the first term of Ursula von der Leyen's mandate, IEEP's Global Challenges and SDGs programme strived to promote higher environmental ambition in these public policy dynamics and the design of these trade-related instruments. We continued to produce evidence on the negative spillovers of EU consumption and the role of trade policy and



Trade Seminar of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union



Environment Ireland Conference

partnerships in addressing them. This resulted in several important publications on the future of EU Free Trade Agreements and the reinforcement of their Trade and Sustainable Development chapters, as well as on the role of standards for sustainable production and that of EU's partnerships on Critical Raw Materials to enable a fair and inclusive green transition.

Through our different platforms, the Global Challenges and SDGs team has engaged with a wide range of stakeholders and decision-makers, including in the framework of multilateral high-level events such as the World Trade Organisation 13th Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi, the WTO's Public Forum 2024 and the Trade Seminar of the Belgian Presidency of the EU. The Green Trade Network's membership and audience have grown since its inception in 2021, reaching over 50 researchers participating in the network, representing over 20 research organisations.

Key Reports

[Sourcing critical raw materials through trade and cooperation frameworks](#)

In this briefing, we looked at how trade and cooperation frameworks can support the European Critical Raw Materials Act's objective to diversify and secure the EU's external supply of CRMs and proposed recommendations on how the EU could enhance approaches to achieve a just and clean global transition.

[Alternatives for a Fair and Sustainable Partnership between the EU and Mercosur: Scenarios and Guidelines, Policy report, Institute for European Environmental Policy, CISDL, E3G, FTAO and the Veblen Institute](#)

In this study Commissioned by the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament, we looked at credible alternatives to the 2019 political agreement towards a free trade agreement between the EU and the Mercosur countries.

[Circularity strategies and sustainable resource management to safeguard the clean energy transition. Policy report, Institute for European Environmental Policy](#)

This report presented the EU's clean energy transition plans, highlighting how circular economy strategies and sustainable resource management can support strategic autonomy while being Paris-compatible.

Climate and Circular Economy



During the last year of the current EU mandate (2019-2024), the Climate and Circular Economy team followed the policy developments and the adoption of most of the Fit for 55 package and circular policies in the European Green Deal. The EU made progress in advancing its circular economy, climate, and energy policies. The adoption and entry into force of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) marked a crucial step in enhancing circularity in the EU. The revision of the Waste Framework Directive on food and textile waste also included initiatives aiming at reducing waste and promoting the reuse and recycling of material. However, consumption reduction and related measures, which our team called for, were not mainstreamed yet in EU policies.

On climate and energy, after the adoption of the majority of the Fit for 55 package, there remains a need for persisting investment in clean energy and more serious reductions in emissions and use of fossil fuels. The EU also progressed in the renewable energy's share of electricity production but a push for more significant energy efficiency and consumption reduction was still needed. The EU Communication on Climate Targets will pave the way for new policy developments on climate action in the coming years, especially to intensify efforts to reach 2030 targets.

The team worked across different teams on several projects. For instance, they co-ordinated a project on a potential environmental fiscal reform, which included also members of the Land Use, Biodiversity, Network and Governance, and the Communication teams, as well as the Executive Management Group. With the Global and



Siena Vision Conference

SDGs team, we develop a report and a briefing on critical raw materials and circularity gaps. We also worked to identify and overcome research gaps in food waste within the retail sector. Furthermore, together with the Biodiversity team, we develop a Case Study on Nature Restoration in Sweden. The team kept coordinating the Wellbeing Economy Coalition, which grew with 6 new members of different nature. The team has also developed knowledge communities to advance knowledge on the state of well-being in EU policies with relevant and high-profile stakeholders.



Greening of Taxes – Peer Learning Conference

Key Reports

[Making the case for an EU resources law](#)

In this report, we argue that linking a dematerialisation objective to existing decarbonisation efforts will make for more coherent policy approaches to support the successful implementation of the European Green Deal, climate change targets, and circular economy goals. The report also discusses how a new EU Material Resources Law could fit with existing EU legislation, and potential international level implications.

[Addressing Food Waste in the retail sector EU policies, challenges and future research opportunities](#)

This report identifies primary obstacles to friendly practices to address food waste externalities, including lack of data, technological limits, illegal dumping, and stakeholders' resistance.

[Getting people and businesses on board with Low Emission Zones](#)

IEEP prepared a set of case studies on low emissions zone in EU cities which revealed some common threads related to how cities can engage and communicate with stakeholders when developing a LEZ, and how they can address some of the potential socio-economic impacts.



Land Use and Climate

The European Union has the objective to become climate-neutral by 2050. To feasibly meet this 2050 climate target and limit an increasing global mean temperature, the European Scientific Advisory Board for Climate Change has recommended the EU establish a target of reducing net emissions between 90–95% by 2040, relative to 1990. In its 2040 Target Communication, the European Commission made a recommendation for a net 90% reduction target by 2040 in light of this scientific advice. GHG emissions have decreased by one-third since 1990 in the EU27, decreasing particularly in the energy supply, industry, and residential sectors. However, despite this progress, to meet its future targets, substantive efforts in reducing emissions will need to be made in all sectors, including the agriculture, forestry, and other land use sectors (AFOLU).

Currently, the ambitions of Member States are still insufficient to meet the 2030 target of 55%. The Commission's assessment of the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) at the end of 2023 demonstrated a strong need for action in agriculture and better monitoring in the LULUCF sector. Member States demonstrate political reluctance to act on climate change in the AFOLU sector in the face of many other crises, particularly in the AFOLU sector. The EU and national governments have responded to what they call "a crisis situation in EU agriculture," by scaling back on environmental standards in the CAP and shelving targets under the Farm to Fork Strategy.

While there is less political turbulence within the forestry sector, there is nevertheless a reluctance to scale up ambition for the sector's contribution to the EU's carbon sinks. Forest management has largely remained the responsibility of Member States, with a long history of national and regional laws and regulations. While there have been recent attempts by the EU to increase coordination and coherence in forest-related policy, efforts have largely been focused on soft forms of policymaking in the form of voluntary or informational measures.



Stakeholder event - Incentivising Climate Action for a Sustainable and Competitive Agri-Food Value Chain

In light of the needed contribution of the AFOLU sector towards the 2040 target, the EU will need a strong focus on an ambitious long-term view for this sector in the development of an appropriate target, both in the needed absolute emission reductions in sectors such as agriculture, as well as the feasible contribution of land-based carbon removals towards the net target.

The Land Use and Climate team is focusing its efforts towards ensuring the 2040 target and its supporting policy framework is focused on enhancing the climate ambition of the AFOLU sector, whilst providing the needed support for land managers in adopting climate-friendly practices and measures. In light of these objectives, the activities of the LUC team between 2023 and 2024 focused largely on 1) new policies to incentivise emission reductions in the agri-food sector, such as an emission trading system (ETS) for the sector; 2) the potential policy mix for the AFOLU sector for the 2040 climate framework; and 3) the role of funding for research and innovation in scaling up the adoption of carbon farming practices among land managers.

Key Reports

Pricing agricultural climate action in the agri-food value chain

IEEP investigated how an emissions trading system (ETS) could price greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural activities, and how this could be accompanied by providing farmers and other landowners with financial incentives to carry out land-based carbon removals.

The right policy mix for 2040

We produced an internal report for the European Climate Foundation on the current limitation of the policy framework for the AFOLU sector. Much of the focus of climate mitigation in the AFOLU sector has been the examination of the performance of individual policies, in particular the Common Agricultural Policy. However, public policy scholars have called for a refocusing of analysis from individual policies to complex policy mixes and overall policy regimes, to observe the combination of policy instruments and their interplay.

R&D needs for the AFOLU sector

This report presents an overview of ongoing and recently completed EU projects which promote innovation in carbon farming. It focuses on initiatives funded by Horizon Europe and a smaller selection of programmes financed through other sources of public funding and private sector initiatives.



Greening of Taxes - Peer Learning Conference

CAP and Food



Food and farming systems have a critical role to play in addressing the key environmental challenges of our time. European food systems are currently unsustainable and transforming them will be key to limiting climate change, reversing biodiversity loss, limiting water and air pollution, and preserving resources such as water and soil. Addressing these challenges will in turn support the resilience of EU food production and hence contribute to long-term food availability. Both production and consumption need to be addressed in a complementary way if this transition is to take place without simply transferring the EU's environmental "foodprint" overseas.

Activities of the CAP & Food programme broadly focused on the following three goals to support our overall ambition of facilitating a transition to sustainable and resilient agriculture in the EU.

The new performance-focused delivery system within the CAP in 2023 provides Member States with considerable flexibility and opportunities to enhance the environmental and climate ambitions of their national CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs). Innovations introduced with the latest CAP reform, such as eco-schemes, have significant potential to improve the environmental performance of the CAP. Against this backdrop, the CAP& Food team evaluated the first year of CSP implementation which showed mixed results, with several Member States reporting very low uptake of eco-schemes by farmers. Increased ambition and more effective implementation could be achieved through amendments within the current CAP period.

In September 2023, we published a [CAP reform vision](#), which identified a lack of a clear consensus around the direction of travel and funding for a just transition of the sector as one of the main obstacles to achieving sustainable and resilient EU agriculture systems. The reform vision garnered considerable attention on social media since its publication and throughout 2024 and was featured by several media outlets and in reports. In addition, we were invited to present our ideas of what the post-2027 framework could look like to more effectively deliver the EU's environmental and climate objectives at workshops organised by the respective agriculture ministries of the Netherlands and Denmark, and DG AGRI's Civil Dialogue Group. Furthermore, we delivered training on managing the transition in agriculture, food and the environment to EU Parliament Committee secretariats.



Think2030 Conference



TERRASAFE project kick-off

Complementing our outreach activities, we focused our research on demonstrating the need for the European Commission to put the transition of EU agriculture to climate neutrality at the heart of its agenda for 2024-2029 and elaborating on the funding needs for such a transition. [A report](#) demonstrating and showcasing the potential of adopting sustainable practices for increasing the resilience of agricultural production to climate change hazards was published in April 2024 which received considerable media attention in the lead-up to the EU elections. Follow-up work included an [in-depth review](#) of 60 case studies on the farm-level financial impact of transitioning towards sustainable agriculture in the EU.

In the absence of the Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) legislative proposal before the 2024 EU elections, and the unknown fate of the legislation after the elections, we focused our work on looking at ways to promote sustainable consumption and dietary shift in Europe as a means of advancing the debate on sustainable food systems. This included producing an [analysis](#) and policy recommendations around alternative proteins, and how these can be complementary with an agro-ecological transition.

Key Reports

[Supporting a transition to sustainable farming systems](#)

This report takes stock of the delivery of the current Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) following its first year of implementation. It reflects on the lessons that can be learned for EU agriculture policy going forward, with a focus on interventions that support sustainable farming practices and the direction of amendments to the CAP Strategic Plans.

[Transforming EU land use and the CAP: a post-2024 vision](#)

This paper presents a new vision by IEEP and partners to transform EU land use and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the coming decade.

[Increasing climate change resilience through sustainable agricultural practices](#)

By analysing existing research into the effects of sustainable practices on soil, water, and biodiversity parameters, we offered insights into their potential to increase the resilience of wheat, potatoes, and olives production, three key products of EU agriculture.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services



The Biodiversity and Ecosystems programme supports the EU's ambition to reverse current biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation to put nature on a path to recovery by 2030, as expressed in the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030. Through our work, we help ensure that key EU biodiversity decision-making is based on sound and widely supported evidence and that biodiversity considerations are effectively mainstreamed across relevant policy areas and sectors.

The proposal for an EU Nature Restoration Law continued to be a focus of our work during this year, culminating in the nail-biting final vote and adoption in the Environment Council in June 2024. We produced a series of published and unpublished reports and briefs to support the negotiation process and carried out several policy engagement events.

We continued to support the EU Pollinator Initiative through the Horizon project Safeguard. The culmination of our policy engagement on urban pollinator conservation was the publication of a guidance document aimed at urban greening planners on how to use urban greening to benefit wild pollinators in cities and how to use pollinators as an indicator of urban greening. We are now planning our policy engagement work to address the nature conservation sector and agriculture.

A focus this year was **global biodiversity policy development**, following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in December 2022. We produced a brief for the European Parliament in November 2023 that provides the MEPs with a concise summary of progress on the implementation of the targets and framework, issues on the agenda in the coming six months, and key weaknesses and gaps. The success of the brief has resulted in the European Parliament asking us to produce another briefing in September 2024.



NaturaConnect Annual Consortium Meeting



Forest Navigator EU Horizon project's annual consortium meeting

The team is also developing a new area of work on nature-based solutions as the policy partner in the NetworkNature Horizon platform, a project to engage, networking, facilitate, and deliver for policy by working with the many EU-funded nature-based solutions projects and with stakeholders.

Key Reports

[From Risk to Resilience: The Business Imperative of Nature Restoration](#)

The briefing points to the importance of involving the business sector in nature restoration and the economic and social benefits such restoration will bring. It points out that the decline of biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe presents material, regulatory, reputational, and market risks for companies not engaging in nature restoration.

[Guidelines for monitoring pollinators in urban habitats](#)

In this guidance, we bring tools and knowledge for cities to use pollinators as indicators of their urban greening and carry out pollinator monitoring. It provides a gateway for cities to access resources on the topic, provides background on the different monitoring options available, and gives good practice examples from successful monitoring schemes in the EU.

[Progress on implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

This briefing provides an overview of developments to date on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and describes milestones and timeline for implementation, and critical issues currently affecting discussions and progress before the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia.

Communications and Events



This year we saw the end of a policy cycle with the elections for the new European Parliament and the appointment of a new European Commission. The rush to conclude the legislative phase proved to be intense: fierce negotiations were held on many key policy files, such as the Nature Restoration Law. In addition, some other parts of Commission President von der Leyen's ambitious European Green Deal agenda continued to be watered down or abandoned despite scientific evidence.

In this context, throughout the year, IEEP engaged in conversations, provided evidence, produced responses, and increased dissemination and communications efforts in presenting recommendations clearly and openly to policymakers, civil society, academia, and the business sector. We also continued to work with our networks to inform and promote these recommendations through our own and external channels and events.

The Climate and Circular Economy team participated in a public hearing at the European Economic and Social Committee on Climate Targets and Circular Economy where they shared our results on resource consumption and reduction, sufficiency, and Just Transition. Likewise, they were invited by the Committee of Regions to speak during "The Future of Climate policy" in June, in the framework of the preparation for the opinion "The Future of EU Climate Policy: Aligning Mitigation Targets and Adaptation Challenges".

The CAP and Food team spoke at **12 events** during the past financial year; most notably, we were invited to the European Business Summit to share our reflections on how the EU can support sustainable agriculture and food systems in the light of multiple crises faced by the sector. The Land Use and Climate team attended **30 high-level expert meetings/consultations**. Notably, we spoke about the potential for an agri-food ETS at the IETA in January, the importance of considering nature and land use in financial risk assessments for Chapter Zero Brussels in April, and we participated in a stakeholder event to kick off the agri-food ETS assessment of impacts study in June.

During the financial year, IEEP produced **29 thematic briefings and reports** and **21 blogs** covering all its areas of work. Key publications included a report on the EU's clean energy transition plans, how circular economy and sustainable resource management can support strategic autonomy; as well as a report on how a new EU Material Resources Law could tackle the excessive use and consumption of material resources and support the EU's climate change and circular economy objectives. Our CAP and Food team looked at how sustainable agricultural practices could increase climate change resilience of the EU agriculture, particularly that of key products such as wheat, potatoes, and olives, staples of the European diet. Our Land Use team in collaboration with other partners, suggested that an emissions trading system (ETS) for agriculture could provide financial incentives for farmers to adopt more climate-friendly practices.

44,766

followers on social
media

IEEP produced

29

briefings and
reports

We organised

11

roundtable
discussions and
eventts

We were
featured in

131

media articles

The Nature Restoration Law was a key debate, and we produced numerous evidence on why it is a pivotal law, broadly supported by the progressive business sector. Lastly, free trade was another key discussion on which we presented alternatives for a fair and sustainable partnership between the EU and Mercosur, in partnership with other think tanks.

IEEP increased its influence as a trusted and key knowledge partner by engaging and organising **11 roundtable discussions and events** that gathered representatives from European institutions, national governments, NGOs and think tanks, research institutes, and the private sector. In September 2023, we presented our vision for the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), bringing together think tanks, policymakers, farming organisations, NGOs, and private sector actors in an open dialogue on the way forward post-2024. Together with our Think Sustainable Europe Spanish member, Centre for Climate Change (BC3,) and with the Elcano Royal Institute we held the second Think2030 Dialogue event in Madrid under the auspices of the Spanish Presidency to the EU Council.

In February 2024, we partnered with our Think Sustainable Europe member Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI) to talk about consumption and how to address emissions generated by the EU within the EU and abroad in a policy event hosted by MEPs from the Green Party Pär Holmgren (Sweden) and Sara Matthieu (Belgium). In March 2024, our Think2030 Conference gathered 150+ participants in Brussels with the presence of Alain Maron, the Minister of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region, responsible for Climate Change, Environment, Energy, and Participatory Democracy, and at the time holding the rotating Presidency of the Council.

Finally in May 2024, and in anticipation of the EU elections, our webinar organised in collaboration with CAN Europe, E3G, and Jacques Delors Centre, addressed the future of the environmental transition and the next phase of the European Green Deal , especially on the relationships between the European and national policies.

This was also a record year for media engagement: we were featured in **131 articles** with mentions in POLITICO, Euractiv, Financial Times, Euronews, Borderlex, MLex, and had vast coverage in national European media, namely in Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Greece, and Bulgaria, as well as in India and the USA.

Our social media conversations and engagement in promoting our work, our colleagues' participation in events, as well as reacting and commenting to policy happenings, have proved successful. **LinkedIn** has grown a lot, becoming the most popular way of engaging on social media, reaching a total of **33,766 followers**. **X (former Twitter)** also saw a positive trend with an increase in impressions and engagement rate reaching **11K+ followers**.

IEEP teams (July 2023 - June 2024)



Executive Management

	Eero Yrjö-Koskinen Executive Director
Antoine Oger Research Director	
	Tijana Tufek Director of Operations and People
Kaley Hart Associate Research Director	








Communications

	Carla Coppola Head of Communications
Ha Doan Communications Officer	
	Darragh Cunningham Media and Communications Officer



Networks & Governance

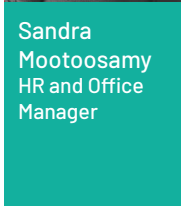
	Martijn Pakker Head of Strategic Relations and Activities, until January 2024
Mattia Bonfanti Head of Networks and Governance as of March 2024	
	Suzanna Walton Events and Networks Officer
Irene Chiocchetti Members and Policy Officer	
	Elisa Decourcelle Partnership Officer, until January 2024



Operations



Tijana Tufek
Director of
Operations
and People



**Sandra
Mootosamy**
HR and Office
Manager



**Krystyna
Springer**
Senior Policy
Analyst



**Thérèse
Geortay**
Senior
Finance
Officer



**Robin van
Dijk**
Policy
Assistant,
until July
2024



**Fruzsina
Csepí** Senior
Project Finance
Officer



**Mike
Majebelle**
IT Officer



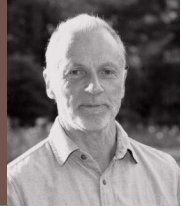
Julia Bogнар
Head of
Programme



CAP & Food



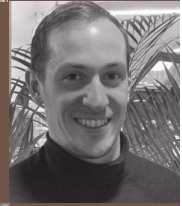
**Harriet
Bradley**
Head of
Programme



David Baldock
Senior Fellow



**Melanie
Muro**
Senior Policy
Analyst



Axel Godfroy
Policy Analyst



**Juliette
Pagnon**
Junior Policy
Analyst, until
August 2023



Biodiversity & Ecosystems



Evelyn Underwood
Head of Programme



Kenny Meganck
Senior Policy Analyst until June 2024



Zuzanna Lukacova
Senior Policy Analyst until December 2023



Gabrielle Aubert
Policy Analyst



Laure-Lou Tremblay
Policy Analyst



Climate & Circular Economy



Claudia Dias Soares
Head of Programme, until August 2023



Chiara Antonelli
Head of Programme as of March 2024



Emma Watkins
Senior Policy Analyst



Emma Bergeling
Junior Policy Analyst



Global Challenges and SDGs



Pierre Leturcq
Head of Programme



Eline Blot
Senior Policy Analyst



Nora Hiller
Senior Policy Analyst



Gabrielle Aubert
Policy Analyst

IEEP initiatives

Beyond its membership network, Think Sustainable Europe, IEEP leads and coordinates a series of platforms and initiatives that support and contribute to the co-design and implementation of its strategy, and which heavily contribute to IEEP's impact.



Think 2030 platform

Launched in 2018 by IEEP and its partners, the Think2030 platform provides evidence-based, non-partisan forum of leading policy experts from European think tanks, civil society, the private sector, and local authorities. Under this framework, IEEP has organised, in association with the rotating Presidencies of the Council of the EU, high-level events every six months to discuss policy challenges and files together with representatives from each EU Presidency. In 2023, Think2030 national events were held in Madrid in November and Stockholm in April. In March 2024, IEEP organised the bi-annual Think2030 conference in Brussels.

Think2030 partners are also involved in the publication of the European Green Deal Barometer.



European Sustainable Agriculture Dialogue (ESAD)

IEEP has promoted multistakeholder involvement through this initiative and brought together representatives from the farming industry, agrifood sector, civil society and academia.

ESAD produces policy recommendations with a multi-stakeholders' perspective in the area of R&I in agriculture.

The logo for the Green Trade Network is a simple rectangular box with the text "GREEN TRADE NETWORK" centered inside in a bold, sans-serif font.

GREEN TRADE
NETWORK

Green Trade Network

In 2022, IEEP created the Green Trade Network, a group of experts from over 20 European research organisations, think tanks, and NGOs, conducting evidence-based research and outreach activities on the trade and environment nexus.

GTN member organisations are based in 9 EU Member States, but also in the United States of America, United Kingdom and Switzerland.

GTN collectively promotes a European agenda with a better alignment of trade policies and trade-impacting measures with key environmental and climate objectives.

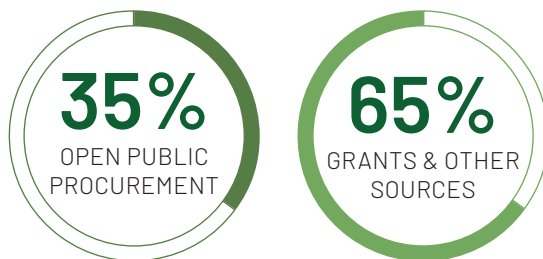
EU Wellbeing Economy Coalition

In June 2021 the Institute for European Environmental Policy and the ZOE Institute for Future-fit Economies founded the EU Wellbeing Economy Coalition, a civil society coalition for moving policy beyond economic growth towards a wellbeing economy. The EU Wellbeing Economy Coalition's goal is to strengthen the narrative, policies, and indicators of human and planetary wellbeing in EU decision-making processes. IEEP co-coordinated the coalition until September 2024, and since has been an active member.

IEEP finances

In the period covered by this annual report, we have engaged in 69 projects for a total value of 2.817.105 Euro (gross) or 2.728.191 Euro (net). Our funding was mainly project-related with 35% of the funding acquired through open public procurement and the remaining 65% through grants and other types of funding coming from a variety of public and private sources.

We have engaged in **69** projects the past year



Our funders and clients for the period July 2023 to June 2024 were:

PRIVATE FUNDERS

- European Climate Foundation
- Heinrich Böll Foundation
- IDDRI
- Breakthrough Energy Foundation
- Robert Bosch Foundation
- Clean Air Fund
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- University of Cambridge (Corporate Leaders Group)
- Apple
- Good Food Institute
- FAIRR
- Stockholm Environment Institute
- The Nature Conservancy GmbH
- WWF
- Eurogroup for Animals
- Zoe Institute

INSTITUTIONAL CLIENTS

- European Commission
- LIFE Programme (CINEA)
- European Parliament
- European Environmental Agency
- PBL (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency)
- Finnish Innovation Fund (SITRA)
- European Investment Bank
- Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament
- OVAM (Flemish Environmental Agency)
- UBA (German Environmental Agency)
- Bundesamt für Naturschutz (German Ministry of Environment)

We are grateful to our funders and partners for their trust in our research and continuous support of our work.



IEEP's carbon footprint



As an environmental organisation, IEEP believes crucial to remain mindful of the environmental impact of our daily operations. While we acknowledge the efforts made so far, we see an ongoing opportunity to further reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. By fostering greater commitment to sustainable practices and elevating environmental awareness across all levels, we can better align our actions with our shared responsibility.

While travel by train is strongly encouraged, we believe there is further potential to prioritise this mode of transport even more. Air travel, although sometimes necessary, should continue to be minimised wherever possible. From July 2023 to June 2024, we took flights that resulted in 18.46 metric tons of CO₂e. This is an increase of 0.76 metric tons from the previous financial year (17.7 metric tons of CO₂e.)

IEEP recognises the need for further improvements in reducing its travel-related CO₂ emissions. Our focus for the next financial year will be on:

- Actively encouraging staff and management to fully utilise new technologies that enable hybrid meetings and reduce the need for travel; and
- Strongly prioritising train travel whenever possible, as part of our broader effort to shift away from air travel.



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