



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Conference programme

Think2030 Conference Cyprus

Fifty Years of the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)



Organised by



Under the auspices of



Conference programme

Think2030 Conference Cyprus Fifty Years of the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)

21 April 2026

[Area42](#) – Rue des Palais 46, 1030 (Bruxelles)

09:00 – 10:00

Registration and refreshments

9:45 – 9:50

Welcome and opening remarks

Welcome by **Luc Bas**, IEEP Strategic Advisory Council's Chair and Director Belgium's Climate Risk Assessment Centre (CERAC)

9:50 – 10:00

Opening remarks by **Antoine Oger**, Executive Director, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)

10:00 – 10:10

Keynote speech

Teresa Ribera, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition

10:15 – 10:25

Keynote speech

Eva Yiasemidou, Presidency Coordinator, Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU

10:30 – 11:30

High-level policy panel

Moderated by **Philippa Nuttall**, Editor of Sustainable Views at Financial Times

Speakers:

- **Teresa Ribera**, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition
- **Eva Yiasemidou**, Presidency Coordinator, Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU
- **Janez Potočnik**, Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel and Partner at Systemiq
- **Delphine Moralis**, CEO of Philea-Philanthropy Europe Association
- **Ester Asin**, Director of WWF European Policy Office
- **Cédric Baecher**, Partner, Sustainability coleader, Wavestone

11:30 – 12:30

Celebrating IEEP 50th Anniversary

Moderated by **Marianne Kettunen**, IEEP Board member - Biodiversity Lead at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Speakers:

- **David Baldock**, Senior Fellow and Former Director, IEEP
- **Nigel Haigh**, Honorary Fellow & Founder Director IEEP UK
- **Sirpa Pietikainen**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Patrick ten Brink**, Secretary General, EEB - Former IEEP Brussels branch director
- **Antoine Oger**, Executive Director, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)

12:30 – 13:30

Networking lunch

13:30

Welcome and resumption of the programme

Mercedes Sanchez Varela, IEEP Chair of the Board

13:30 – 14:30

Science4Policy session 1 - From Risk to Resilience in an Age of Systemic Risk and the Polycrisis

Moderated by **Louis Durrant**, IEEP Lead Resilience

Speakers:

- **Lorenzo Benini**, Sustainability transitions expert & Team Coordinator - Methods and tools for Integrated Assessment, European Environment Agency (EEA)
- **Martin Spolc**, Head of Unit CLIMA E.1 Preparedness and Adaptation, DG CLIMA, European Commission
- **Luc Bas**, Director Belgium's Climate Risk Assessment Centre (CERAC)
- **Séverine Hermand**, Senior Project Leader, Sweco
- **Christoph Heinrich**, Executive Director of Ecologic Institute - Member of [ThinkSustainableEurope](https://www.thinksustainableeurope.eu/) network of think tanks

14:30 – 14:50

Coffee break

14:50 – 15:50

Science4Policy session 2 - Hold the water: How healthy soils build Europe's water resilience

Moderated by **Melanie Muro**, IEEP Director for Nature and Food System

Speakers:

- **Mirco Barbero**, Team Leader of Soil Team of the Unit Land Use & Management, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- **Hugo Harvey**, Policy officer at Aqua Publica Europea - The European Association of Public Water Operators
- **Amanda Björksell**, Chair, Working Party on Environment & Climate, COPA-COGECA

- **Patricia Calderon**, Climate and Nature Economist at FAIRR Initiative

15:50 – 16:50

Science4Policy session 3 - Trading within the Limits – A balanced EU Trade Policy that delivers both for Climate Justice and Strategic Autonomy

Moderated by **Pierre Leturcq**, IEEP Associate and Coordinator of the Green Trade Network

Speakers:

- **Sergio Balibrea**, Adviser on Sustainable Development, DG Trade, European Commission
- **Lynn Boylan**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Richard Baron**, Director of Industrial Policy and Trade, European Climate Foundation
- **Ursula Woodburn**, Director – CISL Europe, CLG Europe
- **Virginia Enssle**, International and Institutional Relations Manager, Fair Trade Advocacy Office
- **Alice Tipping**, Director, Trade and Sustainable Development at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) - Member of [ThinkSustainableEurope](#) network of think tanks

16:50 – 17:00

Concluding remarks

Concluding remarks by **Julia Bognar**, IEEP Director for Climate

17:00

End of the conference

17:00 -onwards

Networking drinks

Thanks to our Think2030 conference partners:



About Think2030

Launched by IEEP and its partners in 2018, Think2030 is an evidence-based, non-partisan platform of leading policy experts from European think tanks, civil society, the private sector and local authorities.

By focusing on producing relevant, timely and concrete policy recommendations, Think2030's key objective is to identify science-policy solutions for a more sustainable Europe.



**Think
2030**

Science-policy
solutions for a more
sustainable Europe