

Introducing the Green 9 group of environmental NGOs active at EU level



Friends
of the Earth
Europe

GREENPEACE



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Foreword

Public opinion polls consistently show that European citizens are deeply concerned about the environment. The environment is an area where EU decision-makers can take action to bridge the gap between European institutions and citizens, to change people's lives for the better.

River pollution, climate change and wildlife decline are environmental problems that do not respect national boundaries. It makes sense to tackle these issues with laws and regulations at EU level.

Despite the progress made in EU environmental policy, much needs to be done during the term of the current European Parliament and European Commission to integrate the environment into all EU policies. This is vital to ensure that the principle of 'sustainable development' is effectively applied in practice.

Widespread public concern over the state of the environment has led to a continuous growth in the membership of environmental non-governmental organisations in Europe in recent years. Membership of the nine leading environmental organisations active at EU level is now estimated to be over 20 million people.

This booklet gives EU decision-makers a short overview of the activities of the nine leading environmental organisations active at EU level - 'the Green 9' - together with their contact details. We hope that you will contact us if you need further information on what we do.

We look forward to working with you.

The Green 9

Clairie Papazoglou, BirdLife International (ECO)

Karla Schoeters, Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe)

John Hontelez, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Génon K. Jensen, European Public Health Alliance – Environment Network (EEN)

Jos Dings, the European Federation for Transport and the Environment (T&E)

Martin Rocholl, Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE)

Jorgo Riss, Greenpeace

Michael Procházka, International Friends of Nature (IFN) / Naturfreunde Internationale (NFI)

Tony Long, WWF European Policy Office (WWF-EPO)

What is the Green 9?

The Green 9 consists of the nine leading environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active at EU level:

- ▶ BirdLife International
- ▶ Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe)
- ▶ European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
- ▶ EPHA Environment Network (EEN)
- ▶ European Federation for Transport and the Environment (T&E)
- ▶ Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE)
- ▶ Greenpeace
- ▶ International Friends of Nature (IFN)
- ▶ WWF European Policy Office (WWF-EPO)



What do we do?

We work with the EU law-making institutions - the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers - to ensure that the environment is placed at the heart of policy-making. This includes working with our member organisations in the Member States to facilitate their input into the EU decision-making process.



While campaigning at EU level, Green 9 NGOs:

- ▶ encourage the full implementation of EU environmental laws and policies in the Member States
- ▶ lobby for new environmental proposals, as appropriate
- ▶ work with the EU institutions to ensure that policies under consideration are as environmentally effective as possible
- ▶ promote EU environmental leadership in the global political arena.

In terms of public awareness raising, Green 9 NGOs:

- ▶ inform their members and the wider public of environmental developments at EU level, and encourage them to make their voice heard

- ▶ give a voice to thousands of locally-based associations, which would otherwise have no access to EU decision-makers
- ▶ contribute to the strengthening of civil society across Europe, through training in advocacy skills, policy analysis and the EU decision-making process.

How do we work?

The Green 9 tries to observe as democratic a process of decision-making as possible, taking into account the views of member organisations, their staff, boards and members. We represent millions of European citizens and thousands of local associations at EU level.

The strength of the Green 9 NGOs is in our networks. European environmental NGOs regularly send information to their members and supporters. This is vital to ensure these groups are fully informed of developments at EU level, so that they can contribute effectively to the EU decision-making process.

How are the Green 9 NGOs funded?

Membership contributions are an important part of the finances of Green 9 organisations. We also receive core funding from the European Commission, except for Greenpeace. Furthermore, some member organisations of the Green 9 receive funding on a case-by-case basis for specific projects from governments and foundations. Some organisations also receive specific donations from industry. Greenpeace does not request or accept financial support from governments, the EU or industry. All Green 9 organisations are externally audited every year.



Joint Green 9 activities – some examples

As well as working individually with EU institutions on key policy areas, we also coordinate joint responses and recommendations to EU decision-makers on issues of interest to all NGOs.

The Constitutional Treaty: NGOs successfully lobbied the European Convention to retain existing Treaty commitments to sustainable development, environmental protection and the integration of environmental concerns into each EU policy area. We also supported an increase in the power of the European Parliament in several areas of work.

The EU's Sustainable Development Strategy: The Green 9 works to ensure the attainment of the objectives of the Sustainable Development Strategy agreed by the Gothenburg European Council in 2001. We closely monitor progress on the individual commitments, and have prepared joint input to the EU institutions for the review of the Strategy.

European elections: NGOs produced a joint 'manifesto' outlining key recommendations for action by MEPs in the European Parliament 2004-2009. We worked with member organisations to promote these recommendations with MEP candidates and political parties at national level.

Greening the EU Budget: The EU's annual budget procedure presents an opportunity for Green 9 NGOs to lobby for a shift in funds away from environmentally damaging measures to those budget lines that deliver public goods and environmental benefits. Green 9 NGOs have been active in seeking to reform the Structural Funds, the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy.

BirdLife International

BirdLife International is a global partnership of conservation organisations which strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. BirdLife International is the world authority on the status of birds, their habitats and any conservation problems endangering them. BirdLife Partners operate in over one hundred countries and territories worldwide. BirdLife International has 41 partners and 1.7 million members in Europe. We are active in all the EU Member States.

We can be contacted about:

- ▶ **The Birds and Habitats Directives.** BirdLife works towards the full implementation of these Directives and the effective management and financing of the 'Natura 2000' network of wildlife sites. The full implementation of the Birds Directive is our top priority.
- ▶ **Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).** BirdLife International's 'Farming for Life' campaign promotes continued reform of the CAP, in favour of environmentally-friendly and sustainable farming.



- ▶ **The EU's Sustainable Development Strategy.** BirdLife closely monitors the progress of the EU's Sustainable Development Strategy, particularly the commitment to 'halt biodiversity decline by 2010'. We are promoting an effective 'bird' indicator to measure progress towards meeting this objective.
- ▶ **Regional Policy.** BirdLife works to ensure that EU Structural Funds help conserve nature, rather than finance environmentally damaging infrastructure.
- ▶ **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).** BirdLife is campaigning to ensure that the CFP promotes sustainable fisheries, reducing both fleet capacity and fishing effort.
- ▶ **Other issues include:** the EC Biodiversity Strategy, trans-European transport networks, forestry, environmental liability, water policy, climate change, transport, environmental impact assessment, EU enlargement, trade and development policy and environmental tax reform.



CONTACT

Clairie Papazoglou (Head of EU Policy)

European Community Office

81a rue de la Loi

1040 Brussels - Belgium

Tel: +32 2 280 08 30

Fax: +32 2 230 38 02

Email: bleco@birdlifeeeco.net

Website: www.birdlife.org/worldwide/regional/europe/index.html

FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES

Victoria Phillips (EU Parliament Liaison)

RSPB (BirdLife Partner in the UK)

The Lodge

Sandy

Bedfordshire SG192DL - UK

Tel: +44 1767 680551

Fax: +44 1767 683211

Mob: +44 7803 151132

Email: Victoria.Phillips@rspb.org.uk

Climate Action Network Europe

Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe) is a non-profit organisation operating as a coordination office since 1989 for environmental groups in Western Europe, working to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels.

The vision of CAN-Europe is a world striving actively towards and achieving the protection of the global climate in a manner that promotes equity and social justice between peoples, sustainable development of all communities, and protection of the global environment.

CAN-Europe has over 90 member organisations and is part of a broader network, operating worldwide, of 330 member organisations. CAN-Europe currently receives funding from its member organisations, the European Commission and EU Member States' governments.

CAN-Europe provides a forum for NGOs to share ideas and expertise, strategies and information on climate change, promotes actions and links these with wider efforts. CAN-Europe builds partnerships with industry and business, trade associations, local authorities and other sectors of society.



We can be contacted about:

- ▶ **The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):**
we monitor and encourage the implementation of policies and measures that combat climate change in the EU. This includes:
- ▶ **European Climate Change Programme (ECCP)**
- ▶ **Post 2012 Climate Policy**
- ▶ **Promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy**
- ▶ **Emissions trading, Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation**
- ▶ **Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol**
- ▶ **Liberalisation of the energy market, security of energy supply**
- ▶ **Fluorinated gases**
- ▶ **Carbon capture and sequestration, hydrogen economy**
- ▶ **Climate change links to health, transport and development issues**



CONTACT

Karla Schoeters (Head of Office)

Climate Action Network Europe asbl

Rue de la Charité 48

1210 Brussels - Belgium

Tel: +32 2 229 52 25

Fax: +32 2 229 52 29

Email: info@climnet.org

Website: www.climnet.org

FOR PRESS ENQUIRIES

Karim Harris (Communications Manager)

Climate Action Network Europe asbl

Rue de la Charité 48

1210 Brussels - Belgium

Tel: +32 2 229 52 25

Fax: +32 2 229 95 22

Email: karim@climnet.org

Website: www.climnet.org

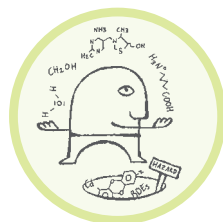
The European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

The EEB is a federation of more than 140 environmental citizens' organisations based in all EU Member States as well as in some neighbouring countries. They range from local and national, to European and international, together numbering more than 15 million citizens.

The EEB organises and facilitates involvement of its member organisations to achieve effective EU environmental policies and sustainable development. The EEB office in Brussels works closely with its members, to improve knowledge and understanding of EU environmental policies and to engage in dialogue with the European Commission, European Parliament and national governments in many different ways. It has working groups of members in 11 different areas.

We can be contacted about:

- ▶ **The EU Sustainable Development Strategy.** We promote the ambitious implementation of that Strategy, and work together with the European Trade Unions Confederation and the Platform of European Social NGOs.



- ▶ **Environmental policy integration.** We put pressure upon the European Commission and Member States to integrate environmental concerns into all EU policies. This work is carried out in agriculture, industry policies and environmental fiscal reform.
- ▶ **Environmental governance.** We are a lead organisation in the promotion of the Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation and access to justice, in the EU and at pan-European level. We also assist environmental NGOs in countries on their way to joining the EU.
- ▶ **A wide range of environmental policy issues.** During all stages of EU environmental policy-making, we work in particular on policies relating to air quality, biodiversity, chemicals, product policies, noise, soil, waste and water. We are part of broader coalitions working on climate change and GMOs.
- ▶ **Implementation.** We give assistance to members fighting for the enforcement of EU law and are involved in guidance for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the IPPC Directive, the European Ecolabel Scheme and Standardisation.



CONTACT

John Hontelez (Secretary General)

European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Boulevard de Waterloo 34

1000 Brussels - Belgium

Tel : +32 2 289 1090

Fax: +32 2 289 1099

Email: eeb@eeb.org

Websites: www.eeb.org, www.ecotax.net,

www.chemicalreaction.org, www.participate.org

European Public Health Alliance – Environment Network (EEN)

EEN advocates the protection of the environment as a means of improving the health and well being of European citizens. Launched in 2004, it represents 3-5 million European citizens and brings together groups that want to ensure that health is at the centre of environmental issues.

Member groups include NGOs specialising in public health, environment-related health conditions and women's environmental and health concerns, and associations representing health care professionals. One of EEN's key objectives is to bring health expertise to the environmental policy-making process. This involves exploring the complex linkages between health and the environment in order to provide policy-makers with a clear image of the wider perspective.

We can be contacted about:

- ▶ **Healthy mobility.** EEN promotes public transport, walking and cycling as a means of stimulating physical fitness, advocating clean air policies, and reducing injuries and deaths due to road traffic accidents.



- ▶ **Safe indoor air quality.** EEN raises awareness of the hazard to health of smoke and dust indoors, where Europeans spend 90% of their time. Major causes of concern are smoke from tobacco and some cooking and heating appliances, and lead, asbestos and other worrying chemicals dust. EEN works to ensure ratification of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and calls for a comprehensive ban on the use of lead and asbestos in all building materials.
- ▶ **Toxic-free food.** Overuse of pesticides and other toxics exposes the human body to harmful chemicals in the food chain. EEN calls for the phasing out of harmful chemicals and pesticides used in food production, more sustainable agriculture and the adoption of strong EU chemical safety legislation (REACH).
- ▶ **Health in environmental governance.** EEN campaigns for greater opportunities for the involvement of citizens, especially disadvantaged groups, in EU environmental decision-making processes.
- ▶ **Other issues:** EU Environment and Health Strategy, the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan in Europe, WHO Environment and Health process, the Aarhus Convention, and the European mercury strategy.



CONTACT

Génon K. Jensen (Director)
European Public Health Alliance -
Environment Network (EEN)
39-41 rue d'Arlon
1000 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: +32 2 233 3875
Fax: +32 2 233 3880
Email: genon@env-health.org
Website: <http://www.env-health.org>

Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE)

Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE) campaigns for sustainable and just societies and for the protection of the environment, unites more than 30 European national organisations with thousands of local groups and is part of Friends of the Earth International, the world's largest grass-roots environmental network.

We can be contacted about:

- ▶ **Following the money.** FoEE together with the CEE Bankwatch Network monitors the use of Pre-accession and Structural/Cohesion Funds to make sure that they really benefit people and the environment and are spent properly.
- ▶ **Combating climate change.** FoEE's huge 'Carbon Dinosaur' toured Europe to expose outdated and inefficient industries, and inactive politicians, showing alternatives and demanding real action to fulfil Kyoto targets.
- ▶ **The right to say no to GMOs.** FoEE campaigns to ensure that European citizens have the right to choose GMO-free food; to safeguard GMO-free agriculture and to ensure that the polluter pays.



- ▶ **REACH for a toxics-free future.** With creative use of the Internet, FoEE helps citizens to express their concerns over the chemicals found in everyday items.
- ▶ **Ending the institutionalised promotion of nuclear power.** FoEE is campaigning to scrap the flawed and secretive Euratom Community, and for higher nuclear safety measures.
- ▶ **International trade and investment negotiations.** FoEE keeps a close eye on decision-makers to ensure the development of a fair, sustainable and democratic global trading system.
- ▶ **Sustainable farming and healthy food.** FoEE is campaigning for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union, and its sustainable implementation in the new Member States.
- ▶ **Other issues include:** EU constitutional debate, environmental governance, euro-Mediterranean issues, resource use and waste management issues, monitoring European Parliament environmental decisions and corporate accountability/CSR issues.



CONTACT

Dr Martin Rocholl (Director)
Friends of the Earth Europe asbl
Rue Blanche 15
1050 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: +32 2 542 01 80
Fax: +32 2 537 55 96
Email: info@foeeurope.org
Website: <http://www.foeeurope.org>

Greenpeace

Greenpeace is an independent campaigning organisation with offices in 39 countries worldwide. It uses non-violent creative confrontation to expose global environmental problems and encourage solutions which are essential to a green and peaceful future. We neither request nor receive financial support from governments, the EU or industry.

Greenpeace's European Unit monitors the work of the EU Parliament, Commission and Council, to expose deficient EU policies and laws, and challenge decision-makers to implement progressive solutions.

We can be contacted about:

- ▶ **Climate change.** We monitor policies that address climate change or threaten to worsen the current crisis, expose corporate complicity in preventing climate protection, and call on the EU to take a global lead in taking on climate criminals.
- ▶ **Chemicals.** Greenpeace calls for mandatory substitution of hazardous chemicals, encourages industry to support green innovation and demands that the EU protect the environment and human health from man-made chemical pollution.



- ▶ **Corporate liability.** Our contribution to debates on environmental liability, corporate social responsibility and trade is based on the need for transparency, accountability and environmental protection.
- ▶ **Energy.** Greenpeace demands concrete and ambitious actions in promoting renewable energy sources and energy-efficiency measures, and an end to EU subsidies for the nuclear and fossil-fuel industries.
- ▶ **Forests.** Highlighting the plight of the world's ancient forests and Europe's part in their downfall, we call on the EU to stop the trade in illegal timber and support producer countries in their efforts to target perpetrators.
- ▶ **Genetic engineering.** Greenpeace calls for a strict application of the precautionary principle and an end to corporate control of our food supply, standing up for consumers who don't want GMOs in their food.
- ▶ **Oceans.** We work to expose and prevent unsustainable fishing practices and marine pollution that threaten fragile ecosystems.



GREENPEACE

CONTACT

Greenpeace European Unit vzw-asbl

199 rue Belliard

1040 Brussels - Belgium

Tel: + 32 2 274 1900

Fax: +32 2 274 1910

Email european.unit@diala.greenpeace.org

Website: eu.greenpeace.org

International Friends of Nature

International Friends of Nature (IFN) is a non-profit organisation which unites more than 50 national organisations within a broad network of regional and local groups, focusing on sustainable development, a professional commitment to the protection of nature and the environment and developing various forms of eco-tourism in theory and in practice. Getting people to beautiful natural settings, awakening their love of nature and giving them knowledge about nature and culture are some of our major aims.

We can be contacted about:

- ▶ **Landscape protection, sustainable land use and regional development.** Within the framework of the 'Landscape of the year', IFN generates indicators for sustainable regional development. IFN pays special attention to Natura 2000 and its implementation. In the last decade, several strategy papers were developed for model regions all over Europe.
- ▶ **Sustainable consumption, production and health.** Several campaigns focus on regional products, green food, sustainable production and health. In particular, IFN covers aspects of ecological agriculture, environmental impacts on health and transport issues.



- ▶ **Environmental education.** Within regional development, environmental education plays a major role. IFN addresses issues related to environmental protection, water, biodiversity, Natura 2000, health, and pays special attention to the transfer of knowledge to new EU Member States.
- ▶ **Sustainable tourism.** IFN is campaigning to ensure that the protection of nature is regarded as the basis for the development of sustainable and ecological tourism. Major issues covered are: the Kyoto Protocol, Agenda 21, and relevant EU policies. The IFN campaign 'Clever Traveling' is raising awareness for a necessary change in behaviours.
- ▶ **Other issues include:** environmental aspects of development issues, EU constitutional debate, environmental impact assessment, capacity building in new EU Member States, monitoring European Parliament environmental decisions, establishment of Natura 2000 ecological networks, energy efficiency, public transport, Eco-labels.



CONTACT

Michael Procházka (Secretary General)

International Friends of Nature

Diefenbachgasse 36

1120 Wien - Austria

Tel: +43 1 892 38 77

Fax: +43 1 812 97 89

E-mail: nfi@nfi.at

Website: <http://www.nfi.at>, www.eco-tour.org,

www.checkyourtravel.info, www.eco-friends.org

T&E, The European Federation for Transport and Environment

T&E is the European umbrella for non-governmental organisations working in the field of sustainable mobility of people and freight. T&E was founded in 1989. Today T&E has some 40 non-governmental organisations as members in 20 countries, including EFTA and Central and Eastern Europe. T&E promotes a European transport policy that is environmentally sustainable, economically sound and socially just. T&E not only follows the EU legislative process, but also initiates debates and pushes pro-actively for action.

We can be contacted about:

- ▶ **'Getting the prices right'**. Transport pricing policy has always been one of T&E's key areas of work. We want to see transport's benefits maximised and the costs that society bears minimised, which implies that transport users are charged the full costs they impose on society. This means not just infrastructure costs, but also the external costs, e.g. the costs of air pollution, accident risks, and congestion. After 15 years of debate, Europe is - very slowly - turning the principle into practice.



- ▶ **Aviation and shipping.** Two 'forgotten' modes of transport. Global and EU environmental policies are needed to tackle the large and growing problems these sectors generate. T&E is an observer in the environment committee of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and pushes in this and other fora for greener aviation and shipping policies.
- ▶ **Fuel efficiency,** in particular for passenger cars. Fuel efficiency is a key ingredient in a low-carbon transport sector. In particular the passenger car can be greatly improved on this point.
- ▶ **Cleaning up vehicles and fuels.** Much stricter vehicle emission and fuel quality standards remain necessary to protect human health and the environment.
- ▶ **European investment.** Evidence clearly shows that pouring billions of EU tax euros into transport infrastructure is not the way to revitalise economies and improve cohesion. Alternative investment and better and more transparent assessments of this investment are badly needed before any money is spent on infrastructure.
- ▶ **Other issues include:** air quality, noise, urban and public transport policy;



CONTACT

Jos Dings (Director)

T&E, the European Federation for Transport and Environment

Rue de la Pépinière 1

1000 Brussels - Belgium

Tel: +32 2 502 9909

Fax: +32 2 502 9908

Email: jos.dings@t-e.nu

Website: www.t-e.nu

WWF European Policy Office (WWF-EPO)

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. WWF has almost 5 million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries. The WWF European Policy Office leads the WWF network in working to shape European Union policies impacting on the European and global environment.

We can be contacted about:

- ▶ **Climate change and energy policy.** WWF campaigns for a drastic increase in renewables and energy conservation to help the EU prepare for long-term climate protection through policy achievements such as a carbon-free power sector.
- ▶ **Agriculture and rural development.** WWF argues for the redirection of CAP funds towards sustainable rural development and environmentally friendly farming and for greater fairness in trade with developing countries.
- ▶ **Chemicals policy.** WWF concentrates on REACH - a once in a generation opportunity for safer products and a healthier future for wildlife



and people.

- ▶ **Common Fisheries Policy.** WWF presses for the implementation of the CFP (recovery of fish stock plans, establishment of Regional Advisory Councils, long-term management plans), and reduction of EU footprint on third countries.
- ▶ **Regional Funds.** WWF strives to ensure that sustainable development is the primary objective of EU regional funds and that funds are available for the implementation of the Habitats and Water Framework Directives.
- ▶ **Water policy.** WWF contributes to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive to achieve freshwater protection through dialogue with EU institutions and on the ground in EU Member States. The WFD promotes best management practices to reduce current impacts on EU wildlife and citizens, such as floods, droughts, overuse of water resources, and pollution of water supplies.
- ▶ **Development policy and EU external relations.** WWF advocates sustainable management of natural resources and environmental protection as a vital tool for tackling rural poverty and encouraging development.
- ▶ **Trade policy.** WWF aims to put sustainable development at the heart of the WTO and sees the EU as a key player in this process.
- ▶ **Forests.** WWF works to achieve EU policies that protect, manage and restore forests in Europe and beyond.



WWF[®]

for a living planet[®]

CONTACT:

WWF European Policy Office (WWF-EPO)

Avenue de Tervuren 36, Box 12

1040 Brussels - Belgium

Tel: +32 2 743 8800

Fax: +32 2 743 8819

Email: wwf-epo@wwfepo.org

Website: www.panda.org/epo

BirdLife International
European Community Office
81a rue de la Loi
1040 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: +32 2 280 08 30
Fax: +32 2 230 38 02
Email: bleco@birdlifeeco.net
Website: [www.birdlife.org/worldwide/
regional/europe/index.html](http://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/regional/europe/index.html)

Climate Action Network Europe
Rue de la Charité 48
1210 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: +32 2 229 52 25
Fax: +32 2 229 52 29
Email: info@climnet.org
Website: www.climnet.org

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
Boulevard de Waterloo 34
1000 Brussels - Belgium
Tel : +32 2 289 1090
Fax: +32 2 289 1099
Email: eeb@eeb.org
Websites: www.eeb.org, www.ecotax.net,
www.chemicalreaction.org, www.participate.org

European Public Health Alliance –
Environment Network (EEN)
39-41 rue d'Arlon
1000 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: +32 2 233 3875
Fax: +32 2 233 3880
Email: genon@env-health.org
Website: <http://www.env-health.org>

Friends of the Earth Europe
Rue Blanche 15
1050 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: +32 2 542 01 80
Fax: +32 2 537 55 96
Email: info@foeeurope.org
Website: <http://www.foeeurope.org>

Greenpeace European Unit
199 rue Belliard
1040 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: + 32 2 274 1900
Fax: +32 2 274 1910
Email european.unit@diala.greenpeace.org
Website: eu.greenpeace.org

International Friends of Nature
Diefenbachgasse 36
1120 Wien - Austria
Tel: +43 1 892 38 77
Fax: +43 1 812 97 89
E-mail: nfi@nfi.at
Website: <http://www.nfi.at>, www.eco-tour.org,
www.checkyourtravel.info, www.eco-friends.org

T&E, The European Federation for
Transport and Environment
Rue de la Pépinière 1
1000 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: +32 2 502 9909
Fax: +32 2 502 9908
Email: jos.dings@t-e.nu
Website: www.t-e.nu

WWF European Policy Office (WWF-EPO)
Avenue de Tervuren 36, Box 12
1040 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: +32 2 743 8800
Fax: +32 2 743 8819
Email: wwf-epo@wwfepo.org
Website: www.panda.org/epo