

# Public Consultation on the EU environment policy priorities for 2020: Towards a 7th EU Environment Action Programme

<b>Identification</b>	
Are you answering as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or institution? -single choice reply-(optional)	I am answering on behalf of an organisation or institution (business, NGO, public authority,...)
Please select the option which best describes your organisation. -single choice reply-(optional)	non-governmental organisation/association of NGOs
Please enter the name of your organisation. -open reply-(optional)	Health and Environment Alliance HEAL, 28 Boulevard Charlemagne, B-1000 Brussels, Commission transparency identification number: 00723343929-96
Please enter your e-mail address. -open reply-(optional)	anne@env-health.org
Are you answering on behalf of an EU-wide organisation? -single choice reply-(optional)	Yes
Unless you specify otherwise, your contribution will be published on the Commission's website together with your identity. Please indicate here if you wish your contribution to be anonymous. -single choice reply-(optional)	You can publish this contribution under the name given.
<b>Added value of a new EAP and major challenges</b>	
<b>By developing a strategic agenda for the environment, with clear priorities and objectives.</b> -single choice reply-(optional)	6
<b>By ensuring full implementation of agreed policies and legislation</b> -single choice reply-(optional)	6
<b>By providing a coherent framework and furthering the integration of environmental considerations into other policies</b> -single choice reply-(optional)	6
<b>By ensuring a joint commitment from EU institutions and Member States to a common agenda</b> -single choice reply-(optional)	6
<b>By stimulating public debate on environmental priorities and active participation of citizens, local authorities and businesses</b> -single choice reply-(optional)	6

<b>By providing the long term certainty and a conducive framework for the private sector to invest in resource efficiency, low-carbon technology and eco-innovation</b> -single choice reply-(optional)	5
<b>By defining a detailed list of actions to be implemented by 2020</b> -single choice reply-(optional)	6
<b>By establishing environmental priority objectives for inclusion in the monitoring process of the EU semester</b> -single choice reply-(optional)	5
<b>A new EAP has no added value</b> -single choice reply-(optional)	1

**The final assessment of the 6<sup>th</sup> EAP has shown that a long term vision for Europe's environment would help in guiding the definition of priority objectives to be achieved by 2020. Bearing in mind the long term visions already set out in the Resource Efficiency Roadmap[1], the 2050 Low-Carbon Roadmap[2] and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020[3], are there any elements you feel are missing?**

[1] By 2050 the EU's economy has grown in a way that respects resource constraints and planetary boundaries, thus contributing to global economic transformation. Our economy is competitive, inclusive and provides a high standard of living with much lower environmental impacts. All resources are sustainably managed, from raw materials to energy, water, air, land and soil. Climate change milestones have been reached, while biodiversity and the ecosystem services it underpins have been protected, valued and substantially restored.

[2] By 2050, the EU should cut its domestic greenhouse gas emissions by 80% compared to 1990 and all the sectors of the economy – power sector, industry, transport, agriculture, residential and tertiary should contribute to a varying degree and pace.

[3] By 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides — its natural capital — are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided.

-open reply-(optional)

The 6 EAP has had an environment&health priority, which according to Eurobarometers is supported by the EU public. The 7 EAP should continue with this, as environmental pollution is a key determinant of health, as well as concrete chronic disease prevention opportunities. An E&H priority is vital to guide effective actions in this field, and has also proven to be valuable in reaching out to citizens on how EU environment policy fosters better health.

Unsustainable consumption patterns -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Unsustainable production patterns -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Resource over-consumption, potential scarcity and price volatility -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Pollution from hazardous chemicals -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Insufficient water quantity -single choice reply-(optional)	Important
Water pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Outdoor air pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important

Indoor air pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystem services -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Deforestation -single choice reply-(optional)	Somewhat Important
Climate change mitigation/greenhouse gas reductions -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Adaptation to the impacts of climate change -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Marine pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	Important
Marine resource exploitation -single choice reply-(optional)	Somewhat Important
Competing uses of land leading to environmental degradation -single choice reply-(optional)	Somewhat Important
Soil degradation and pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Generation and proliferation of waste -single choice reply-(optional)	Important
Environmental challenges linked to food -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Environmental challenges linked to housing -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Environmental challenges linked to mobility -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Environmental challenges linked to the urban environment -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Environmental challenges linked to energy production and use -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Noise -single choice reply-(optional)	Very Important
Major industrial accidents -single choice reply-(optional)	Important
Unsustainable consumption patterns -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Unsustainable production patterns -single choice reply-(optional)	Improve implementation of existing policy and legislation
Resource overconsumption, potential scarcity and price volatility -single choice reply-(optional)	More use of Market-based Instruments (cap and trade, taxation, subsidies, incentives)

Pollution from hazardous chemicals -single choice reply-(optional)	Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)
Insufficient water quantity -single choice reply-(optional)	Strengthen mainstreaming of environmental considerations in other policies
Water pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)
Outdoor air pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)
Indoor air pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)
Biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystem services -single choice reply-(optional)	Improve implementation of existing policy and legislation
Deforestation -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Climate change mitigation/greenhouse gas reductions -single choice reply-(optional)	Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)
Adaptation to the impacts of climate change -single choice reply-(optional)	Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)
Marine pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Marine resource exploitation -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Competing uses of land leading to environmental degradation -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Soil degradation and pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)
Generation of proliferation of waste -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Environmental challenges linked to food -single choice reply-(optional)	Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)
Environmental challenges linked to housing -single choice reply-(optional)	Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)
Environmental challenges linked to mobility -single choice reply-(optional)	Strengthen mainstreaming of environmental considerations in other policies
Environmental challenges linked to the urban environment -single choice reply-(optional)	Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)
Environmental challenges linked to energy production and use -single choice reply-(optional)	Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)
Noise -single choice reply-(optional)	Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)
Major industrial accidents -single choice reply-	

(optional)	No opinion
Agriculture and rural development policy -single choice reply-(optional)	4
Climate change policy -single choice reply-(optional)	5
Competition policy (state aid) -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Consumers and health policy -single choice reply-(optional)	5
Development cooperation policy -single choice reply-(optional)	4
Economic and financial policy (including taxation) -single choice reply-(optional)	5
Education and culture policy -single choice reply-(optional)	4
Employment policy -single choice reply-(optional)	2
Energy policy -single choice reply-(optional)	4
Enterprise and SMEs policy -single choice reply-(optional)	3
External relations policy -single choice reply-(optional)	3
Maritime and fisheries policy -single choice reply-(optional)	3
Products/services standards -single choice reply-(optional)	4
Public procurement policy -single choice reply-(optional)	5
Regional policy -single choice reply-(optional)	4
Research and innovation policy -single choice reply-(optional)	5
Trade policy -single choice reply-(optional)	4
Transport policy -single choice reply-(optional)	5
Other -single choice reply-(optional)	
If other, please specify (max 100 characters) -open reply-(optional)	
Agriculture and rural development policy -single choice reply-(optional)	5

Competition policy (state aid) -single choice reply- (optional)	2
Consumers and health policy -single choice reply- (optional)	5
Development cooperation policy -single choice reply-(optional)	3
Economic and financial policy (including taxation) -single choice reply-(optional)	5
Education and culture policy -single choice reply- (optional)	3
Employment policy -single choice reply-(optional)	2
Energy policy -single choice reply-(optional)	5
Enterprise and SMEs policy -single choice reply- (optional)	3
Environmental policy -single choice reply-(optional)	5
External relations policy -single choice reply-(optional)	2
Maritime and fisheries policy -single choice reply- (optional)	2
Products/services standards -single choice reply- (optional)	3
Public procurement policy -single choice reply- (optional)	5
Regional policy -single choice reply-(optional)	4
Research and innovation policy -single choice reply- (optional)	5
Trade policy -single choice reply-(optional)	2
Transport policy -single choice reply-(optional)	5
Other -single choice reply-(optional)	

If other, please specify (maximum 100 characters) -open reply-(optional)

## New integrated approaches to improve competitiveness and enhance ecological and societal resilience

In your view, what are the 3 most important initiatives that should be taken at EU level to reduce the environmental impact of food production and consumption? (maximum 800 characters): -open reply-(optional)

Measures to reduce pesticide dependency: implementation of the DR on the sustainable use of pesticides with setting up of ambitious National Action Plans, promotion of integrated pest management, cross compliance with CAP, WFD Promotion of organic and regional

food production including financial support Promotion of less meat consumption, which will also contribute to preventing diseases

In your view, what are the 3 most important initiatives that should be taken at EU level to reduce the environmental impact of housing? (maximum 800 characters) -open reply-(optional)

Measure to promote both energy efficient and healthy buildings, which means putting a much greater focus on healthy buildings in the current energy efficiency debates and decisions, e.g. by setting ventilation requirements and using low-emission construction and other materials. Reduction of environmental impact in this sector also has to include tackling air pollutant emissions from the domestic sector in small-scale combustion appliances (boilers, stoves, open fireplaces). Specific policy measures can include mandatory emission standards for new and/or existing appliances, economic incentive schemes and targeted information campaigns.

In your view, what are the 3 most important initiatives that should be taken at EU level to reduce the environmental impact of mobility? (maximum 800 characters) -open reply-(optional)

As research has shown, a combination of measures to reduce pollution from the transport sector and the encouragement of more walking&cycling can have huge benefits for the climate and for public health. Measures should include financial support for retrofitting of vehicles/quicker fleet turnover, car pooling schemes, bike lanes, pedestrian walkways, etc.

Desertification -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Deforestation -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Conversion of agricultural land to urban land -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Conversion of grassland to cropland -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Conversion of land for energy crop cultivation -single choice reply-(optional)	Very important
Other land use changes -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Land fragmentation -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Reinforce existing legislation to improve the application of the 'polluter pays' principle to address soil degradation -single choice reply-(optional)	Somewhat important
Establish a soil monitoring scheme to measure and/or evaluate progress towards less soil degradation -single choice reply-(optional)	Somewhat important
Set binding targets to reduce soil degradation -single choice reply-(optional)	Very important
Provide platforms for exchanging best practice -single choice reply-(optional)	Somewhat important
Promote greater public awareness of the role played by soil as a resource in the environment and the economy -single choice reply-(optional)	Somewhat important
Endocrine disruptors -single choice reply-(optional)	Not well at all
Nanomaterials -single choice reply-(optional)	Not well at all

Combined effects of chemicals -single choice reply-(optional)	Not well at all
Harmful chemicals in products -single choice reply-(optional)	Somewhat well
Outdoor air pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	Somewhat well
Indoor air pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	Not well at all
Water pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	Somewhat well
Noise -single choice reply-(optional)	Not well at all
Climate change -single choice reply-(optional)	Somewhat well
Nuclear radiation -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Other -single choice reply-(optional)	Not well at all
If other, please specify (maximum 100 characters) -open reply-(optional)	
Combined effects of different environmental stressors; EMF, health inequalities, prenatal exposure	
Local contribution to global climate change -single choice reply-(optional)	Important
Local transport -single choice reply-(optional)	Very important
Green urban areas incorporating sustainable land use -single choice reply-(optional)	Important
Nature and biodiversity -single choice reply-(optional)	Important
Quality of local ambient air -single choice reply-(optional)	Very important
Noise pollution -single choice reply-(optional)	Very important
Waste production and management -single choice reply-(optional)	Important
Water consumption -single choice reply-(optional)	Important
Waste water treatment -single choice reply-(optional)	Important
Eco innovation and sustainable employment -single choice reply-(optional)	Important
Environmental management of the local authority -single choice reply-(optional)	Very important
Energy performance -single choice reply-(optional)	Very important



## Making Change Happen

In your view, does the type of EU climate and environment legislation (Regulations, which have direct effect, vs. Directives, which need to be transposed into national law) make a difference in terms of delivering environmental benefits, and if so, why? (max 800 characters) -open reply-(optional)

EU citizens have the right to a clean environment, and this right, and the goal of ensuring a high level of health&environmental protection in all EU member states are the most important. The legal form to guarantee this depends on the policy area and on the level of ambition. E.g. a regulation may have many derogations which threaten E&H protection and conflict with higher protection requirements of individual EU Member States. So the level of ambition and the political will are key.

On a scale of 1-5 (1=least, 5=most), how would you rate the usefulness of increasing the information being actively disseminated on-line by Member States and the Commission and how EU environment legislation is being implemented? -single choice reply-(optional)

4

More extensive criteria on how Member States should undertake inspections and surveillance

-single choice reply-(optional)

Somewhat significant

Complementing national inspections and surveillance with enhanced capacity at EU level to ensure consistency and effectiveness of implementation -single choice reply-(optional)

Significant

Criteria on complaint-handling systems in each Member State or similar alternative dispute resolution mechanisms -single choice reply-(optional)

No opinion

Legislation to ensure better access to national courts -single choice reply-(optional)

Significant

Support for experts' networks, e.g. inspectors, prosecutors and judges to share best practice and develop projects of common interest -single choice reply-(optional)

Significant

Implementation plans that target resources at solving environmental problems -single choice reply-(optional)

Very significant

Science provides the evidence-base underpinning the development and implementation of climate and environment policy. On a scale of 1-5 (1=insufficient, 5=excellent), how would you rate the environmental data currently available to you? -single choice reply-(optional)

4

Give to citizens a greater role in monitoring environmental data (e.g. through new media tools such as 'eye on earth') -single choice reply-(optional)

Very high potential

Improve data collection on and analysis of compliance and enforcement within each Member State -single choice reply-(optional)	High potential
Improve the science-policy interface and ensure that scientific environmental data are accessible and user-friendly -single choice reply-(optional)	Very high potential
Fill existing research gaps (e.g. ecological thresholds, environmental tipping points, impacts of new technologies, etc.) -single choice reply-(optional)	Very high potential
Improve knowledge on consumers' perceptions, values and their actual behaviour -single choice reply-(optional)	High potential
Improve EUs international research cooperation on global environmental issues (i.e. biodiversity, climate change) -single choice reply-(optional)	High potential
Other -single choice reply-(optional)	
If other, please specify (max 100 characters) -open reply-(optional)	
Provide more detailed information to consumers through more detailed labels -single choice reply-(optional)	Effective
Increase consumers' education and awareness through general awareness-raising campaigns -single choice reply-(optional)	Very effective
Increase consumers' education and awareness through targeted actions and on-the-spot information -single choice reply-(optional)	Very effective
Provide examples of positive/successful behaviours to consumers -single choice reply-(optional)	Very effective
Reward environmentally-friendly behaviours -single choice reply-(optional)	Very effective
Discourage environmentally-damaging behaviours -single choice reply-(optional)	Very effective
Apply different approaches for each specific context via "behavioural experiments" -single choice reply-(optional)	No opinion
Strengthening International Environmental Governance -single choice reply-(optional)	Very significant
Strengthening the EU leadership in Multilateral Environmental Agreements -single choice reply-(optional)	Very significant
Leading by example - EU leadership through	Very significant

setting unilateral targets and commitments -single choice reply-(optional)	
Ensuring that the EU consistently speaks with one voice in international fora -single choice reply-(optional)	Very significant
Enhancing the integration of environment in the EU's external policies -single choice reply-(optional)	Significant
Promoting EU environmental standards abroad -single choice reply-(optional)	Significant
Engaging bilaterally with key partners to address global environmental challenges -single choice reply-(optional)	Significant
Building alliances with other countries in line with our environmental objectives -single choice reply-(optional)	Very significant
Enhancing the effectiveness of environment and climate-related EU development cooperation assistance -single choice reply-(optional)	Significant
Other -single choice reply-(optional)	
If other, please specify (maximum 100 characters) -open reply-(optional)	
If you have further comments on this consultation or suggestions please write them in the box below (optional) (max 1000 characters) -open reply-(optional)	
It is critical that the future 7 EAP contains concrete and time specific targets, clear objectives, and solution oriented policy recommendations. The 7 EAP should close existing loopholes and provide for better enforcement of existing regulation. Action on addressing E&H challenges should not necessarily await the adoption of the 7 EAP. For example, steps should be taken more urgently, such as the prevention of exposures through hazardous chemicals through national and EU measures, particularly with regard to EDCs, and legislative proposals on EU air quality policy such as a new NEC proposal or the review of the EU Environmental Noise Directive.	