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

## Identification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are you answering as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or institution?</td>
<td>I am answering on behalf of an organisation or institution (business, NGO, public authority,...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please select the option which best describes your organisation.</td>
<td>non-governmental organisation/association of NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please enter the name of your organisation.</td>
<td>Health and Environment Alliance HEAL, 28 Boulevard Charlemagne, B-1000 Brussels, Commission transparency identification number: 00723343929-96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please enter your e-mail address.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anne@env-health.org">anne@env-health.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you answering on behalf of an EU-wide organisation?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</table>

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.

You can publish this contribution under the name given.

## Added value of a new EAP and major challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Added value of a new EAP and major challenges</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By developing a strategic agenda for the environment, with clear priorities and objectives.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By ensuring full implementation of agreed policies and legislation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By providing a coherent framework and furthering the integration of environmental considerations into other policies</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By ensuring a joint commitment from EU institutions and Member States to a common agenda</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By stimulating public debate on environmental priorities and active participation of citizens, local authorities and businesses</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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

- single choice reply -(optional)

By defining a detailed list of actions to be implemented by 2020

- single choice reply -(optional)

By establishing environmental priority objectives for inclusion in the monitoring process of the EU semester - single choice reply -(optional)

A new EAP has no added value

- single choice reply -(optional)

The final assessment of the 6th 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Importance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indoor air pollution</td>
<td>Very Important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystem services</td>
<td>Very Important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deforestation</td>
<td>Somewhat Important</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate change mitigation/greenhouse gas reductions</td>
<td>Very Important</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adaptation to the impacts of climate change</td>
<td>Very Important</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine pollution</td>
<td>Important</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine resource exploitation</td>
<td>Somewhat Important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competing uses of land leading to environmental degradation</td>
<td>Somewhat Important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil degradation and pollution</td>
<td>Very Important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generation and proliferation of waste</td>
<td>Important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental challenges linked to food</td>
<td>Very Important</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental challenges linked to housing</td>
<td>Very Important</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental challenges linked to mobility</td>
<td>Very Important</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental challenges linked to the urban environment</td>
<td>Very Important</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental challenges linked to energy production and use</td>
<td>Very Important</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noise</td>
<td>Very Important</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major industrial accidents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsustainable consumption patterns</td>
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<td>Unsustainable production patterns</td>
<td>Improve implementation of existing policy and legislation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource overconsumption, potential scarcity and price volatility</td>
<td>More use of Market-based Instruments (cap and trade, taxation, subsidies, incentives)</td>
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<td>Issue</td>
<td>Response Options</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pollution from hazardous chemicals</td>
<td>Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insufficient water quantity</td>
<td>Strengthen mainstreaming of environmental considerations in other policies</td>
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<td>Water pollution</td>
<td>Fill policy gaps (e.g. through new policy/legislation)</td>
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<td>Outdoor air pollution</td>
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<td>Policy Area</td>
<td>Selected Opinion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate change policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competition policy (state aid)</td>
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<td>Development cooperation policy</td>
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<td>Economic and financial policy (including taxation)</td>
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<td>Education and culture policy</td>
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<td>Employment policy</td>
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<td>Energy policy</td>
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<td>Enterprise and SMEs policy</td>
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<td>External relations policy</td>
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<td>Maritime and fisheries policy</td>
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<td>Products/services standards</td>
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<td>Public procurement policy</td>
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<td>Regional policy</td>
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<td>Research and innovation policy</td>
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<td>Trade policy</td>
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<td>Transport policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-single choice reply-(optional)</td>
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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)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More extensive criteria on how Member States should undertake inspections and surveillance - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
<td>Somewhat significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementing national inspections and surveillance with enhanced capacity at EU level to ensure consistency and effectiveness of implementation - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
<td>Significant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criteria on complaint-handling systems in each Member State or similar alternative dispute resolution mechanisms - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
<td>No opinion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislation to ensure better access to national courts - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
<td>Significant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for experts' networks, e.g. inspectors, prosecutors and judges to share best practice and develop projects of common interest - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation plans that target resources at solving environmental problems - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
<td>Very significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
<td>Very high potential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>Potential</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve data collection on and analysis of compliance and enforcement within each Member State</td>
<td>High potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve the science-policy interface and ensure that scientific environmental data are accessible and user-friendly</td>
<td>Very high potential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fill existing research gaps (e.g. ecological thresholds, environmental tipping points, impacts of new technologies, etc.)</td>
<td>Very high potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve knowledge on consumers' perceptions, values and their actual behaviour</td>
<td>High potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve EUs international research cooperation on global environmental issues (i.e. biodiversity, climate change)</td>
<td>High potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Very high potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide more detailed information to consumers through more detailed labels</td>
<td>Effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase consumers’ education and awareness through general awareness-raising campaigns</td>
<td>Very effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase consumers’ education and awareness through targeted actions and on-the-spot information</td>
<td>Very effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide examples of positive/successful behaviours to consumers</td>
<td>Very effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reward environmentally-friendly behaviours</td>
<td>Very effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discourage environmentally-damaging behaviours</td>
<td>Very effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply different approaches for each specific context via ‘<em>behavioural experiments</em>’</td>
<td>No opinion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening International Environmental Governance</td>
<td>Very significant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening the EU leadership in Multilateral Environmental Agreements</td>
<td>Very significant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leading by example - EU leadership through</td>
<td>Very significant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Setting unilateral targets and commitments - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensuring that the EU consistently speaks with one voice in international fora - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
<td>Very significant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enhancing the integration of environment in the EU's external policies - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
<td>Significant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoting EU environmental standards abroad - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging bilaterally with key partners to address global environmental challenges - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building alliances with other countries in line with our environmental objectives - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
<td>Very significant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enhancing the effectiveness of environment and climate-related EU development cooperation assistance - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
<td>Significant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other - single choice reply - (optional)</td>
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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.