

NGO Seminar on the Slovenian Presidency to the EU – ENVIRONMENT

Ljubljana, 7. – 8. June 2007

Presentation of the EEB and its activities

Regina Schneider, EEB
Head of Communications



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Bureau Européen de l'Environnement

EEB – EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU

- **EEB was created in 1974 to represent ENGOs' interests vis-à-vis the EU Institutions**
- It is a federation of over 145 environmental citizens organisations based in all EU Member States, potential new Member States and a few neighbouring countries.
- Main bodies: AGM (Annual General Meeting),
- Board
 - Slovenian Board Member: Anamarija Slabe



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EEB's aims and mission

The aim of the EEB is to protect and improve the environment of Europe and to enable the citizens of Europe to play their role in achieving this goal.

EEB's specific mission is

- to promote strong environmental policies and sustainable development on the EU level and outside,
- to integrate environmental concerns into other policy areas
- to provide a focal point for its members to monitor and respond to EU policies
- and to provide services to its members in the form of information (meetings and documents), representation vis-à-vis EU institutions and coordination of campaigns



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Networking on EU Environmental Policies

To be effective, close cooperation and information exchange with EEB member organisations and their experts is crucial.

For this purpose EEB has created working groups:

- Agriculture
- Air Pollution
- Biodiversity
- Chemicals
- Ecolabel
- Ecological Product Policy
- Environmental Fiscal reform
- Industry-IPPC
- Nanotechnology
- Noise
- Product Policy
- Soil
- Waste
- Water
- Zero mercury working group – at global level

Double purpose: prepare + formulate EEB positions; capacity building



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The Horizontal Issues

- Environmental Policy Integration
- Sustainable Development
- Aarhus Convention
 - Incl. Access to the Justice
 - Access to Information
 - Public participation
- Good Governance
 - Participatory Democracy
- Enforcement
- Environmental Fiscal Reform



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Other Issues

- Environmental Impact Assessment –EIA
- Strategic Environmental Assessment – SEA
- Environmental Liability Directive
- Treaty Revisions - Constitution
- Better Regulation



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Environmental Liability Directive

- Directive on Environmental Liability with Regard to the Prevention and Remedying of Environmental Damage (2004/35/EC).
- It entered into force on 30 April 2004
- Transposition deadline was 30 April 2007
 - Only 3 MS met deadline

Some important aspects leaving considerable leeway to MS:

- **Exemptions** MS can decide to introduce the clause which exempts operators from liability or not to do it
- **Financial Security** is only recommended not obligatory
- **Biodiversity** MS decide on the scope, if it covers only what is protected under EU law or also includes national law



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How can we lobby – make a difference? ... always in close cooperation with our members!

We have to know the system

- Competences of EU Institutions, decision-making procedures, voting systems, most important Treaty articles
 - Be aware of the work programme, important deadlines, people in charge, road map etc
 - Get information and draft texts as early as possible
 - Collect background information, reports, eg WHO, EEA
 - Establish personal contacts with the officials in the different institutions
- ... stakeholder meetings, seminars, elaboration of positions papers, letters, press releases ...

Key word for our work: CREDIBILITY

EEB has managed to become a respected partner, a valuable source of information



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COALITION BUILDING

Depending on the issue and often only during special Campaigns EEB works with:

- Other environmental organisations, eg the Green 10
- Consumer organisations
- Health organisations
- Social organisations
- Transport organisations
- Trade unions
- Specific companies
- Women's organisations
- Animal welfare groups



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Working with the Presidencies

- End May, 2007 Letter to Slovenian and French Governments and the Commission:
EEB'S PRIORITIES FOR THE EU IN 2008
- Right at the beginning of the Presidency:
EEB's Memorandum including the 10 Green Tests, usually directly discussed during a meeting between the EEB Board and the President of the Environment Council
- At the end, evaluation of the Presidency based on the 10 Green Tests
- Prior to each Environment Council EEB letter with detailed attachment on most important issues on the agenda
- Possibly similar letters prior to other Councils



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Priorities in Letter of May 2007

1. INSTITUTIONAL REFORM OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
2. CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY
3. TRANSPORT POLICIES
4. BIODIVERSITY
5. THE HEALTH CHECK OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURE POLICY
6. COEXISTENCE OF GM CROPS WITH CONVENTIONAL AND ORGANIC FARMING
7. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS
8. ECOLOGICAL INDUSTRY PRACTICE
9. TACKLE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS
10. TOWARDS A GLOBAL MERCURY BAN
11. WATER

<http://www.eeb.org/publication/EEB-PRIORITIES-2008-EN.pdf>



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How can you reach us?

- Via your Board Member Anamarija Slabe
- We are 15 people in the office
- Head of office John Hontelez, SG, 2 people are working in his unit
- EU Policy Office – 6 persons each in charge of 2-3 issues and coordinating the corresponding working groups
- Communications unit, 3 persons
- Project coordinator
- Support staff
 - You can participate in as many working groups as you wish (as your time allows you)
 - You are invited to seminars
 - You receive regular information, mail, e-mail, via the web
 - You are invited to comment and amend the EEB's draft work programme
 - Of course you can contact us at the EEB



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EEB'S WEBSITES

- www.eeb.org EEB's home website. It gives information about the EEB, its activities, EEB publications, press releases position papers.
- www.participate.org focuses on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention both at the UN ECE and the EU level.
- www.chemicalreaction.org - the joint chemicals campaign of EEB, Greenpeace International and Friends of the Earth Europe.
- www.newngoforum.org Environmental NGOs from Candidate and Western Balkan countries, aimed at strengthening civil society's involvement in the EU's enlargement and the stabilisation and association processes.
- www.zeromercury.org of the Zero Mercury Campaign of the EEB and the international Zero Mercury Working Group



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... and in case you wonder why you should care about EU policies

In the field of the environment close to 80% of your national law depends on or is influenced by EU law – it is worth getting involved at EU level

I hope the workshop will motivate you to work more closely with the EEB



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Thank you for your attention



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