

EEAC WINTER

# NEWSLETTER

January 15 2026, Strategic Board Meeting, The Hague



## A message from the Board

Dear colleagues,

As we begin a new year and look back on the period from December to March, we are pleased to share the latest developments across the EEAC Network. This edition features the Councils' roundtable and working groups planning sessions in January, the Board's strategic meeting in The Hague, and our February webinar on futuring and strategic foresight. We also bid farewell to Yaelle and Zuzana and warmly welcome our new interns, Zofia and Kate, alongside updates from our council members.

This newsletter has been prepared by the EEAC Secretariat and opens with an overview of recent EEAC activities. It highlights key events and engagements from December 2025 until March 2026, showcasing the breadth of EEAC's involvement across Europe. On the last pages, you can find some of the most recent publications of our councils and upcoming working group activities. If you would like us to include any specific reports/achievements from your council in the next newsletter, please send it to us by 15<sup>th</sup> May.

*[Follow our linkedIn for upcoming activities](#)*





## January 12<sup>th</sup> – Councils’ round table

To start off the year strong, the EEAC's member councils gathered for an online session to share their reflections on the previous year and their plans for the upcoming year. Each council briefly presented their workplan for 2026, as well as other themes of interest, building on the round table at the Strategic Assembly last October. It was a great opportunity to exchange ideas on working topics and methods and lay the foundations for another year of collaboration.



## January 15<sup>th</sup> – Strategic Board Meeting in the Hague

The Board and Secretariat gathered in the Hague to discuss key topics for the upcoming year and beyond. Important agenda points such as the October Assembly and EU institutional relations were discussed, as well as strategies for the Network and its future work. A big thank you to the RLI for generously hosting the meeting.

## January 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> , February 2<sup>nd</sup> – WG planning sessions

Members of the four Working Groups met for dedicated planning sessions on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of January, and 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, to discuss intentions for the Working Groups and activities for the year. Key topics were identified and dates were chosen for events. It will be another busy year of EEAC Network activities!

## February 13<sup>th</sup> – Futuring Webinar

Another successful collaboration between the Sustainable Development and Climate & Energy Working Groups, the aim of this webinar was to introduce advisory councils to futuring and strategic foresight methods and explain the potential utility of these tools for their work. The event benefitted from case studies from the NESC, WKR, and FEPSD, as well as the insights of two high level speakers from the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the European Environment Agency.



### Imagining futures: foresight tools for advisory councils

JOINT WEBINAR  
WG Energy and Climate & WG Sustainable Development

#### Context

Good policy requires accounting for a wide range of possibilities. Futuring and foresight provide the tools to explore the variety of imaginable futures, helping policymakers make informed decisions and design policies that are resilient, adaptive and future-proof.

On the EU level, several institutions have already integrated foresight into their long-term policy visions, and in this webinar representatives of the European Environment Agency and the European Commission will share how they apply these approaches in their work. Additionally, EEAC member councils that are experimenting with foresight methods will present their experiences and emerging best practices for advisory councils.

#### Agenda

13.02.2026  
13:00-14:30 CET  
Via Teams

- 13:00 Opening remarks by WG co-chair **Folmer de Haan**
- 13:05 Introduction to futuring and foresight - **Yaelle Reed** (EEAC Secretariat)
- 13:10 Key approaches for strategic foresight - **Anne-Katrin Bock** (Joint Research Centre - European Commission)
- 13:30 Imagining a Sustainable Europe - **Vadim Kononenko** (European Environment Agency)
- 13:50 The Room 2050 project - **Katriina Siivonen** (Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development)
- 14:00 Fast forward with vision - **Maya Bogers** (Netherlands Scientific Climate Council)
- 14:10 A sustainable energy future - **Gemma O'Reilly** (Irish National Economic and Social Council)
- 14:20 Discussion and closing remarks by WG Co-chairs



## January – Changes in Working Groups

Although the official appointment of WG co-chairs took place during the APS in November, the Network is pleased to announce several internal updates within the Working Groups. As Arnau Queralt Bassa stepped down from his role as co-chair of the WG Health during the APS, the group required some additional support. **Geert Munnichs** from the Rli has kindly offered to assist Valentin-Veron Toma in leading WG activities.

WG Ecosystem Services is also receiving extra support. Until now, Jan Verheeke has been the sole chair of this group, and **Ina Sieber** from SRU has generously offered to help him manage the WG's responsibilities alongside his busy schedule.

On behalf of the Board, we would like to sincerely thank both members for their commitment and support to the EEAC's work. The Board also encourages other members who are interested to contribute to the Networks ongoing activities.



## Zuzana and Yaelle leave the EEAC

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of February the EEAC Network said its goodbyes to Zuzana and Yaelle, who have been supporting the Secretariat since August 2025. During their internships they helped the Network expand its outreach on LinkedIn, improve the internal communication of EEAC, as well as organising numerous successful events.

After their internship ended both interns returned to their studies and other duties. Zuzana is staying in the Netherlands to finish her BA at The Hague University of Applied Sciences and Yaelle moved back to Paris to finalise her MA from Sciences Po.

## February/ March – New interns take over

We are delighted to welcome two new interns to assist Mari-Carmen with the daily operations of the Secretariat.

Kate Grīnfogele holds an International Bachelor's degree in Economics and Business Economics from Erasmus University Rotterdam and now is obtaining her Master's degree in Policy Economics at Erasmus University Rotterdam. Along her studies, Kate has gained practical experience through being a student researcher, crowdfunding campaign intern (Erasmus MC) and financial market analysis intern (Central Bank of Latvia).



Zofia Mańka is in her final year of the LL.B. in International and European Law at The Hague University of Applied Sciences, specialising in the European Union Business Regulation. Her previous experience includes involvement in civil society initiatives in entities such as the European Capital of Democracy and The Innovation in Politics Institute.



## January 28<sup>th</sup> – New Council elected at the RNE

On 28 January, the German Federal Chancellor appointed the new RNE for the next three years, with eight new members, and seven existing members who continue their work. At their constituent meeting, the Council elected **Gerald H. Haug** as the new chairman, and **Reiner Hoffmann** as deputy chair.

## March 13<sup>th</sup> – Study visit at the Rli and EEAC Secretariat

On March 13, the Rli and the EEAC Secretariat hosted a study visit for participants of the Climate Action Academy organised by JEF Europe. During the visit, 25 participants from across Europe had a chance to gain insight into the Rli's advisory work and the EEAC's role as an European network, including a presentation by the EEAC interns.



# RECENT COUNCIL UPDATES



Our members have had a busy few months, working on a variety of inspiring projects. Although all work of our councils is important, for the purpose of keeping the newsletter concise, the Secretariat has highlighted a selection of the recent council activities and publications.

## [Demographic transition, decarbonising Catalonia and restoring nature](#)

*Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia, Spain, 2025*

CADS had a busy year in 2025, publishing three advisory reports: “Demographic transition, immigration and ageing in Catalonia 2024-2050. Impacts on the labour market, social cohesion, pensions and dependency”; “Decarbonising Catalonia: proposals for an energy and socioeconomic transition in a context of climate emergency and global geopolitical tensions”; and “Restoring nature, securing our future”. Insights from these reports can be found on the CADS website.

## [Sufficiency Policies Offer Solutions to Finland’s Structural Overconsumption](#)

*Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development, Finland, 01-12-2025*

New statement released in December on the structural drivers of overconsumption, prepared for the Parliamentary Committee for the Future. The report examines the economic, legal, and cultural systems that fuel overconsumption and outlines the types of solutions needed to address it.

## [Opinion on the Social Climate Plan](#)

*National Council on Environment and Sustainable Development, Portugal, 17-12-2025*

The Social Climate Plan 2026–2032 seeks to mitigate the social impacts of rising energy costs on vulnerable groups as the EU’s expanded Emissions Trading Scheme begins to cover buildings and transport in 2028. The Portuguese Government asked CNADS to issue an opinion on the plan, which was prepared by a dedicated working group and approved in December 2025.

## **Rethinking sustainability – shaping the future**

*German Council for Sustainable Development, Germany, 08-01-2026*

New recommendations of the RNE to the federal government demonstrate how sustainable development is central to prosperity, competitiveness and security – in Germany and Europe. The whole statement can be read on their website.

## **Young Scientists Exhibition**

*The Climate Change Advisory Council, Ireland, 08-10-01-2026*

The CCAC participated at the Stripe Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition, which is Ireland's biggest celebration of scientific curiosity and innovation. The CCAC asked participants how they think 2050 will look like, to help build a vision for the future, through quizzes, in-depth conversations about the challenges of climate change and inspiring talks with students about their projects.

## **“Land for improvement: on the role of land in rural areas”**

*Council for the Environment and Infrastructure, The Netherlands, 05-02-2026*

On 5 February, the Rli published a new advisory report on “Land for improvement: on the role of land in rural areas”. In its advisory report, the Rli concludes that government policy must be overhauled for a good future for rural areas and makes three concrete recommendations to the government that should contribute to a better rural area.

## **Adaptation makes cents**

*Federal Council for Sustainable Development, Belgium, 06-02-2026*

FRDO-CFDD organised a conference in Brussels, “Adaptation makes cents: How to finance adaptation to climate change?”.

It reviewed existing public and private adaptation finance in the EU and Belgium, featuring national and international speakers. With public authorities, companies and financial actors, the council discussed how to boost investment in this sector. Presentations are available on the website.

## **NESC's new Reports**

*The National Economic and Social Council, Ireland, 29-01, 20-02-2026*

NESC recently published two reports; *Identifying Integrated Responses to Climate Adaptation, Climate Mitigation, Biodiversity and Water Quality* (29 January) and *Accelerating the Transition to a Sustainable Energy System* (20 February), along with a complementary Secretariat methods paper, *Ireland's Energy Transition: Applying Systems Tools*. Together, these publications outline integrated environmental policy approaches and key pathways for Ireland's energy transition.

## **Advice on Interregional cooperation agreement on packaging waste and on the implementation of EU rules for building performance and asbestos**

*Environment and Nature Council of Flanders, Belgium, 2026*

The Minaraad has recently published two advices: one on the Interregional Cooperation Agreement on packaging waste, calling for stronger monitoring, coherent EU regulation, meaningful stakeholder involvement, fair competition, and transparent enforcement; and another on the implementation of EU directives and regulations on building performance and asbestos, emphasising aligned methodologies, clear guidance, coordinated funding, and proportional phasing that protects vulnerable groups.



## Environmental Safeguards in Germany's Infrastructure Acceleration

*The German Advisory Council on the Environment, Germany, 17-02-2026*

The SRU has published an opinion warning that current efforts to speed up infrastructure development in Germany risk weakening environmental and nature protection, urging policymakers to avoid excessive deregulation and ensure that acceleration does not come at the expense of climate, biodiversity, or public health.

## 2026 Assessments of France's Climate Strategies

*The French National Council for Ecological Transition, France, 19-02-2026*

The French National Council for Ecological Transition (CNTE) issued two key opinions in 2026: one on the draft Third National LowCarbon Strategy (SNBC 3) and one on the first implementation review of the Third National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (PNACC3). Both recommendations stress that France must accelerate mitigation and adaptation efforts while ensuring social fairness, economic resilience, and longterm ecological sustainability.

## Behavioural Policy for Climate and Societal Benefits in the Netherlands

*The Netherlands Scientific Climate Council, The Netherlands, 19-02-2026*

The potential of behavioural policy is great. Structural and more effective behavioural policy can greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the resilience and freedom of choice of the Dutch and provide benefits for our health, safety and nature.

## CNADS Opinion on Adaptation Strategy ENAAC 2030

*National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Portugal, 20-02-2026*

The CNADS has issued its opinion on Portugal's proposed revision of ENAAC 2030, calling for a shift from a technical, sector-based approach toward broader social resilience. The Council welcomes the "Just Resilience" principle and highlights priorities such as evaluating ENAAC 2020, linking adaptation and mitigation, addressing energy poverty, strengthening participation, and focusing indicators on vulnerable groups and key natural resources.

## Upcoming EEAC Activities

### Council exchange series, March 19

The EEAC will hold its first Council Exchange Series session of the year, bringing together member councils to share ongoing work and discuss emerging priorities. The meeting will provide space for exchanging national experiences and strengthening collaboration across the network.

### WG SD webinar on international developments, Q2, TBA

The WG SD is preparing a webinar on key international developments, based on recent global analysis. The session will include a presentation and an open discussion with EEAC members. Further details will follow.

### WG ES webinar on Nature Restoration Law, Q2, TBA

In Q2, the WG ES will host a webinar on the Nature Restoration Law, offering members an update on recent developments and space for discussion. The exact date will be confirmed.