

EEAC Network Annual Working Plan 2018

March 2018



EEAC Network

About the EEAC Network

The European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) is a network of advisory bodies established by national or regional governments. EEAC member councils offer independent advice to their respective national or regional governments and parliaments related to the environment and sustainable development.

Fourteen advisory bodies from eleven European countries and regions are members of the EEAC Network. With representatives from academia, civil society, the private sector and public bodies, the EEAC network brings together experts with years of experience producing independent advice.

EEAC MEMBERS (2018):

Belgium	Federal Council for Sustainable Development
Catalonia	Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia
Flanders	Environment and Nature Council of Flanders
France	National Council for Ecological Transition
Germany	German Advisory Council on Environment German Advisory Council on Global Change German Council for Sustainable Development
Hungary	National Council for Sustainable Development National Environment Council
Ireland	National Economic and Social Council
Luxembourg	National Council for Sustainable Development
Montenegro	National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management
The Netherlands	Council for the Environment and Infrastructure
Portugal	National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development

1. Introduction

Europe can look back on 25 years of successful policy-making in the field of the environment and sustainable development. However, there is no reason to be complacent: the European Union and its Member States are still struggling to fully embrace the 2030 Agenda, we face ongoing loss of biodiversity, and the risks of climate change associated with the current emissions pathways.

With the upcoming European Parliament election, the formation of a new European Commission and the EU report to be submitted to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2019, the next 18 months are of critical importance to the realisation of sustainability in Europe.

Besides these important events in Europe, many Member States also face severe challenges when it comes to sustainable development and environmental dossiers. The complexity of these challenges often requires holistic, cross-border solutions. Consequently, cooperation is of the utmost importance.

In the light of the required cooperation, the EEAC Network will make serious and continuous efforts to fulfil its role as facilitator of an operational framework for joint activities, knowledge-sharing, dialogue, informed debate and deliberation among various stakeholders and disciplines. In addition, the EEAC Network will keep seeking to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and policy-making, possibly contributing to new concepts and interfaces.

Furthermore, the EEAC Network and the EEAC member councils also remain highly committed to fulfil their role as intermediaries between the EU and national and regional governance bodies, among other things by acting as observer to the multi-stakeholder platform for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the EU. Participation in this platform enables the EEAC Network to provide the national and regional advisory councils for sustainable development with relevant and up-to-date information regarding sustainable development at the European level, and vice versa.

In order to achieve these various aims, the EEAC Network has drawn up an ambitious Annual Working Plan. This plan provides information about the focus and agendas of the EEAC Working Groups. It also outlines the principles and values on which the EEAC Network is based.

We look forward to a fruitful and above all decisive year for sustainability in Europe!

Sincerely yours,

Arnau Queralt-Bassa

Chair of the EEAC Network

2. Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Contents	4
3. About the EEAC Network	5
3.1. Principles and values	5
3.2. General objectives	5
3.3. Members and governance	5
4. EEAC Working Groups	6
4.1. EEAC Working Group on a Circular Economy	6
4.1.1. Aims.....	6
4.1.2. Focus	6
4.1.3. Planned activities.....	7
4.2. EEAC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change.....	8
4.2.1. Aims.....	8
4.2.2. Focus	8
4.2.3. Planned activities.....	9
4.3. EEAC Working Group on Fresh Water Affairs	10
4.3.1. Aims.....	10
4.3.2. Focus	10
4.3.3. Planned activities.....	11
4.4. EEAC Working Group on Marine Affairs	11
4.4.1. Aims.....	11
4.4.2. Focus	12
4.4.3. Planned activities.....	13
4.5. EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development.....	13
4.5.1. Aims.....	13
4.5.2. Focus	13
4.5.3. Planned activities.....	14

3. About the EEAC Network

3.1. Principles and values

Current social and economic dynamics are exerting great pressure on the planet. This is due to existing production and consumption patterns that are resource-intensive, waste producing and polluting, and that cause problems ranging from climate change to loss of ecosystem resilience.

New models must be developed to ensure that this and future generations can prosper. Structures that are highly resource-efficient and based on low-carbon energy and that protect natural capital and promote social justice and human welfare must be established.

The EEAC Network believes that a transition towards a more sustainable Europe, which addresses the environmental, economic, social and cultural dimensions of sustainability, is both necessary and possible.

3.2. General objectives

The EEAC Network provides an operational framework for joint activities, knowledge sharing, dialogue, informed debate and deliberation among different stakeholders and disciplines. It seeks to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and policy-making and to enrich the advice that individual advisory bodies can give to their governments by encouraging the exchange of experiences among EEAC member councils.

The EEAC Network also enables its members to better anticipate and prepare for emerging strategic issues at the European level, as well as international and global negotiations and debates related to sustainable development.

3.3. Members and governance

As of January 2018, the EEAC Network consists of fourteen councils from eleven different European countries and regions. For an overview of the EEAC member councils, please consult Appendix A.

The EEAC Network is governed by the Annual Plenary Session (APS), which meets at least once a year and deliberates on past and future goals and activities. The APS elects a board to facilitate the functioning of the network. The board consists of a chair, vice-chair(s), secretary and treasurer who consult with chairpersons of Working Groups (WGs) and conference hosts as necessary.

Currently, the board consists of the following five members, representing four councils: Arnau Queralt-Bassa (Chair), Miranda Schreurs (Vice-Chair), António Abreu (Vice-Chair), Laurence Monnoyer-Smith (Secretary), and Ron Hillebrand (Treasurer).

4. EEAC Working Groups

4.1. EEAC Working Group on a Circular Economy

4.1.1. Aims

A green and circular economy offers advantages that require the support and alignment of the social agenda (labour), the education/innovation agenda (knowledge building, new skills), the financial agenda (fiscal change), the economic development agenda (new business models), and the environmental agenda (waste regulations, environmental goals). This broad agenda poses a serious challenge for governments, the private sector and civil society. Hence, mutual learning, knowledge sharing, and capacity building will continue to be vital, especially because the task ahead is too complex and multi-faceted to define a blueprint.

The EEAC Working Group on a Circular Economy aims to contribute to the process of mutual learning, knowledge sharing and capacity building. To this end the Working Group actively participates in and contributes to the exchange of knowledge, ideas, opinions and experiences/practices at the (sub)national and European level by organising workshops and submitting written contributions.

The meetings of the EEAC Working Groups are open to key European, national and sub-national institutions, experts and stakeholders. Their contributions enrich our views and enable the active sharing of knowledge, ideas, opinions and experiences/practices. Therefore, the Working Group also aims to strengthen connections with key partners active in this policy domain.

4.1.2. Focus

The EEAC Working Group on a Circular Economy will focus on two topics in 2018: the use of fiscal policies to promote the realisation of a circular economy, and the transition to a circular economy in relation to other (major) transitions, such as the energy and climate transition and the transition in food production and consumption.

Relationship between the transition to a circular economy and other major transitions

The ambition to achieve a sustainable society by 2030 requires transitions in several domains. For example, changes are needed in the way we produce and consume basic resources such as food, mobility, energy and housing. However, transitions within these domains are not always mutually reinforcing, and in some cases, the aims of one transition may even turn out to be non-beneficial to transitions within another domain.

The circular economy model, for example, uses the cascading principle. Consequently, maximisation of resource effectiveness by using resources in products that create the economic value over multiple lifetimes is leading.

The principle of cascading can be effectively demonstrated by looking at the use of vegetation. In a circular economy, one would aim to ensure long-lasting greenhouse gas storage and optimal high-quality use of biomass, by for example using biomass first for food and medication, and secondly by converting it into building blocks. Using vegetation for energy is the last step in the usage of biomass in a circular economy.

By way of contrast, climate policies (enabling the energy and climate transition) focus on replacing fossil fuels by non-fossil fuels, for example biomass. Here, the aims of the circular economy transition (energy recovery should be the last option, and only after all higher-value

products and services have been exhausted) could compete with those of the energy transition (using vegetation/biomass as an energy source). These potential dilemmas need to be managed. On the other hand, there are also examples in which transitions strengthen each other.

The EEAC Working Group on a Circular Economy will therefore focus a part of its 2018 agenda on the role of governments in managing the elements that have a reinforcing and weakening effect in the relationship between the transition to a circular economy and other major transitions.

Use of fiscal policies to promote development of a circular economy

The transition to a circular economy requires the use of a broad variety of (policy) instruments, including the pricing of externalities, changes to subsidies, and promoting the shift from taxing labour to taxing resources. Although ‘environmental taxes and charges to address pollution and resource use are already in place in several European countries’¹, the use of Market-Based Instruments (MBIs) such as taxation remains controversial in many other countries.²

The controversy and – in some cases – lack of political will to include MBIs may result in lock-ins affecting the transition to a circular economy. However, several countries are examining possibilities for using MBIs to promote the development of a circular economy. Which ideas have been developed and what can be learned from experiences at the national and sub-national level? The EEAC Working Group on a Circular Economy will also dedicate a part of its 2018 agenda to these types of questions, in order to inform its member councils and external partners about relevant experiences and insights.

4.1.3. Planned activities

- ❖ Members of the EEAC Working Group on a Circular Economy will continue to attend the joint EESC-EC Circular Economy Stakeholder Conferences and will continue to contribute to the Stakeholder Platform for the Circular Economy in Europe (February 2018).
- ❖ The Working Group on a Circular Economy intends to hold its annual workshop in Brussels (October 2018). This workshop will be dedicated to the weakening and strengthening elements in the various ongoing transitions (October 2018).
- ❖ Moreover, the EEAC Working Group on a Circular Economy aims to exchange knowledge concerning the various strategies adopted by EU Member States regarding the use of Market-Based Instruments (with special attention devoted to taxation) in order to promote the development of a circular economy.

¹ Watkins *et al.* (2017) ‘Capacity building, programmatic development and communication in the field of environmental taxation and budgetary reform’, Brussels, page 5.

² Cloots, L. (2017), quoted in ‘Europe goes circular: Challenges in the transition to a circular economy’, Brussels, page 12.

4.2. EEAC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change

4.2.1. Aims

The energy transition is a work in progress in the EU, with 2017 being the year in which more electricity is generated from renewable energy sources than from coal.³ However, a successful transition is not only about developing new low-carbon based economies and societies, but also, and equally importantly, about phasing out old energy regimes. These may be obsolete infrastructures, or economic, social or legal structures established under the previous energy regime.

However, the phase-out process is an often complex⁴ but much-needed element of the transition. (Sub)national councils for the environment and sustainable development have a role to fulfil when it comes to addressing this issue and advising governments on their role in enabling the phase-out of old energy regimes.

Consequently, the EEAC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change aims to study this sensitive topic, in order to strengthen its knowledge base and to enrich the advice that individual advisory bodies give to their governments on this topic.

The workshops of the EEAC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change aim to attract both European and (sub)national specialists, interest groups and government advisors and representatives to ensure a balanced view of this multi-faceted and complex topic.

4.2.2. Focus

The EEAC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change will focus on particular elements of the phase-out process, including financing the transition, the future of energy-intensive industries and the socio-economic impact of the phase-out of old energy regimes.

Financing the transition

According to the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, an estimated USD 93 trillion will be needed in the coming fifteen years for investment in low-carbon infrastructure across the world.⁵ This is just one example of the figures presented in the past years. Moreover, debates on ways to accelerate the drive for clean energy investment and which parties should be involved are ongoing.

In these debates, the EEAC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change will focus on the consequences of changes to investment schemes. Whereas renewable energy capacity is characterised by large upfront investments and low marginal cost, quite the opposite applies to gas-fired plants. What does this mean for both public and private stakeholders?

When studying the debate on the role of public and private investors, the conventional wisdom appears to be that the financial and fiscal crises left governments without strong financial reserves.⁶

³ Agora Energiewende and Sandbag (2018): The European Power Sector in 2017. State of Affairs and Review of Current Developments, London, page 5.

⁴ NCE, 2017

⁵ Global Commission on the Economy and Climate (2014)

⁶ https://www.diw.de/documents/publikationen/73/diw_01.c.407894.de/diw_econ_bull_2012-09_1.pdf

Consequently, investments ‘must come from the private sector, estimated to hold USD 240 trillion of financial assets.’⁷ However, this shift from public investment (the costs of older infrastructure used to be socialised or borne by state-owned companies) towards private funding requires a different role from all parties involved.

Questions arise: Are major investments sufficient by themselves? Is public sector leadership a prerequisite when faced with a transition of such scale and magnitude? The EEAC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change will also focus on these important elements of the phase-out of old energy regimes.

Future of energy-intensive industries

Energy-intensive industries are an important part of the European economy. However, this important part of the European economic engine also needs to deal with the energy transition, which was formally set in motion following the signing of the Paris Agreement and implemented in the EU by means of the Energy Union strategy.

A variety of actions should be taken by the energy-intensive industry, including technical innovation, changes to value chains and a new industrial cluster.⁸ However, these actions are as costly as they are time-consuming and complex. The EEAC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change will therefore also focus on ways to ensure the phase-out of old energy regimes in energy-intensive industries.

Socio-economic issues

‘An orderly phasing out of old energy regimes over several decades will involve redundancies along the value-creation chain in sectors such as coal and lignite.’⁹ Structural changes will inevitably have socio-economic consequences, which are expected to include job losses in the affected sectors.

The socio-economic dimensions of the phase-out of the old energy regimes should not be underestimated. For example, in Germany alone some 48,000 people are currently employed in the lignite and coal sectors according to the Federation of German Industries (BDI). In addition, an estimated 40,000 to 86,000 people work in industries linked to both sectors.¹⁰ However, Germany is not the only country that will face significant challenges.

In line with the EEAC Network’s aim to contribute to a transition towards a more sustainable Europe, which addresses the environmental, economic, social and cultural dimensions of sustainability, the EEAC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change will focus on a number of transition trajectories, with special attention devoted to the socio-economic challenges arising from these transitions.

4.2.3. Planned activities

❖ The Working Group will organize a series of workshops related to the phase-out of old energy regimes. The first session is planned for May/June 2018 and will focus on financing the energy transition.

⁷ http://capitalinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Financing-the-Energy-Transition_COR_w-endnotes.pdf

⁸ Elkerbout (2017). Transforming Energy-Intensive Industries, CEPS, Brussels

⁹ https://www.umweltrat.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/05_Comments/2012_2016/2015_09_KzU_14_Future_of_Coal.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2

¹⁰ Refer to R2B Energy Consulting and HWWI (2014), p. 38

- ❖ The second workshop in the series will address the future of energy-intensive industries in the EU. This workshop is planned for July/August 2018.
- ❖ The third and final session will focus on the socio-economic effects of the phase-out of old energy regimes. This session is planned for October 2018.

4.3. EEAC Working Group on Fresh Water Affairs

4.3.1. Aims

The EEAC Network was actively involved in the run-up to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the second half of the 1990s. Now, 19 years later, the European Commission will review the WFD. This review prompted the EEAC Working Group on Fresh Water Affairs to (re)engage with this important topic.

The public consultation process will probably be launched just before the summer (2018) and would run until after the Water Conference on 20-21 September 2018 in Vienna. In parallel, the European Commission would like to conduct a targeted consultation process with key stakeholders; this process is likely to start around May and would run until autumn of this year.

In the run-up to the WFD review, the EEAC Working Group on Fresh Water Affairs aims:

- a) To raise awareness among the EEAC member councils that are not yet involved in the WFD dossier,
- b) To become well-informed about the views of relevant (European) stakeholders with regard to the WFD,
- c) To formulate – if applicable – a set of viewpoints of its own regarding the future of the WFD in order to contribute to the public consultation which will be a part of the WFD fitness check, and
- d) To provide a stepping-stone for further work on this topic.

4.3.2. Focus

It is undeniable that the implementation of the WFD has led to progress regarding the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater in the European Union. However, the WFD has not effectively delivered on its main objective, i.e. non-deterioration of water status and the achievement of a 'good status' for all European waters.

Based on previous work, the EEAC Working Group on Fresh Water Affairs identified several possible explanations for the partial failure of the WFD. To focus its contribution to the WFD fitness check, the EEAC Working Group on Fresh Water Affairs will dedicate its 2018 agenda to two specific elements of the WFD that need improvement.

Economic considerations

The first possible explanation for the partial failure of the WFD is insufficient attention to economic considerations. For example, most EU Member States failed to fully meet their obligations to report in economic terms, and the implementation of the cost recovery principle was only partly successful. Consequently, it appears that economic considerations are not yet at the heart of Member States' water policies, whereas the WFD required Member States to base

their water management policies on cost effectiveness analyses, and to implement the cost recovery principle.

A paradigm shift

According to the EEAC Working Group on Fresh Water Affairs, a second possible explanation is that the paradigm shift to a systems approach¹¹ – which was claimed to be central to the WFD – has not been fully integrated into the water policies of the Member States and the European Commission.

In practice, most Member States therefore seem to have designed monitoring programmes that focused “on the monitoring of individual structural parameters, on the assumption that good quality of such elements corresponds to good functioning of ecosystems.”¹² Action programmes based on these monitoring activities tended to concentrate on symptoms, rather than on “the causes of water degradation”.

4.3.3. Planned activities

- ❖ The Working Group will hold a teleconference / Skype conference towards the end of March 2018 to update participants about the current status of the public consultation process, and to share how this review will be discussed in the respective member states/councils.
- ❖ The first session organised by the Working Group will be dedicated to invite a number of experts to share their views on the two focus areas (economic thinking and paradigm shifts) in order to produce a document that may be used to contribute to the public consultation process. This session is scheduled to be held in Brussels in the first week of July.
- ❖ After these preparations have been completed, we will consider whether the WG wishes to participate in the Vienna Conference in September, and if so, based on which mandate.

4.4. EEAC Working Group on Marine Affairs

4.4.1. Aims

Throughout Europe, an integrated policy approach to our seas and oceans is gaining support. This reflects greater recognition of the number of interconnected policy domains by a broad range of stakeholders – with sometimes opposing interests – and the involvement of different governmental levels (EU, national, cross-border, regional and local).

This increased complexity, combined with accelerating global change, requires us to:

- a) Rethink the way in which we draw on science to achieve sustainable seas and oceans and
- b) Critically consider the implementation of existing European policies.

¹¹ For a definition of systems thinking, refer to Arnold and Wade (2015): “Systems thinking is a set of synergistic analytic skills used to improve the capability of identifying and understanding systems, predicting their behaviours, and devising modifications to them in order to produce desired effects. These skills work together as a system.”

¹² Verheeke *et al.*, 2017, ‘Exploratory note: Working on the Water Framework Directive’, Flemish Environment and Nature Council / EEAC, Brussels

Together with its partners, the EEAC Working Group on Marine Affairs started to work on these topics in 2016. Further work is required to strengthen an integrated scientific and policy approach to our seas and oceans. Consequently, the EEAC Working Group on Marine Affairs aims to continue its work, with special attention to the integration of marine, coastal and land science, enhanced marine literacy, and the need for successful implementation of EU marine policies.

Furthermore, the EEAC Working Group on Marine Affairs aims to maintain and possibly further expand its relationships with relevant European actors on ocean governance, knowledge, monitoring and management, with special attention to the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC), an organization that the working group began cooperating with in 2017.

4.4.2. Focus

An integrated approach

In previous work, the EEAC Working Group on Marine Affairs – in cooperation with other stakeholders – concluded that the marine environment is managed in a highly sector-based manner, making governance complicated. In that context, the scientific community often finds it difficult to develop suitable solutions for taking action in an integrated and coherent manner.

The EEAC Working Group on Marine Affairs will focus on this challenge and will continue exploring options to improve the role of science in strengthening an integrated policy approach to our seas and oceans.

Enhance marine literacy

The importance of seas and oceans to life on land is incontestable. However, it often seems that this link is not sufficiently appreciated by decision- and policy-makers, nor by the public at large. Consequently, there is a need to communicate this message more effectively. The EEAC Working Group on Marine Affairs will focus on improved ways to convey general concepts that can be understood by everybody in order to enhance so-called ‘marine literacy’.

Ensure implementation

The European Union has made considerable progress in developing a framework and operational policies for our seas and oceans that also cover the international governance of the seas. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) is an example of such efforts. Effective implementation of the MSFD will be key to ensuring sustainable use of the seas by deploying an ecosystem approach and emphasising ecosystem health, expressed through the concept of Good Environmental Status (GES).

The EU has now proposed that the rest of the world should also adopt this approach. However, it seems that neither scientists nor managers of so-called Marine Protected Areas have sufficient means at their disposal for GES measurements, monitoring and reporting. This situation has a negative effect on achieving the aims of EU marine policies and requires attention. Therefore, the EEAC Working Group on Marine Affairs will also focus on this issue.

4.4.3. Planned activities

- ❖ The co-chairs of the EEAC Working Group on Marine Affairs plan to submit a written opinion on enhancing an integrated policy and scientific approach to seas and oceans and the implementation of existing EU marine policies.
- ❖ The EEAC Working Group on Marine Affairs plans to organise a full-day workshop to rethink the way in which we draw on science to achieve sustainable seas and oceans, and to critically consider existing European policies. A selected group of experts will be invited to further strengthen the outcomes of this workshop (May 2018).
- ❖ The Working Group aims to hold a meeting with key representatives of the scientific community and the national and European governmental level, in order to discuss the outcomes of the work on strengthening an integrated policy and scientific approach and the implementation of existing EU marine policies (June 2018).

4.5. EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development

4.5.1. Aims

With the upcoming European Parliament election, the formation of a new European Commission and the EU report to be submitted to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2019, the next 18 months are of critical importance to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the EU. The EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development aims to contribute to this process in a number of ways.

The EEAC Network aims to make a valuable contribution to the work of the high-level multi-stakeholder platform on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, of which the EEAC Network is an active observer.

Furthermore, the EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development aims to further develop the knowledge of its members on the following topics: communicating the SDGs, and supporting sustainable and resilient societies. In addition, the EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development wishes to strengthen its relationships with key partners in the field of sustainable development.

To conclude, the EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development aims to contribute to the objective of the European Economic and Social Committee to develop an online platform to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices and the organisation of activities and debates about the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Europe.

4.5.2. Focus

Conveying the message

One of the main tasks of governmental and parliamentary advisory councils on sustainable development in Europe is engaging with and informing the public and encouraging wider involvement and informed debate on sustainable development. Councils often have a solid group of engaged followers (both online and offline) from a wide range of backgrounds. However, it remains difficult to reach the public outside the 'SDG bubble'. The EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development will dedicate a part of its agenda to this topic.

Sustainable and resilient societies

The United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) will gather in New York in July 2018. At the HLPF meeting, SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15 will be centre-staged and reviewed in depth. The overarching theme of the 2018 HLPF will be ‘Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies’.

Consequently, the focus will be on water and sanitation; energy supply; sustainable, safe and resilient cities and settlements; sustainable production and consumption; and the protection, restoration and promotion of sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

The EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development will select elements of this overarching topic and discuss them with a variety of relevant stakeholders in the run-up to the HLPF.

Green financing as key leverage for transformation

The EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development concludes that on the one hand there seems to be general agreement that the world cannot continue on its current, unsustainable pathway, whilst on the other hand change remains an ambition rather than a practice.

The lock-ins hindering the transition need to be unlocked, also with a view to realising the ambition of creating a sustainable Europe by 2030. In line with the 26th EEAC Annual Conference, the EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development will focus on this process of ‘un-locking the lock-ins’.

4.5.3. Planned activities

- ❖ The EEAC Network participates as an observer to the high-level multi-stakeholder platform on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, its management committee meetings and its sub-groups. Arnau Queralt-Bassa (EEAC chair and co-chair of the EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development) and Dr Gábor Bartus (co-chair of the EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development) fulfil the role of observers on behalf of the EEAC Network (throughout 2018).
- ❖ The EEAC Network has participated in the UN’s Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development 2018. This festival is a global event to celebrate, empower, and connect the global community driving action for the Sustainable Development Goals. The network will host a joint session together with key stakeholders on communicating the SDGs (March 2018).
- ❖ The EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development also aims to co-organise a multi-stakeholder event in the run-up to the HLPF 2019. This event is to be organised in co-operation with the Sustainable Development Observatory of the European Economic and Social Committee (November 2018).
- ❖ The EEAC Working Group on Sustainable Development will also participate in the OpenSDGclub.Berlin. This initiative by the German Council for Sustainable Development provides the EEAC Working Group with a global, inclusive and collaborative platform for mutual encouragement to all those who embrace the transformative character of the 2030 Agenda. This event is scheduled for October 2018.

EEAC Foundation

Bezuidenhoutseweg 30

P.O. Box 27

2501 CA The Hague

The Netherlands

Internet: www.eeac.eu

Twitter: [@EEAC_Network](https://twitter.com/EEAC_Network)