

## Background brief

15 December 2025

# Environment Council

16 December 2025, Brussels

PRESS

EN

**Chairs:** Magnus Heunicke, Minister for Environment and Gender Equality; Lars Aagaard, Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities of Denmark; Jeppe Bruus, Minister for Green Transition

**Commission representatives:** Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy

**Starting time:** 10:00

### Media opportunities:

- Doorstep by Minister Bruus: +/- 9:00
- Doorstep by Minister Aagaard: +/- 9:15
- Doorstep by Minister Heunicke: +/- 10:15
- Press conference: +/- 18:20

\* \* \*

### Main agenda topics:

The main points on the agenda include the approval of Council conclusions on '**Europe's Environment 2030 – Building a more circular and resilient Europe**'. Ministers will also exchange views on the **EU bioeconomy strategy** recently presented by the European Commission.

\* \* \*

[Meeting page on the Council website](#)

[Press conferences, doorsteps and other public events in video streaming](#)

[High quality photo and video material](#)

## *Europe's environment 2030 (in public session)*

Environment ministers will be invited to approve Council conclusions on '**Europe's Environment 2030 – Building a more circular and resilient Europe**'.

Building on the 2024 mid-term review of the 8th environment action programme (8EAP) and the latest report on the state of the European environment, published by the European Environment Agency (EEA), ministers are expected to stress the urgency of advancing both **climate resilience** and the **transition to a circular economy**, recognising the interconnectedness of both issues in addressing climate and environmental challenges such as pollution, biodiversity loss and resource scarcity. The Council conclusions aim at setting out the Council's priorities and ambitions for the upcoming initiatives on those two areas.

Both the mid-term review and the EEA report conclude that despite progress made, **further efforts are needed**, including on implementing actions and measures to meet the 2030 priority objectives in the areas of climate resilience and circular economy. The EEA report highlights that while greenhouse gas emissions have continued to fall and air quality has improved, the EU remains likely off track for many 2030 environmental targets, with slow progress on material use, waste generation, biodiversity protection and adaptation efforts. Meeting the 8th EAP objectives will require faster, better-resourced delivery of legislation already agreed, scaled-up investment, stronger enabling conditions and more comprehensive action across all sectors to decouple growth from resource use and environmental degradation.

[8th Environment action programme mid-term review](#)  
[Europe's environment 2025 \(EEA\)](#)

## *EU bioeconomy strategy (in public session)*

Ministers will also exchange views on the **EU bioeconomy strategy**, recently presented by the European Commission.

'Bioeconomy' refers to the use of renewable biological resources (biomass) from land and sea, such as crops, forest products, fish, animals and micro-organisms, to produce food, materials and energy. With a **value of up to €2.7 trillion in 2023** and employing over 17 million people across the EU, the bioeconomy is **key to Europe's transition to a clean and competitive economy** and its strategic autonomy.

The vision in the bioeconomy strategy is that **by 2040, sustainable bio-based materials and products are widely deployed in the EU**, making bio-solutions competitive. The strategy aims to unlock the potential of the bioeconomy by leveraging renewable biological resources from land and sea, scaling up bio-based innovation and reducing dependency on fossil imports. The European Council conclusions of 27 June 2024 and the Strategic Agenda 2024–2029 emphasised the need to develop a resource-efficient economy, to promote the industrial development of clean technologies and to fully realise the potential of the bioeconomy.

Ministers will be invited to exchange views on the strategy, particularly focusing on the key challenges and opportunities to securing a long-term resilient bioeconomy that is sustainably sourced, competitive and benefits local communities. They will also discuss the current strategy's overall potential in laying the foundation necessary to realise the ambitious vision for a competitive European bioeconomy by 2040.

[Presidency background note](#)  
[EU bioeconomy strategy](#)  
[European Council conclusions, 27 June 2024](#)

## *Other points*

- The Danish presidency, together with the Commission, will report on six recent international meetings:
  - the 37th meeting of the parties (MOP37) to the Montreal Protocol (Nairobi, Kenya, 3–7 November) – *public session*  
[Information note](#)

- the sixth conference of the parties (COP 6) to the Minamata convention on mercury (Geneva, Switzerland, 3–7 November) – *public session*  
[Information note](#)
  - the 30th conference of the parties (COP 30) to the UN framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) (Belém, Brazil, 10–21 November) – *non-public session*
  - the eight meeting of the parties (MOP 8) to the Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (Geneva, Switzerland, 17–21 November) – *public session*  
[Information note](#)
  - the 20th conference of the parties (CITES CoP 20) to the convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 24 November – 5 December) – *public session*  
[Information note](#)
  - the seventh session of the UN environment assembly (UNEA-7) (Nairobi, Kenya, 8–12 December) – *public session*
- Ministers will also receive an update from the Commission on the progress of the EU’s missions on climate-neutral and smart cities and on adaptation to climate change.  
[Information note](#)  
[EU mission: climate-neutral and smart cities \(European Commission\)](#)
  - The Commission will inform ministers on its recently published proposals to increase price predictability and frontload ETS2 revenues (*public session*)  
[Information note](#)  
[Commission proposal to amend the market stability reserve decision](#)
  - Commissioner for environment, Jessika Roswall, will present her annual report on simplification, implementation and enforcement. In that context, the Commission will also present the recent environmental simplification package (*public session*)  
[Information note](#)
  - Poland will inform ministers on the carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) and how it can affect technical, non-commercial electricity imports from Ukraine to the EU member states (*public session*).  
[Carbon border adjustment mechanism \(CBAM\)](#) (background information)
  - Austria will provide information on the dangers posed by lithium batteries and the feasibility and potential benefits of introducing an EU-wide battery deposit system (*public session*)  
[Information note](#)
  - Belgium will inform on strengthening the market surveillance and product compliance in the EU market (*public session*)  
[Information note](#)
  - Ministers will also hear from France on the urgent need for action at European level on the environmental and economic effects of ultra-fast fashion (*public session*)  
[Information note](#)
  - The Netherlands and France will inform ministers on the timely revision of the directive on pyrotechnic articles (*public session*)
  - Cyprus will present its work programme as incoming presidency of the Council.

Over lunch, ministers will hold an informal discussion on environmental investments for achieving environmental targets.