



Management Plan 2024

DG ENVIRONMENT

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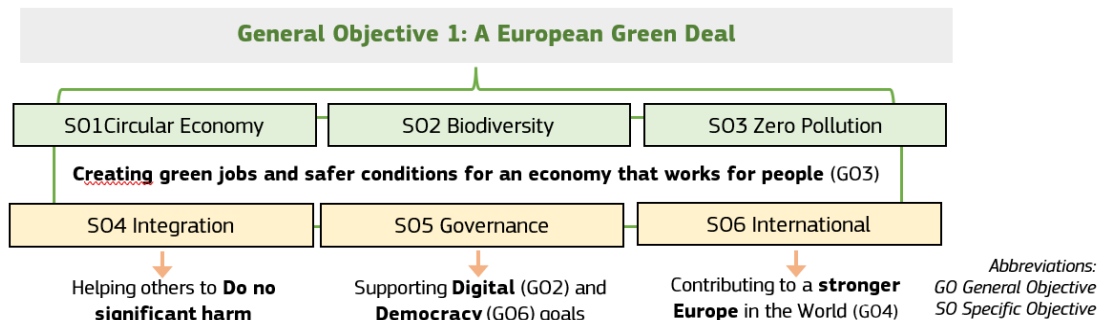
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Introduction

The **Directorate-General for Environment** leads the development and delivery of the European Commission's environment policy, protecting, preserving and improving the environment for present and future generations and promoting sustainable development. Addressing the intertwined crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, which are exacerbated in their impact by parallel poly-crisis of different nature, is vital for a prosperous European Union.

DG Environment's **key mission** hence remains to design and implement transformative initiatives contributing towards a fair green transition that enables EU citizens to live well, within the planet's ecological limits, based on an innovative and circular economy, where biodiversity and ecosystems are protected and restored, pollution and environment-related health risks are minimised, and environmental objectives are projected in international action, contributing to position the EU as a global champion of the green transition.

As illustrated below, DG Environment's Strategic Plan 2020-24 frames six specific objectives in relation to the Commission's general objectives, making a central contribution to general objective 1, **A European Green Deal**, with very strong links to 3, **An economy that works for people** and 4, **Stronger Europe in the world** and also supporting general objectives 6, **A push for democracy**, and 2, **A Europe fit for the digital age**.



In pursuing its objectives, DG Environment contributes significantly to the **transformative European Green Deal agenda** that turns climate and environmental risks into opportunities to promote sustainable growth and green competitiveness consistent with preserving prosperity and quality of life for present and future generations.

DG Environment has delivered a high number of proposals to achieve the ambitious targets set out in the European Green Deal and its sectoral strategies. In 2024, steering **interinstitutional negotiations** to turn pending proposals into EU law and **implementing legislation** will be main priorities. Following an exceptional number of proposals and at the same time implementing new legislation will be challenging. The mid-term review of the **8th Environment Action Programme** will provide an assessment of progress made.

In the area of **circular economy**, work will focus on activities with the most potential to support long-term competitiveness and strategic autonomy, while reducing environmental impacts. For instance, implementing the **Batteries Regulation** will help to ensure an

optimal use of critical **raw materials** and provide the basic substrate for electric mobility and the energy and digital transitions. Deploying the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation** will be another focus, as 80% of the sustainability impacts of products are locked in at the design phase.

As President von der Leyen recalled in her 2023 State of the Union address, **biodiversity and ecosystem services** are vital for all. Their protection goes hand-in-hand with sustainable food production and a healthy economy. In 2024, the DG will continue making progress under the **EU Biodiversity Strategy** and the **Global Biodiversity Framework**, notably implementing the new **Regulation on Deforestation-free supply chains** and the **Nature Restoration law (NRL)**.

With the increasing severity of **heatwaves, droughts and floods**, water-related shocks and stress have emerged as a key challenge for environment policy, in close connection with climate change, pollution and security. In 2024, DG Environment will work to broaden understanding of the **challenges linked to water** and of opportunities for shared solutions across economic sectors, with the objective of enhancing **water resilience**. Finalising negotiations and implementing new legislation, notably on **industrial emissions**, on **air and water pollution** and **urban wastewater treatment** will be significant steps towards the zero pollution ambition and support the green industrial transition.


Further efforts will be deployed to improve **environmental governance** and the **integration** of environmental considerations across EU policy areas, financing and investment instruments. Outreach will continue on integrating environmental impact and dependency considerations in corporate decision-making, reflecting the specific needs of Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The DG will develop a **plan to rationalise reporting** in 2024 and beyond.

In the international arena, DG Environment will continue to engage at multilateral level, notably to advance the ongoing negotiations for a **global plastics agreement** and the new **global framework on chemicals and waste**. Green dialogues and alliances with key countries and regions will continue, including in the enlargement context. DG Environment will keep working with Ukraine under the **Phoenix** initiative and the **LIFE-Ukraine** association agreement, while also contributing to ongoing corporate actions.

With many Europeans facing economic hardship and extreme weather events, DG Environment's **external communication** will stress the benefits of EU environment action under the European Green Deal, building support for the circular economy, encouraging action on pollution and promoting a healthier relation with nature. **Water resilience** will be an overarching communication priority for 2024.

Finally, contributing to modernise **corporate administration** will remain an important goal, as described in part 2 of this Management Plan. Preliminary work will also be required to prepare the next mandate.

PART 1. Delivering on the Commission's priorities: main outputs for 2024

The narrative below presents the main outputs DG Environment plans in 2024 to attain its specific objectives and deliver on the Commission's ambitions. Further outputs are defined in the performance tables in annex. Initiatives that are part of the 2024 Commission work programme are marked with the following icon .

Specific Objective 1-Circular Economy: The EU economy is more circular and uses natural resources and products more sustainably

The **transition to a clean, nature-positive and circular economy** optimises the use of materials and assets, maximising resource efficiency and minimising waste, thereby helping to deliver on the climate, biodiversity and zero pollution ambitions of the European Green Deal, whilst boosting sustainable competitiveness, **resilience** and **strategic autonomy**.


The new **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products** Regulation (ESPR) will provide an important cornerstone of legal framework for a green transition pathway, making circularity and reduced toxicity the norm for all products and services placed on the EU market and making green public procurement an obligation. In 2024, DG Environment will prepare the **first ESPR work plan**, which will include a prioritisation of products and measures. Preparatory work will continue for **textiles**, linked to the priorities expressed by citizens at the Conference on the Future of Europe. The implementation of the current **Ecodesign Directive** will continue in parallel, in line with the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling working plan for 2022-2024 ⁽¹⁾. Supporting the progress of negotiations on the proposal on **green claims and greenwashing** will help empower consumers that wish to make the right choices to support the green transition.

Another key work strand will be to increase the availability of secondary **Critical Raw Materials** from **recycling** and through **recycled content obligations in new products**, which will ensure a well-functioning EU secondary raw materials market. The new **Batteries Regulation**, which entered in force in August 2023, will drive more sustainable battery design, increasing content of secondary raw materials, improving durability and performance and generating higher collection and recycling rates. The DG will pursue work to give effect to the new measures. The revised **Regulation on Shipments of Waste** will further boost waste recycling while ensuring that EU exports of waste do not damage the environment or public health in third countries. Work will start on an IT system to monitor shipments of waste from the EU to third countries.

⁽¹⁾ For further detail see outputs under Specific Objective 1 in the annex

Supporting co-legislators in the ongoing legislative processes will be important notably for the new measures to ensure **circular design and production of vehicles**, increased recovery of materials, traceability of vehicles for recovery and reuse, and financing of such activities through extended producer responsibility. This will strengthen the **EU's strategic autonomy** and facilitate the green transition of the automotive sector.

The DG will also maintain its engagement in the negotiations on the **Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation**, which aims to prevent packaging waste generation and increase resource efficiency with positive effects for the environment and climate. Negotiations will continue on the targeted revision of the **Waste Framework Directive** to prevent **textile waste** generation and improve EU textile recycling through the introduction of mandatory and harmonised Extended Producer Responsibility schemes, as well as setting **food waste reduction targets**. It will also support the European Parliament and the Council in the legislative process on **microplastics from pellets**.

Enforcement action will continue, focused on the timely and correct **transposition of waste legislation**, in particular the revised Waste Framework and Landfill Directives, as well as the Single Use Plastics Directive. The DG will also monitor the efforts deployed by the Member States to attain waste targets based on a thorough assessment of the national implementation plans, with a view of **promoting compliance** with waste legislation. Enforcement action will be considered, where necessary and taking account of the 2023 Early Warning Report. Evaluation of the **waste acquis** will continue, for instance with the evaluation of the **Waste Electrical and Electronic Directive**  and of the **Ship Recycling Regulation**.

Circular economy will remain a key priority across the DG's **international activities** (see also specific objective 6). DG Environment will contribute to the activities of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE), notably to promote circularity and high environmental standards for extraction in the context of the EU policy on **critical raw materials**. Representing the EU, the DG will promote measures to improve the management of plastic waste, e-waste and batteries under the **Basel Convention** and participate in OECD discussions on a regime applying to shipments of e-waste. It will also prepare the Commission position and represent the EU in the upcoming negotiation sessions for a legally **binding instrument on plastic pollution**.

Mobilising businesses in favour of the green transition will be of the utmost importance for the global competitiveness of EU companies. DG Environment will pursue dialogue with the industry, financial sector and asset managers to highlight risks linked to climate change and environmental degradation and opportunities linked to green transition for a long-term competitive sustainability. The 2024 **Circular economy stakeholders conference** will be organised in cooperation with the Economic and Social Committee, the World Circular Economy Forum and the Belgian Presidency of the Council.

External communication will continue to strengthen the message of Circular Economy as a key enabler of the transition to sustainability, shifting attention towards design and waste prevention, and strengthening links with climate, zero pollution and nature policies.

Specific Objective 2-Biodiversity and natural ecosystems in the EU are put on the path to recovery by stepping up the protection and restoration of nature

The **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (EU BDS)** will continue to guide DG Environment's work to protect and restore nature. The mid-term review of the 8th Environment Action Programme (planned under specific objective 5) will be an opportunity to take stock of progress in implementing the Strategy and of the alignment of EU policies with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Following the agreement reached by the legislators on the **Nature Restoration Law**, the focus has shifted to implementation and supporting national authorities for the development of their **National Nature Restoration Plans**. Efforts will continue to complete the **Natura2000 network** (especially the marine sites), update the lists of **Natura 2000 sites**, establish conservation objectives and measures for the protected areas and provide guidance on the management of the network⁽²⁾.

The DG will also provide further support to national authorities and local stakeholders in view of appropriate solutions for **coexistence with large carnivores**, such as wolves. Following a risk assessment, the DG will propose to add thirty new priority **invasive alien species** to the list of Invasive Alien Species of Union Concern.

Soil and forest ecosystems are crucial to address the climate and biodiversity crises and ultimately ensure the EU's resilience, contributing to food security and disaster prevention. Increasing data availability and knowledge on both ecosystems is of crucial importance for robust policy making and implementation. In 2024, DG Environment will pursue interinstitutional negotiations on the **Soil Monitoring Directive** and work for setting up the **soil health monitoring network**. The legislative process for the **Forest Monitoring** proposal is expected to start in 2024. In 2024, the DG will also develop guidelines on sustainable forest management with a focus on the use of indicators and benchmarks.

At the **global level**, the world continues to lose forests at an alarming rate. Forests harbour more than 80% of terrestrial biodiversity and are essential for the global water cycle; they are important carbon sinks, provide a multitude of ecosystem services, and livelihoods for millions of people around the world. The preparation for the entry into application of the new EU Regulation on **deforestation-free supply chains** in December 2024 will continue to be a key priority, within the EU and in cooperation with global partners, notably in the context of the EU Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Protecting and

⁽²⁾ See 'Other outputs' under Specific objective 2 in the annex

Restoring the World's Forests and other relevant fora. Several EU programmes will help identify technical assistance needs and provide support. As the demand for deforestation-free products is growing globally, the new rules will help protect the world's natural heritage while creating opportunities for sustainable businesses.

Reducing nutrient pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem services is in line with the Global Biodiversity commitment to halve nutrient loss by 2030. This will be pursued through stepping up implementation of the **Nitrates Directive**, which will be evaluated in 2024 making relevant links to zero pollution objectives (Specific Objective 3). Besides reducing pollution, phosphorus and nitrogen need to be better managed as **essential nutrients** for biomass and **food production**. Implementing the revised **EU Pollinators initiative** will also contribute to food security and healthy ecosystems.

Marine biodiversity and habitats will be in focus in 2024 (see relevant information in specific objective 3). The implementation of the **Marine Action Plan**, in collaboration with DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, will support more sustainable fishing practices, reducing the bycatch of sensitive species and limiting damage to the seabed. Work to identify potential areas for **marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction** will also continue.

Compliance with legislation will be promoted with tools such as **Nature dialogues** with Member States, combined with **enforcement action**, for instance with a view to protecting and conserving species and habitats in decline and to implementing key obligations resulting from EU Regulations on Invasive Alien Species and Timber.

At **international level**, the ambitious **Global Biodiversity Framework** (GBF) agreed in December 2022 at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requires swift implementation at domestic and international level. In 2024, the Commission will submit the EU's biodiversity targets to the CBD. DG Environment will steer EU action to achieve operational results in view of the 16th Conference of the Parties and foster global progress on the monitoring framework, resource mobilisation and digital sequence information.

Other biodiversity-related **multilateral agreements** require political attention, including the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Bern Convention on the conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats and multilateral fora on forests. As regards **wildlife trade**, work will focus on the follow-up to the 19th Conference of the Parties to the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)** and the implementation of the revised EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking. In the context of more frequent droughts and water stress, DG Environment will ensure that the EU can bring a strong message to the 16th Conference of Parties of the UN Convention to **Combat Desertification**, in par with the drought challenge the EU is facing.

Biodiversity is our first ally in tackling major issues like climate change, food and water security. DG Environment's work to protect and restore this precious resource will remain a constant feature in the DG's **external communication**, with citizens engaged through the

#ForOurPlanet campaign to raise awareness about the close connections between nature and climate change.

Specific Objective 3-Zero Pollution: Citizens and natural ecosystems are better protected from environmental pressures and risks to health as a result of Europe's zero-pollution ambition and measures for a toxic-free environment

The Zero Pollution Action Plan for air, water and soil, together with the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, have set out an ambitious agenda towards zero pollution, also contributing to halting biodiversity loss.

With **freshwater resources and ecosystems** under severe pressure from human activities, Europe is increasingly suffering from both water scarcity and massive floods that evidence the vulnerability of people, critical infrastructure and key sectors such as agriculture, energy and transport, among others. DG Environment will continue its work towards the achievement of a **Water Resilient Europe by 2050**, in line with the vision presented at the United Nations Water Conference of March 2023. Solid evidence will emanate from the evaluation of the relevant water legislation and key reports on the implementation of the **Water Framework and the Floods directives**, which will assess Member States' progress towards achieving good status across all EU freshwaters and reducing the risk of floods.

These reports will also be the basis to boost implementation, notably through a new work plan for 2024-2026 that will be established together with Member States under the **Common Implementation Strategy** for the Water Framework Directive. Supporting **interinstitutional negotiations** will be crucial to achieve an ambitious agreement on the priority proposals still pending adoption in relation to **water pollutants** and **urban wastewater treatment**. In the context of the **EU's global engagement on water security**, DG Environment will highlight the benefits of the circular economy to reduce water needs and enhance water reuse.

Awareness of the role of the **seas and ocean** in planetary well-being, and of the pressures from human activities, continues to gain traction. In 2024, the DG will finalise the assessment and make recommendations to Member States on their **programmes of measures** under the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)** and conclude the evaluation of this Directive . The DG also represents the EU in the **Regional Sea Conventions**, coordinating the Commission services and Member States to achieve good environmental status across marine regions. Together with DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, it will support implementation of the **Our Baltic Declaration**, to improve the state of this closed sea by reducing pressures from pollution and overfishing.

Air pollution is an important concern, as the number of premature deaths and diseases attributable to air pollution remains high. In 2024, the DG will focus first on the completion of the legislative process on the **Ambient Air Quality Directives** and thereafter proactively engage with Member States to support timely transposition and sound implementation.

Implementation of the revised legislation on **Industrial Emissions** ⁽³⁾ will start, aiming at reducing emissions and boosting resource efficiency across the largest EU agro-industrial processes, whilst supporting transition efforts. Once the legislation is formally adopted, the DG will set-up, together with the Joint Research Centre, the **Innovation Centre for Industrial Transformation and Emissions** (INCITE). Developments will also be launched for a new platform to implement the **Industrial Emissions Portal** Regulation, to help modernise and digitalise reporting linked to industrial emissions.

Enforcement action will prioritise the most serious cases in terms of pollution levels and health impact of infringements to water legislation (notably the key obligations under the Water Framework, Urban Waste Water Treatment and Nitrates), to air quality and to emissions legislation (including pollutants exceedances and monitoring). Ensuring the correct transposition of the Drinking Water Directive and of the Directives related to the operation of industrial installations will be another priority.

Chemicals pollution is a serious global issue that will continue to be tackled under the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. The legislative proposals required to deliver on the 'one substance, one assessment' commitment will enter the interinstitutional process ⁽⁴⁾ and work will continue on the **targeted revision of REACH**, the Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals. Also under negotiation is the revised **Mercury Regulation** to restrict the manufacturing, use and trade of additional mercury-added products, including dental amalgam. Achieving a swift adoption by the co-legislators would reaffirm the **global EU leadership** in tackling the environmental impacts of chemicals. An evaluation of the **Regulation on Prior Informed Consent** (PIC) will be conducted and feed into an impact assessment looking at options to ban the production for export of hazardous substances prohibited in the EU.

At the **international level**, 2024 will see important developments following the 5th International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 5) and the new **global framework 'For a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste'**, including the set-up of a Science to Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and to Combat Pollution. The DG will represent the EU at the **Triple Conferences of the Parties** to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, that will negotiate listing new substances. The listing of chemicals will significantly increase the protection of human health and the environment globally and will improve the level playing field for the EU chemical industry. Implementing the decisions

⁽³⁾ Revised Directive 2010/75/EU on Industrial Emissions and the new Industrial Emissions Portal Regulation

⁽⁴⁾ Three technical proposals were adopted in December 2023, to streamline chemicals data flows (COM(2023) 779), reallocate chemicals work to the EU agencies (COM(2023) 783) and amending the ROHS Directive (COM(2023)781)

taken at the 5th Conference of the Parties to the **Minamata Convention** of November 2023 will help making global progress towards reduced Mercury pollution.

External communication will raise awareness of water issues. In May, **Green Week 2024** will gather interested citizens and stakeholders around the subject **Towards a water resilient Europe**. In collaboration with the European Environment Agency and the Joint Research Centre, DG Environment will deliver an updated **Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook**, assessing the progress made and providing a perspective to 2030, to inform future policy discussions. For the first time, this **stocktaking** will include information from monitoring on chemicals.

Specific Objective 4-Integration: Environmental concerns are integrated, and biodiversity standards mainstreamed, across EU policies, investments and finance, through existing consultation mechanisms and a proactive approach to coordination

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union states that ‘environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union’s policies and activities, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development’ ⁽⁵⁾. **Mainstreaming environmental objectives** into EU policies, legislation and funding programmes is key to **enable the systemic transition** launched by the European Green Deal. Efforts to attain the agreed climate and environmental objectives will remain insufficient unless they are embedded at the heart of economic policy making. The ongoing revision of the **EU’s economic governance** and the coordination of macroeconomic, fiscal and employment policies through the **European Semester** are crucial in this regard.

The **Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment** directives remain crucial instruments for the integration of environmental considerations into Member States programmes and projects and for facilitating public acceptance and the speedy implementation of permitting. Further guidance will be prepared in 2024 to ensure a common understanding and application of these directives. In addition, DG Environment will continue to support the streamlining of **permitting for certain projects** of EU importance (such as renewable energy, critical raw materials and net-zero industrial projects) while making sure that the key safeguards under the *EU acquis* are observed.

Achieving environmental objectives requires **significant investments**, both from public and private sources. With regards to EU funding programmes, the integration of environmental concerns involves, among other, **monitoring investment needs and gaps** to focus EU spending on the most pressing needs. An ongoing assessment of needs and gaps will be completed in 2024. The DG will also track **EU spending on biodiversity**, to ensure it is in line with the inter-institutional agreement ⁽⁶⁾ to allocate at least 7.5% of the

⁽⁵⁾ TFEU Article 11

⁽⁶⁾ [Interinstitutional Agreement](#), OJ L433 I

Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 annual spending to biodiversity objectives in 2024 and 2025 (reaching 10% in 2026 and 2027).

In addition to supporting the green transition, the EU has committed to ensure that other **EU investments do no significant harm** (DNSH). DG Environment will monitor that the DNSH principle is applied in line with the six 'environmental' objectives defined in the **EU Taxonomy Regulation** ⁽⁷⁾. An ongoing fitness check of the **Polluter Pays Principle** will cover issues such as indirectly paying the polluter through environmentally harmful subsidies, or failing to apply the principle in the context of EU funds. Assisting relevant services and Member States throughout the planning and implementation of EU spending instruments will remain a central task. The DG will also propose a methodology for Member States to identify and report on **Environmental Harmful Subsidies**.

Achieving the EU's international commitments, notably under the Global Biodiversity Framework, will be a priority in 2024 and largely depend on the integration of water consumption, biodiversity, air, water and soil pollution concerns into **agriculture**. DG Environment will collaborate in the upcoming **structural dialogue with the farming community** announced by the President in her 2023 State of the Union Speech, to support the resilience of natural ecosystems through restoration and sustainable land management. The DG will also continue to support the transition to **sustainable farming** through integrating environmental protection considerations into the Common Agricultural Policy.

The integration of environmental concerns into the **energy transition** will be key to ensure pragmatic and sustainable solutions. In 2024, the environmental dimension of the climate 2040 target plan and EU Climate risk assessment will also be a priority, to strengthen synergies and limit trade-offs.

The **LIFE programme** will continue supporting environmental policy objectives, since 2023 also in third countries. The association agreements signed with Iceland, Ukraine, Moldova and North Macedonia will be implemented, and possible further association agreements will be negotiated on demand. Informal contacts took place with Türkiye, Albania, and Montenegro. The evaluation of the 2014-2020 programme will conclude in 2024, as will a mid-term evaluation of the current cycle (2020-2027); both feeding into the next multiannual budget programming.

DG Environment will continue to raise awareness on EU funding possibilities with online workshops and tools such as [Find your EU Funding for the Environment](#). To support both Member States and project promoters/stakeholders, the DG will continue to deploy **GreenASSIST**, the *Green Advisory Service for Sustainable Investments Support* initiative funded by the LIFE programme and implemented with support by CINEA. The goal is to increase the pipeline of projects supporting environmental policies and to green other projects through complementarities/synergies with other available EU technical assistance tools.

⁽⁷⁾ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Private finance is also essential for the green transition. Following the adoption of the Taxonomy Delegated Act on Environment, work on **sustainable finance** will continue, with DG Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, other core DGs and the European Environment Agency. Collaboration will also continue on the European Sustainability Reporting Standards, covering all sustainability areas. The Platform on Sustainable Finance will develop criteria for selected economic activities contributing to environment objectives, thereby expanding the EU Taxonomy. Promoting EU sustainable finance approach in its environmental dimensions will remain of strategic importance, as key **global partners** are developing their own taxonomy rules.

Specific Objective 5-Governance: There is an enabling framework for implementation based on strong governance and enforcement action, supported by advanced knowledge and digital technologies, close collaboration with cities and citizens' engagement

As set out in the EU Treaties, coordination of EU environmental action is ensured through Environment Action Programmes. In 2024, the DG will review the implementation of the current **8th Environment Action Programme** (8EAP). Building on a monitoring framework adopted in 2022 in agreement with the Member States, this mid-term review will assess progress towards the achievement of the 8EAP priority objectives and long-term vision.

The fitness-check of the **Polluter Pays Principle** will be finalised in 2024, responding inter alia to calls by the European Court of Auditors to reinforce this principle. A stronger application of the Polluter Pays Principle should contribute to **environmental fairness**, ensuring that polluters pay for the environmental damage they cause, its remediation and costs for society. The evaluation of the **Environmental Liability Directive** will be also finalised in 2024.

Environmental governance rights including access to documents and environmental information, empower citizens and their organisations to enforce environmental laws as an indispensable complement to the public enforcement efforts. Since April 2023, the **scope of persons who can request a review** of a decision made by EU institutions has broadened. DG Environment will work with DG Competition on how to deal with the specific case of the internal review of State aid decisions.

Building on the 2022 **Environment Implementation Review (EIR)** and its country-specific assessments, the DG will prepare an overview of transposition and implementation of EU law, with the objective of fostering timely compliance by Member States, while in parallel reinforcing the technical discussions with Member States on the key EIR recommendations.

Support to Member States will also continue through the **Environmental Compliance and Governance Forum** which provides a platform for strategic discussions, sharing of good

practices and development of practical tools to facilitate compliance assurance. The cooperation with networks of environmental enforcement practitioners will continue across the EU and ensure coherence between policy-making and work on the ground. The revised **Environmental Crime Directive** will help strengthen environmental protection. The [environmental infringements interactive map](#) established in 2022 will be regularly updated, contributing to the visibility of enforcement efforts and raising citizens' awareness of EU action to protect them. Finally, good environmental governance will be systematically promoted in **cooperation with third countries**, with a special focus placed on EU Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates.

In the context of the Commission's commitment to reduce **reporting obligations** by 25%, DG Environment is preparing a plan to simplify and rationalise the reporting requirements and reduce related burden on businesses and/or national administrations, without undermining the policy objectives. The plan will include a list of concrete measures planned for 2024 and beyond such as the initiative to streamline reporting on major accident hazards involving dangerous substances under Seveso III , or the transfer of reporting obligations for Natura 2000 to Reportnet 3.0, the new e-Reporting platform for reporting environmental and climate data to the European Environment Agency. Identifying potential for streamlining reporting will be a key aim across evaluations ⁽⁸⁾. DG Environment will continue exploring the use of **digital technologies** for direct monitoring and reporting, as part of the impact assessment of the Green Data for All' initiative, including the possibility to harvest open data to relieve reporting obligations.

In close cooperation with the European Environment Agency, the Joint Research Centre and Eurostat, DG Environment will continue developing a strong **knowledge base** and ensuring that research and innovation support the environmental priorities of the European Green Deal. In its role as co-chair of cluster 6 of **Horizon Europe** (Food, natural resources, bioeconomy, agriculture and environment), the DG will co-create the Strategic Plan 2025-2027 and future work programmes, partnerships and specific **missions** on Cities, Soil, Climate change and Ocean. DG Environment is co-responsible for the allocation of the budget (EUR 8.9 billion over 7 years), with environmental policies directly supported with at least EUR 326 million for biodiversity; EUR 327 million for circular economy and EUR 141 million for zero pollution from Cluster 6, work programme 2023-2024.

The DG will also continue to support the uptake of sustainability impact measurement and valuation methods by businesses and their stakeholders whilst exploring options to help overcome related data challenges, notably for Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Environmental action continues to be of particular importance in **urban areas** where more than 70% of EU citizens live. Cities have an important role in tackling environmental challenges and helping to improve implementation at local level. In that regard, the **Green City Accord** (GCA) is mobilising cities to achieve cleaner, greener, healthier and more resilient environments, with a focus on air, noise, water, nature and biodiversity, circular

⁽⁸⁾ As notably reflected in the Commission Work Programme, annex II, Section C for the evaluations of legislation on Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment, Bathing Water and Marine Strategy Framework and Nitrates. It will be taken into consideration also within the Polluter Pays Principle fitness check.

economy and waste. Cities are also encouraged to compete for the **European Green Capital** and **Leaf awards**, which reward respectively bigger and smaller cities for their commitment to environmental sustainability.

Finally, 2024 will see the consolidation of the DG's **Communication Strategy 2030**, which ensures that external communication efforts are aligned with the main environmental priorities under the European Green Deal. This approach will be deployed through social media, outreach to traditional media, and greater use of corporate channels, along with more systematic cooperation with related services. The monthly **Euronews** televised magazine will continue to showcase the positive changes delivered by the European Green Deal across the different strands of the environment policy portfolio. In spring, **Green Week 2024** will combine a 2-day high-level conference in Brussels with 100s of locally organised partner events across the EU. Particular attention will be given to positioning positive stories about the impact of the European Green Deal, including the potential for creating green jobs.

Specific Objective 6-International: Global uptake of the environmental objectives of the European Green Deal is stimulated through participation in multilateral agreements, institutions and fora, EU accession negotiations, engagement with third countries and trade

With the implementation of the European Green Deal as a top priority, strong interaction and new partnerships with third countries will continue to ensure that progress made in the EU is not offset by **pressures on the environment emanating from third countries**, while promoting greater understanding of EU action to reduce its **global environmental footprint** ⁽⁹⁾.

The world is focusing on short term crises to the detriment of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, while poverty and inequalities persist. Given the magnitude and urgency of the triple crisis, strong multilateral action and governance will be necessary. DG Environment will coordinate action to ensure ambitious results at the **6th United Nations Environment Assembly** (UNEA-6), notably to enhance circular economy and promote action on the water-ecosystems-food-energy nexus in a changing climate, as well as to contribute to the outcomes of the **Summit of the Future** in autumn 2024 and more coherence and cooperation between **Multilateral Environmental Agreements**. Contributing to reach an agreement on a new binding instrument on plastics and implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework will be another focus (as described under specific objectives 1 and 2).

⁽⁹⁾ See relevant information under Specific Objectives 1, 2, 3 on limiting the external impacts notably of waste and chemicals as well as efforts under the new Deforestation-free supply chains Regulation.

Throughout the year, technical cooperation with the **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP) and other relevant partners will address global **priority issues** such as geoengineering and critical raw materials.

With **unsustainable consumption and production** as key driver of the triple crisis, the global promotion of the circular economy will remain a priority, as the basis of a green global economic recovery, but also in terms of preventing potential new conflicts over **raw materials**. The work on better resource management will contribute to achieving better recognition of the **root causes of conflict, disasters and displacement** linked to environmental degradation such as droughts and water shortage, depletion of and illicit trade in key natural resources.

The **policy dialogue on water** will be intensified specially with **China, India and Egypt**. The implementation of the conclusions of the Interactive Dialogue “Water for Sustainable Development” and of the Water Action Agenda following the UN 2023 Water Conference will be very relevant, linked to the increasing EU concern on water resilience (see Specific Objective 3 on zero pollution).

DG Environment will also contribute to the **UN Global Soil Partnership** to bring the European Green Deal pioneering work on soil to global level and will continue to strengthen the environmental profile of the **G7/G20**, with the Brazilian Presidency of G20 offering opportunities for linking the work on **Circular economy and Bioeconomy**.

With DG Trade, the DG will aim to further strengthen the **trade-environment interface** in support of responsible and sustainable value chains at the World Trade Organisation and in other multilateral fora. The highest standards of environmental protection need to be upheld in **EU Free Trade Agreements**.

Supporting the European Green Deal will be the focus also of **bilateral and regional cooperation**. Enhanced assistance and support will be provided to **Ukraine** through the **PHOENIX dialogues** and other forms of cooperation in view of the environmental damage caused by the Russian war of aggression and the future reconstruction and recovery efforts, notably promoting environmental protection and Bauhaus inspired reconstruction projects. Cooperation with other Commission services on the **Ukraine Plan** will be enhanced, and the support will be provided to the **High-Level Working Group on the Environmental Consequences of the War**.

The DG will provide strong support to **Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia** as potential EU **accession candidate status**, to improve their readiness to assume the obligations stemming from the environmental *acquis*. It will also help **Albania** and **North Macedonia**, as well as other candidate and potential candidate countries.

In line with the Commission’s political priorities, the DG will continue its strong engagement with **African countries** and the **African Union**, launching green initiatives in cooperation with the DG for International Partnerships and the European External Action Service. At continental level, active engagement will continue in the context of the **African**

Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the **African Circular Economy Alliance**. With regards to the **Southern Neighbourhood** countries, work will notably focus on the implementation of the Green Partnership with Morocco, and the follow-up to the conclusion of the EU-Egypt Water Partnership, as well cooperation through the **Union for the Mediterranean**.

Green Deal Diplomacy initiatives and high-level dialogues on the broader environment agenda will continue with **key countries and regions**. In 2024, engagement through dialogue and technical cooperation will continue in particular with the **United States** through the Department of State, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Trade and Technology Council. Work with **Canada** will focus on the operationalisation of the Green Alliance. With **India**, cooperation will focus on priority areas such as resource efficiency and water. Cooperation will be strengthened with Latin America and Caribbean countries, notably **Brazil** but also **Colombia** and **Chile**. Special emphasis will continue to be put on the protection of the **Amazon basin**. Cooperation with relevant countries and Commission services on the **Mercosur agreement** will be pursued in view of ensuring that environmental safeguards are met.

Close engagement will continue with **China**, especially on technical issues linked to the transition to a circular economy and on deforestation. Relations with the **Republic of Korea** will be pursued in the context of the 2023 Green Partnership, while work with **Japan** will concentrate on implementing the Green Alliance. Bilateral relations with Southeast Asian countries, notably **Indonesia**, **Malaysia** and **Vietnam** will focus on the application of the **EU deforestation regulation**.

PART 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for 2024

The internal control framework ⁽¹⁰⁾ supports sound management and decision-making. It notably ensures that risks to the achievement of objectives are taken into account and reduced to acceptable levels through cost-effective controls.

DG Environment established an internal control system tailored to its particular characteristics and circumstances. The effective functioning of the service's internal control system will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the year and be subject to a specific annual assessment covering all internal control principles.

A. Human resource management

DG Environment shoulders a substantial responsibility for the implementation of the European Green Deal and the legislative developments required to put Europe on the green transition path. The pressure to deliver was recognized by the Commission with several decisions to reinforce the staff levels. The DG will continue to communicate its staffing needs regularly to the central services, to ensure a coherent corporate approach and full awareness of its manpower requirements.

The DG is committed to an effective human resources management, optimising its capacity to deliver on priorities and at the same time keeping the wellbeing of its staff at the core of its HR policy. In 2024, the focus will be on the following areas: wellbeing and work-life balance; a collaborative and modern workplace; high levels of staff engagement and timely recruitment of experts in line with evolving DG needs. An AD6 competition launched in 2022 to benefit DG Environment is expected to finalise by summer 2024.

The DG will continue to offer useful support and tailor-made programmes in the field of learning and development to help staff to develop skills and knowledge that contribute not only to the DG's work but also to personal development. Promoting mobility intra and outside the DG will allow staff to renew motivation and work in areas where they can best put their talents to use. In the last year of the mandate, **internal communication** activities will be geared towards creating a sense of collective agency, with activities around the key message 'Proud of what we have achieved'.

In the field of **equal opportunities**, and concerning the first female appointments in middle management positions, the Commission adopted targets for first female appointments to middle management during 2023-2024. DG Environment did not have a specific target assigned for that period. However, in 2024 it will continue to observe gender balance during the recruitment process, with a particular focus on 1st appointments in management positions. The DG will ensure that, when possible, both female and male

⁽¹⁰⁾ [Communication C\(2017\)2373 - Revision of the Internal Control Framework](#)

candidates will be shortlisted for interviews, and will actively encourage both female and male colleagues to participate in corporate or local management programs and trainings.

Specific outputs are defined in the performance tables in annex.

B. Sound financial management

DG Environment aims at **sound and efficient management** of its financial resources, maintaining effective internal control, risk management and accounting systems.

The **LIFE Programme 2021-27** benefited from a significant increase in the Multiannual Financial Framework of 55% when compared to the previous programming period, and additional increases have been voted in Parliament in the last three years. DG Environment ensures close collaboration with and supervision of the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)**, which implements around 85% of the LIFE Programme 2021-27, as well as the legacy of the previous LIFE programme.

The remaining funds (ca. 120 MEUR per year) are administered directly by DG Environment, mostly through **direct management**, with also a few actions implemented in indirect management mode. The type of expenditure is varied: payments concern procurement, contributions to the European Environment Agency and the European Chemicals Agency, grants and contribution agreements with international organisations. The **risk of payment-related errors is considered very low**, in view of the nature of payments, the ex-ante controls in place and the historical error rates observed.

In 2024, DG Environment will lead the preparation of the **LIFE Multiannual Work Programme and Financing Decision for the period 2025-2027**, in collaboration with the other LIFE implementing partners (DGs CLIMA and ENER). These will require a thorough planification of the financial needs, and significant coordination across services, also with CINEA.

New IT tools will continue impacting working methods, workflows and training needs, with the roll out of **SUMMA** set now from the beginning of 2025 and the gradual introduction from 2024 on of the **My Workplace** platform which will be the sole corporate IT tool for procurement.

Further outputs are defined in the performance tables in annex.

DG Environment control systems are primarily audited by the **Internal Audit Service**. The **European Court of Auditors** (ECA) also performs checks of financial transactions and of the accounts for the annual budget discharge.

C. Fraud risk management

DG Environment's **Anti-Fraud Strategy (AFS)** applied to the period 2020-2023 for all types of expenditure as well as non-spending activities. In 2024, DG Environment will focus on the following actions:

1. Revising the current AFS for the coming three years in the light of the recently revised action plan of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS).
2. Keeping a good channel of cooperation and regular exchanges with CINEA to inform and discuss about budget implementation on a need-to-know basis, and to fight against fraud and irregularities.
3. Supervision and follow up of alleged fraud cases and cooperation in tackling them jointly, when appropriate, with OLAF, the European Public Prosecutors Office and the CINEA.
4. Reporting timely to OLAF on the follow up of recoveries and other measures/actions stemming from OLAF recommendations and monitoring the implementation of financial and non-financial OLAF recommendations.
5. Providing training and information on anti-fraud matters for DG Environment staff dealing with budget implementation and/or for LIFE beneficiaries in cooperation with CINEA.

DG Environment's anti-fraud objectives and actions, established in the action plan, are in the process of being aligned with the objectives and actions of the current Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy.

D. Digital transformation and information management

Digital transformation

Work will continue to enhance the DG data and **DECLARE** platforms to support the collection and automatic validation of reporting data and other information exchanges related to environmental policies and legislation. This will include continued investments in relevant cloud platforms. Additional efforts will be made to raise awareness and provide services to policy units on data analysis and data visualization products.

A key priority in 2024 will be the delivery of the **Due Diligence Statements (DDS)** information system, required to implement the **Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)**. The system will allow Competent Authorities and private operators to comply with their obligations to submit and review the electronic DDS before importing, exporting or placing on the EU market the monitored deforestation-free products.

Once the revised **Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR)** is adopted by the co-legislators, the technical requirements for the interoperable digital solution for authorities and the private sector in and outside the EU will be completed. Additional specifications will focus on the

interoperability with other networks such as Electronic Freight Transport Information (eFTI) platforms and the EU Customs Single Window (CERTEx).

In 2024 the DG will continue to support the deployment and standardization of the **Digital Product Passport (DPP)**; also exploring potential new services and applications of the DPP for the benefit of businesses and citizens.

A **cloud** lift-and-shift on most of the DG datacentre-deployed applications will ensure legacy reduction and enable future evolution as needed. EUDR will need particular attention, given the expected volume of users and transactions, in the hundreds of millions a year.

In the context of the **Green Deal Data Space**, in collaboration with DG Communication Networks, Content and Technology, DG Environment will leverage grant-funding mechanisms from the **Digital Europe Programme** to set-up **a market of digital solutions** to assist stakeholders towards complying with Green Deal-related requirements. The DG will also continue exploring how to bring environmental data into the **Green Deal Data Space**, including potentially through the revision of the **INSPIRE** Directive ⁽¹¹⁾. In the context of the **GreenData4All** initiative, the overall objective will be to revise the legislative framework to unlock the full benefits of data sharing for data-driven innovation and evidence-based decisions.

Information and IT security rules

Compliance with the corporate IT security rules and standards will be monitored both at the level of the DG and its processes as well as for each information system.

Cyberawareness campaigns will be promoted, and specific sessions will be proposed to senior management and information systems system owners.

Data, information and knowledge management

In 2024, DG Environment will focus on integrating **corporate requirements** within the existing DG data, information and knowledge governance, based on the conclusions of a stock taking exercise discussed and adopted by the DG senior management in 2023.

In 2024, regular meetings of the renewed group of Data, Information and Knowledge (DIKM) correspondents will continue to take place to discuss **strategic aspects** and new initiatives, looking in particular at potential solutions for information currently ungoverned, how to handle new data flows and how to maximise the potential and reach of existing information management tools.

As regards **records management**, the objectives defined in the DG Strategic Plan will continue to be pursued, in line with user needs and taking account of the corporate

⁽¹¹⁾ Directive 2007/02/EC on an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe

eDomec, personal data protection and information security rules. Furthermore, the DG will continue raising awareness about the need to protect Sensitive-Non-Classified information by the use of appropriate markings. In line with the Digital Preservation strategy's action plan DG Environment will continue transferring remaining paper and electronic archives to the Commission's Historical Archives for permanent preservation in compliance with applicable rules.

Data protection

Further steps will be taken to raise awareness and ensure full compliance with the **Personal Data Protection** Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. In line with internal procedures, the DG Data Protection Coordinator will be consulted in case of data subject rights request and the DG's Controllers will be asked to document their processing operations. An inventory of external processors agreements has been established and kept up to date.

Local training and coaching sessions on records management, personal data protection and information security will continue to be organised. Particular attention will be given to the correct use of the sensitive personal data flag for documents registered in Ares. The DG will also encourage staff participation in Commission's centrally organised in-depth trainings. IT Security will feature prominently in the operation of all existing information systems, ensuring follow-up on the risk assessments and their security plans.

(Detail of outputs is provided in the performance tables in annex).

E. Sound environmental management

DG Environment will continue implementing the local **EMAS action plan** adopted in 2019. Raising awareness and providing staff with adequate equipment to reduce their footprint at work are at the core of this plan.

In 2024, the DG will further exploit the environmental management possibilities offered by the **dynamic collaborative space**. To achieve a greener working place, actions will focus on three main working strands: 1) waste reduction and recycling, 2) a fully paperless office, and 3) promoting the use of tap water. With regards to missions, the DG will continue opting for virtual meetings, wherever appropriate.

To help reduce the Commission's digital footprint, DG Environment will also aim to reduce even more the number of documents exchanged internally by e-mail, by promoting document sharing on the **SIFC platform** (new SharePoint). Actions regarding digital clean-up and electronic archiving are ongoing.

The corporate work on greening the Commission's procurement, launched in 2020, was finalised in 2022 and provided an updated Public Procurement Vademecum that includes **sustainability aspects**. DG Environment actively promotes greening its procurement by

including sustainability aspects in its procurement procedures, while also looking to increase the number of procedures using green award criteria.

In line with the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), event organisers and partners are encouraged to use environmentally friendly materials before and during the event, respecting the paperless and plastic-free guidance (see also the EMAS outputs defined in the performance tables in annex).

F. Initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities


As a result of the European Green Deal, the number of new and updated environmental Directives and Regulations that member States will need to transpose and implement (following the adoption of proposals by the co-legislators) is exceptionally high. This also requires an increased monitoring effort for DG Environment.

The **radar screen** put in place in 2023 will be completed and help monitor how key legal acts are transposed and implemented. It will allow to identify Member States in need of guidance, financial and technical support for the transposition of newly adopted Directives. After the expiration of the transposition period, the radar screen will help to prepare for targeted enforcement action.

The aim is to make enforcement action more targeted and even possibly reduce the future need for enforcement, the latter depending on Member States' implementation efforts. The efficiency gains of this initiative will need to be assessed over several years.


Annex: Performance tables - main outputs for 2024

Part 1 - Delivering on the Commission's priorities

The tables below list the main outputs that DG Environment plans to deliver in 2024 to attain its specific objectives. Initiatives that re part of the 2024 Commission work programme are marked with the icon .

General objective: A European Green Deal		
Specific Objective 1: Circular Economy: <i>The EU economy is more circular and uses natural resources and products more sustainably</i>		
<i>Related to spending programmes ⁽¹²⁾: LIFE, Horizon Europe</i>		
Main outputs in 2024:		
Evaluations and fitness checks		
Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluation of Regulation (EU) No 1257/2013 on ship recycling	Staff Working Document published	2024 Q2
 Evaluation of Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment	Staff Working Document published	2024 Q3
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of the Single Use Plastics directive: Guidelines under on the cost of cleaning-up litter	Guidelines adopted by the Commission	2024 Q4

⁽¹²⁾ Horizon Europe has been added as related to this objective following the enhanced role assumed by DG Environment's in the implementation of the Programme as co-chair of Cluster 6, Food, natural resources, bioeconomy, agriculture and environment.

Output	Indicator	Target
 Priority pending proposals ⁽¹³⁾ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal for a Regulation on circularity requirements for vehicles design and end-of-life management - Proposal amending the framework Directive on waste - food and textiles aspects - Proposal for a Directive on substantiating environmental claims - Proposal for a Regulation on packaging and packaging waste 	Progress/adoption by the colegislators	2024
Batteries and Waste batteries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amendment of Decision 2000/532/EC on the list of waste as regards battery and battery-related waste streams - Guidance on removability and replaceability of portable batteries and Light Means of Transport (LMT) batteries - Delegated Act laying down available for collection methodology regarding the calculation of collection rates of waste portable batteries and waste LMT batteries and adaptation of collection targets to the new methodology 	Decision adopted by the Commission Guidance adopted by the Commission	2024 Q3 2024 Q4
Commission review and report on waste data	Report adopted by the Commission	2024 Q4
New binding international agreement on plastic pollution (4th and 5th Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee)	Preparation of EU positions and participation in the negotiations	2024 Q2 and Q4
Circular Economy Stakeholders Conference	Conference organised	2024 Q2
World Circular Economy Forum 2024, Brussels	Contribution to the organisation and participation in the event	2024 Q3

⁽¹³⁾ The list includes proposals led by DG Environment that were announced as priority proposals in annex III of the 2024 Commission Work Programme and that were pending agreement by the co-legislators at end 2023


General objective: A European Green Deal

Specific Objective 2: Biodiversity and natural ecosystems in the EU are put on the path to recovery by stepping up the protection and restoration of nature

Related to spending programmes ⁽¹⁴⁾: LIFE; Horizon Europe

Main outputs in 2024:

Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
 Evaluation of the Nitrates Directive	Staff Working Document published	2024 Q4

External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Conference on the 3billion trees pledge	Number of attendees in person and online	150
'ForOurPlanet' campaign (part 2)	Engagements	15k

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
 Priority pending proposals ⁽¹⁵⁾ Proposal for a Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience	Progress/adoption by the colegislators	2024
Update of Union list of Invasive Alien Species Commission implementing Regulation	Implementing Regulation adopted by the Commission	2024 Q4
Natura 2000 guidance on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The general system of protection of bird species under the Birds Directive - Fishing activities - Climate change - Tourism 	Three Commission notices adopted / Staff Working Document published (on Tourism)	2024 Q4

⁽¹⁴⁾ Horizon Europe has been added as related to this objective following the enhanced role assumed by DG Environment's in the implementation of the Programme as co-chair of Cluster 6, Food, natural resources, bioeconomy, agriculture and environment.

⁽¹⁵⁾ This list includes only proposals adopted before October 2023 and announced in annex III of the 2024 Commission Work Programme. In 2024, DG Environment is also following negotiations on a more recent proposal for a Regulation on a Forest Monitoring Framework

Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein –Implementing Regulation 865/2006 laying down detailed implementation rules - Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 792/2012 laying down the rules for the design of permits, certificates and other documents	Two implementing Regulations adopted by the Commission	2024 Q3
Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16) - Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCE COP16)	Preparation of EU input and participation in the event	2024 Q4



General objective: A European Green Deal

Specific Objective 3: Zero Pollution: Citizens and natural ecosystems are better protected from environmental pressures and risks to health as a result of Europe's zero-pollution ambition and measures for a toxic-free environment

Related to spending programmes ⁽¹⁶⁾: LIFE; Horizon Europe

Main outputs in 2024:

Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
 Evaluation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive	Staff Working Document published	2024 Q2
 Evaluation of the Bathing Water Directive	Staff Working Document published	2024 Q2


Public consultations

Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluation of Directive (EU) 2016/2284 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants	Public consultation launched	2024 Q3

⁽¹⁶⁾ Horizon Europe has been added as related to this objective following the enhanced role assumed by DG Environment's in the implementation of the Programme as co-chair of Cluster 6, Food, natural resources, bioeconomy, agriculture and environment.

External communication actions		
Output	Indicator	Target
Communication campaign on water resilience	Indicators to be developed	Spring 2024
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
 Priority pending proposals ⁽¹⁷⁾ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal for a Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (recast) - Proposal for a Directive concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast) - Proposal amending water legislation on surface and groundwater pollutants - Proposal for a Regulation on mercury 	Progress/adoption by the colegislators	2024
Zero Pollution Monitoring stocktaking 2024	Publication	2024 Q4
Fourth Clean Air Outlook	Publication	2024 Q4
Report on the Implementation of the Water Framework and the Floods Directive	Report adopted by the Commission	2024 Q2
Report on the assessment of the programme of measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD-Article 16) and guidance for the Member States	Report adopted by the Commission	2024 Q2
Commission Notice on threshold values set under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC and Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848	Notice adopted by the Commission	2024 Q2
Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/741 on Water reuse with regard to technical specifications for the development of risk management plans	Delegated Regulation adopted by the Commission	2024 Q1

⁽¹⁷⁾ This list includes proposals led by DG Environment that were announced as priority proposals in annex III of the 2024 Commission Work Programme and that, by end 2023, were pending agreement by the co-legislators. The DG will follow the negotiation on additional proposals adopted in December 2023 to streamline chemicals data flows (COM(2023) 779), reallocate chemicals work to the EU agencies (COM(2023) 783) and amending the ROHS Directive (COM(2023)781)

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Delegated Decision establishing a methodology to measure microplastics in water intended for human consumption (Art 21 of the DWD)	Adoption by the Commission	2024 Q2
 Commission Implementing Decision establishing the format for communicating information from Member States on the implementation of Directive 2012/18/EU (Seveso III)	Decision adopted by the Commission	2024 Q2

General objective: A European Green Deal

Specific Objective 4: Integration: Environmental concerns are integrated, and biodiversity standards mainstreamed, across EU policies, investments and finance, through existing consultation mechanisms and a proactive approach to coordination

Related to spending programme(s): LIFE

Main outputs in 2024:

Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluation of the LIFE Programme 2014-2020	Staff Working Document published	2024 Q1
Mid-term evaluation of the LIFE programme 2021-2027	Staff Working Document published	2024 Q4

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Guidance document for reporting of non-energy Environmentally Harmful Subsidies	Guidance document published	2024 Q1
Investment needs programme update, including an update of investment needs, the financing baseline and the financing gap, improving granularity and comprehensiveness	Annual update completed	2024 Q4

General objective: A European Green Deal

Specific Objective 5: There is an enabling framework for implementation based on strong governance and enforcement action, supported by advanced knowledge and digital technologies, close collaboration with cities and citizens' engagement


Related to spending programme(s): LIFE

Main outputs in 2024:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
8th Environment Action Programme – Mid-term Review	Adoption by the Commission	2024 Q1

Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
 Fitness check of how the Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) is applied to the environment	Publication of Staff Working Document	2024 Q2
Evaluation of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) for the period 2017-2021	Publication of Staff Working Document	2024 Q1
Evaluation of Directive 2004/35/CE on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage	Publication of Staff Working Document	2024 Q2

External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Green Week 2024	Number of participants onsite and online	500 onsite and min. 2000 online
Euronews "The Road to Green", monthly televised magazine	Monthly viewers	Baseline to be established after Season 1

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Guidance document regarding the term 'plans and programmes' in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive	Adoption by the Commission	2024 Q4
Update of Guidance on Access to justice in environmental matters	Adoption by the Commission	2024 Q4
Adoption of the LIFE multiannual work programme for the years 2025 to 2027	Adoption by the Commission	2024 Q4

General objective: A European Green Deal

Specific Objective 6: International: *Global uptake of the environmental objectives of the European Green Deal is stimulated through participation in multilateral agreements, institutions and fora, EU accession negotiations, engagement with third countries and trade*

Related to spending programme(s): LIFE

Main outputs in 2024:

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
6th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly – UNEA6	Preparation of EU input to and participation in the event	2024 Q1
EU-UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High-Level Meeting and policy dialogues - Open-Ended Committee Annual Subcommittee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP,	Preparation of EU input to and participation in the event	2024 Q1-Q4
UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) - ministerial segment 15-17 July	Preparation of EU input to and participation in the event	2024 Q3
G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministerial	Preparation of EU input to and participation in the event	2024 Q2
G20 Environment and Climate Ministerial	Preparation of EU input to and participation in the event	2024 Q4

Part 2 – Modernising the administration

A. Human resource management

Objective: DG Environment employs a competent and engaged workforce and contributes to gender equality at all levels of management to effectively deliver on the Commission’s priorities and core business.

Main outputs in 2024:

Output	Indicator	Target
Team events organised at all levels (unit, Directorate, DG level)	Staff participation in team events	At least 40% of all staff participate in at least one team event
Learning & Development courses targeting specific needs of the DG	Satisfaction with the specific courses offered to DG staff	Satisfaction rate with L&D offers above 70%
Management appointments closely monitored to ensure gender balance	Overall balanced gender appointments	50% of female managers in the DG
Shortlists for first management appointments including female candidates, as much as possible	Relative proportion of male and female candidates in shortlists	Gender balance in shortlists for first management appointments
Specific competition in the field of environment (EPSO/AD/401)	Number of laureates in the reserve list	45 laureates

B. Sound financial management

Objective: The authorising officer by delegation has reasonable assurance that resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and that cost-effective controls are in place which give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of underlying transactions.

Main outputs in 2024:

Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: Legal and regular transactions	Estimated risk at payment	remains < 2% of relevant expenditure
	Estimated risk at closure	remains < 2% of relevant expenditure
Efficient controls	Budget execution and timely payments	Execution remains > 99% and close to 100% both for commitments and payment appropriations, while payments become > 97% of payments (in value) on time
Effective controls: safeguarding of assets	Number of security incidents confirmed by the CSIRC	0
Effective controls: safeguarding of assets	Number of personal data breaches with risk to the rights and freedoms of the data subjects	0
Economy of controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	remains < 5% of funds managed

C. Fraud risk management

Objective: The risk of fraud is minimised through the application of effective anti-fraud measures and the implementation of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS) ⁽¹⁸⁾ aimed at the prevention, detection and correction ⁽¹⁹⁾ of fraud.

Main outputs in 2024:

Output	Indicator	Target
Review of DG ENV anti-fraud strategy	Updated anti-fraud strategy	2024 Q3
Systematic cooperation with CINEA to fight against fraud and irregularities	Meetings between DG Environment and CINEA with a focus on fraud related matters and anti-fraud actions, as well as addressing irregularities (DG Environment facilitation of enforced recoveries)	Throughout the year At least two coordination meetings to be held during the first and second semester
Supervision of potential fraudulent cases and cooperation in tackling them jointly (DG Environment, Legal Service, OLAF, European Public Prosecutor's Office and CINEA)	Meetings with OLAF and with the EPPO and subsequent follow-up of the identified issues	Throughout the year
Training and information on anti-fraud matters	Organisation of workshop(s) Inclusion of training / information in Newcomers' courses	1 workshop to be organised with OLAF
Reporting to OLAF on the state of play of implementation of both financial and non-financial recommendations	Written contributions	One contribution at the beginning of the year on the state of play of recoveries on the basis of fraud and one contribution at the end of the year on any administrative and financial penalties

⁽¹⁸⁾ [Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy Action plan - revision 2023 COM\(2023\) 405 of 11 July 2023](#) – 'the Communication on the 2023 revision' – and the accompanying document, [SWD\(2023\) 245](#) – 'the revised Action Plan'.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Correction of fraud is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.

D. Digital transformation and information management

Objective: DG Environment is using innovative, trusted digital solutions for better policy-shaping, information management and administrative processes to forge a truly digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven Commission

Main outputs in 2024:

Output	Indicator	Target
Digital-Ready EU policymaking Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR): Implementing Act for the future EU-wide system for electronic data interchange (EDI)	Available	End 2024
Green Data for All: impact assessment report on a possible revision of the rules on environmental data sharing	Available	End 2024
Business-driven Digital Transformation EUDR (Deforestation regulation) system available in production	Available	End 2024
Ensuring IT security follow-up in all our systems	Percentage of DG information systems having an approved security plan less than 2-years old IT priority controls are attested and compliant	100% 100%
Digital Culture Increase staff awareness on cybersecurity	Percentage of - senior management and system owners having followed cybersecurity training - staff having following corporate online cybersecurity training	100% 100%
Seamless Digital Environment Keeping up to date the ENV data and reporting obligations catalogue under the platform "Declare"	Available	2024 Q2
Implementation of the corporate principles for data governance for the DG Environment key data assets	Percentage of implementation of the corporate principles for data governance for DG Environment key data assets	85%
Assessment of Information Systems with a view to identify potential for decommissioning	Percentage of DG information systems with a preservation assessment	70% (100% at the end of the mandate)
Implementation of new guidelines for optimal usage of data, information and knowledge management in the DG	Key stakeholders having followed data related training	10 key stakeholders

Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of the DG Data, Information and Knowledge Management Action plan	Tasks accomplished and monitoring progress	Throughout the year
Increase staff awareness	Data protection awareness communication sent to staff	1
	Percentage of DG Environment staff having received information on data protection	100%
	General data protection events organised	1
	Percentage of DG Environment data controllers having followed training	100%

E. Sound environmental management

Objective: DG Environment takes account of the environmental impact of its day-to-day actions, taking measures to reduce the impact of the administration work, supported by their respective EMAS Correspondents or EMAS Site Coordinators.

Main outputs in 2024:

I. Reducing emissions from staff and expert' business travel and reducing CO2 and other atmospheric emissions

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline, as appropriate)
Analysis of DG/service's missions' trends and patterns, optimise and gradually reduce CO2 emissions (e.g., by reducing the number of participants in the same mission, promoting more sustainable travelling options, promoting videoconferencing/ virtual events as an alternative).	Signed the EC DG/service Travel Pledge CO2 (t) emissions from DG/service's missions CO2 (t) emissions from DG/service's expert meetings	Reduce DG/service's CO2 emissions from missions ⁽²⁰⁾ with 35% Reduce emissions from expert participating in meetings with 35% DG ENV Missions budget reduced by 50% /year.

⁽²⁰⁾ Overall reduction of CO2 emissions from missions for department from 2019-2024 (%). Overall corporate target is 50 % under the Greening Communication.

II. Reducing resource use in buildings and workspace (energy)

More efficient use of resources (energy):

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline)
Participation in corporate energy saving actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - end of year energy saving action - summer energy saving action - optimisation of comfort hours and/or comfort temperature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - End of year energy saving 2 weeks building close. Dec/Jan - Dock station turn off at end of each working day - close of heating/ventilation after 17h - Summer energy savings – HVAC energy reduction during summer months + office building closures in August
Participation in corporate energy saving actions	Energy consumption per DG/service building (MWh/person per year)	Reduce energy consumption (30%) ⁽²¹⁾

III. Organise sustainable events

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline, as appropriate)
Implementation of the EC Guidelines for sustainable meetings and events , e.g. sustainable catering, reduce/eliminate single-use plastics, gadgets/gifts.	Number of green events	<p>EMAS and Cafeteria actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic food lunches offered More glass bottles of water / fruit juices offered (cafeteria). Re-use of used coffee grains for outdoor green space. Poster promotion 'use your cup instead of using paper cups'

IV. Circular economy (public procurement (GPP), waste, biodiversity and sustainable food

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline, as appropriate)
Gradual introduction of Green Public Procurement (GPP) criteria in contracts and starting to monitor the process.	% of contracts with "green" provisions (relevant value in EUR)	Increase in the % of contracts with "green" provisions (relevant value in EUR)
Actions about waste reduction and sorting in the framework of EMAS corporate campaigns and/or staff awareness actions about DG/service's waste generation in collaboration with OIB/OIL where appropriate (for example, promote and label the waste sorting schemes in place).	Waste generation per DG/service building (kg/person)	<p>Reduce waste generation</p> <p>Increase waste sorting. Sorting stations contain 5 different bins (for paper, for plastics/metal, for general waste, for paper cups, for used office supplies (pens etc)</p> <p>Up-cycling initiative – staff supplied used clothes for up-cycling (action with Cyclup asbl)</p>

⁽²¹⁾ Overall reduction of energy consumption from missions for department from 2019-2024 (%).

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline, as appropriate)
Promotion of “green items” among EC office supplies’ catalogue (for example, introduce a DG-specific office supplies’ catalogue, including only 100% “green items”).	Number or % of staff informed/participated	50 staff participated in a training
	Number of GPP including “green” items	4 new GPP-related contracts with green criteria
Setting up local actions in line with site-specific biodiversity strategies where relevant (for example for urban sites, sponsor the creation and maintenance of urban gardens, insect hotels and green roofs within EC-premises with the support of volunteers), and related staff awareness actions.	Number of m2 covered by the action	DG ENV has set up a green team and have planted flowers in over 20 plant containers in office courtyard (a DG staff initiative). The team will care for the 15 new trees and shrubs planted in 2023, 2 insect hotels and one bird nesting box installed.

V. Staff awareness

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline, as appropriate)
Actions on reducing GHG emissions (such as actions on sustainable commuting during EU Mobility week and VeloWalk corporate events) and/or on staff awareness on sustainable commuting in collaboration with OIB or OIL (e.g., availability of bike parking facilities, lockers and showers, promote the reduction of parking spaces’ use amongst staff).	Number or % of staff informed/participated	100% of staff informed/participated
	% of sustainable commuters ⁽²²⁾ at DG/service	Increase 10% of sustainable commuters at DG level. Organisation of workshops on how to repair your bike
Awareness on digital pollution and gradual change of behaviours avoiding heavy emails, encouraging the use of ICT platforms, avoiding unnecessary storage of data.	Number of events organised	1 online training organised Posters urging staff to switch off docking stations. Electronic data clean-up / archiving for each Office Unit (x2 per year)
Paperless working methods at DG level (such as paperless working: e-signatories, financial circuits, collaborative working tools) and staff awareness actions to reduce office paper use in the framework of EMAS corporate campaigns and/or raise awareness about DG/service’s office paper use in collaboration with OIB/OIL where appropriate.	Number of new actions introduced in relation to paperless working methods	1 action

⁽²²⁾ Sustainable commuting usually refers to environmentally friendly travel modes, such as: public transport (bus, tram, subway, light rail), walking, cycling, and carpooling.

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline, as appropriate)
<p>Staff awareness actions to reduce energy use in the framework of EMAS corporate campaigns and/or awareness actions about DG/service's total energy consumption in collaboration with OIB/OIL where appropriate.</p> <p>Staff awareness actions to reduce water use (for example ensuring that staff use the technical services hotline to report leaks) in the framework of EMAS corporate campaigns and/or awareness raising actions about DG/service's water consumption in collaboration with OIB/OIL where appropriate.</p>	<p>Number or % of staff informed/participated related to</p> <p>Energy consumption</p> <p>Water consumption</p>	<p>100% - Information and recommendations posted by the DG ENV EMAS officer on the DG ENV Intranet</p> <p>Promotion of tap water. Installation of a second mains-connected water fountain. Removal of plastic bottle water fountains from meeting rooms.</p> <p>Reducing water consumption by installing a dish washer for cleaning drinking glasses after meetings.</p> <p>Purchase of glass jars for drinking water.</p>

