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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 09/10/2008
SEC(2008) 2633 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

on the implementation of the programme for financial support to European non-governmental organisations primarily active in the field of environmental protection

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1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this document is to communicate on the Commission's experience from the implementation of the programme for operating grants to European environmental NGOs in the period 2002-2007. During the period 2002-2006 the legal basis for this grant aid was Decision 466/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down a Community action programme promoting non-governmental organisations primarily active in the field of environmental protection for the period 2002-2006¹. This has been replaced by provision included in the single financial instrument for the environment, LIFE+ (2007-2013)² which has provided the legal basis for funding since 2007.

An external mid-term evaluation³ of the Decision was carried out in 2005 for the period 2002-2004 to be used as the basis for considering a new separate instrument for the period beyond 2006. The evaluation was based on input from DG Environment policy officers and beneficiary NGOs and assessed the effectiveness, relevance and utility of the programme. The overall conclusions on the implementation of the programme confirmed its usefulness and effectiveness, and the surveys carried out demonstrated strong arguments and support for its renewal in the form of annual operating grants.

In 2004, in the context of implementation of the 2007-2013 financial perspectives, the Commission decided to rationalize environmental funding by proposing one single financial instrument, LIFE+. Funding of operational activities of European environmental NGOs was therefore included in this instrument, adopted by co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council.

The present document is based on the findings of the 2005 external evaluation, information from the monitoring of NGO performance 2002-2006 and an internal survey among DG Environment policy units carried out in April 2008. It includes a description of the programme and its functioning, an overview of the types of organisations funded, and an assessment of the outputs of the NGOs and the relevance of the programme.

¹ OJ L 75, 16.3.2002.

² Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (Life+), OJ L 149, 9.6.2007.

³ Mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Community action programme promoting NGO's primarily active in the field of environmental protection (Decision 466/2002/EC). Final report by Agra CEAS Consulting Ltd., July 2005. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ngos/legal_base02_06.htm

2. OBJECTIVES

The general objective of the funding programme is to promote the activities of European environmental NGOs. This need is identified in the 6th Environment Action Programme (6EAP)⁴ which emphasises the importance of extensive dialogue with stakeholders, raising environmental awareness and public participation. A priority action in this context is to strengthen participation in the dialogue process by environmental NGOs through appropriate support, including community finance (Article 10.b of the 6EAP). The importance of involving civil society in the consultation processes is also stressed in the White Paper on European Governance⁵.

Building on this, the LIFE+ Regulation acknowledges that NGOs contribute to the development and implementation of Community environmental policy and legislation. It therefore provides for funding of operational activities of environmental NGOs that are primarily active in protecting and enhancing the environment at European level (Annex I.a. of the Regulation). Operating grants are intended to cover the normal operating expenses for NGOs implementing activities that contribute to EU policy.

Within these broadly framed objectives NGOs are given financial support to fulfil the following concrete functions linked to the policy cycle, contributing with their specific expertise and perspective:

- 1) Support problem identification and definition of policy options, for example through provision of data, information, research and studies and participation in expert groups and committees.
- 2) Support policy definition and political debate, for example through presentation of position papers and participation in consultations and policy discussion, ensuring a balanced and broad stakeholder representation.
- 3) Support implementation, for example through communication of EU policy to regional and national level and monitoring of compliance.
- 4) Support policy development and implementation through awareness raising activities and environmental education.
- 5) Support an improved dialogue through internal organisational development to become a more effective interlocutor.

3. SELECTION PROCEDURE

In application of the LIFE+ Regulation DG Environment invites every year European environmental NGOs to submit requests for co-funding based on their planned work programme. In order to be eligible, the applicant must be a non-profit making organisation,

⁴ Decision No 1600/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2002 laying down the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme, OJ L 242, 10.9.2002.

⁵ COM(2001) 428 final, 25.7.2001.

have activities and membership base in at least three EU Member States, pursue activities in line with the 6EAP and have existed for at least two years.

The evaluation and selection of the applications are based on award criteria consistent with the LIFE+ Regulation and relate to the priorities of the 6EAP; climate change, nature and biodiversity, environment and health, natural resources and waste, and horizontal issues. The potential of the applicant organisations to contribute to policy development and implementation in these areas is assessed as the main award criterion. In addition, the proposed activities relating to awareness raising and third countries are taken into account, as is the proposed measures for organisational development. The evaluation is carried out by an evaluation committee composed by one representative from each technical Directorate in DG Environment to ensure broad coverage of all subject areas.

4. MONITORING

The financial and technical monitoring is ensured by DG Environment, assisted by an external audit company. After the end of each funding year, the beneficiaries submit activity and financial reports for approval before the final payment is made. A number of organisations are also selected for in-depth audits each year. To facilitate evaluation of the programme as a whole, quantitative indicators will be introduced from 2008 onwards.

5. FUNDED ORGANISATIONS

5.1. Number of NGOs funded

The number of NGOs funded each year in the period 2002-2007 varied between 18 and 44. Full lists for all years are published on the programme web page⁶. As for the latest figures, around 50 applications were received in 2007 and 2008, of which 30 NGOs were funded in 2007 and 33 have been selected for funding in 2008.

Many of the organisations have been consistently funded throughout the period and it is relatively difficult for new organisations to succeed in funding requests. This is an inevitable consequence of the fairly strict criteria for eligibility and the evaluation process. It also reflects a situation where many policy areas have reached a maturity in terms of structures for civil society involvement. In the period 2002-2006, 11 organisations received grants every year and 22 received grants since the first year they joined the programme.

5.2. Operating aspects

The funded organisations represent a wide spectrum of environmental NGOs of different size, thematic focus and geographical coverage, thereby ensuring the necessary diversity. They all operate as networks, with one central organisation (the grant beneficiary) representing their member organisations which must cover at least three EU Member States.

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ngos/index_en.htm

As regards the scope of the activities, there are NGOs that cover more or less all environmental fields (e.g. European Environmental Bureau and WWF) and others that limit their activities to specific fields (e.g. Pesticides Action Network and Seas at Risk). Most NGOs are truly pan-European, with extensive member networks and activities covering the whole EU. These NGOs are often based in the vicinity of Brussels and much involved in policy formulation and interaction with the EU institutions. Some NGOs have a more limited geographical coverage, representing a number of EU Member States in a certain region (e.g. Baltic Environmental Forum and Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity). This is often the case for the NGOs based in Central and Eastern European Member States. These organisations tend to be more active in the field of policy implementation at regional level which reflects the importance of implementation in those countries.

There are large variations in the size of the funded NGOs. The average number of member organisations is around 55, with some organisations having more than 100 members and some less than 10. Similarly, the number of staff varies from more than 20 to only 1 person. Generally, the funded organisations represent a good geographical balance in terms of headquarter localisation and member organisations.

5.3. Financial aspects

The maximum contribution from the Commission is 70 %. The other two main sources of income are membership fees and funds from other donors. The percentage requested from the Commission varies significantly. Some organisations request the full 70 % while others are less dependent on EU funding and submit requests for a lower percentage.

There are big differences also in the total amounts received by the NGOs, linked to the variations in size. Over the period 2002-2006, three large NGOs, European Environmental Bureau, WWF-European Policy Office and Friends of the Earth Europe represented together more than 30% of the total budget allocated to the programme. However, these are influential NGOs with wide networks giving significant contributions to policy development and implementation.

6. EVOLUTION OF THE FUNDING OVER TIME

During the period 2002-2008 the total amount allocated to the NGO funding programme has grown from 3.9 million euros to 8.5 million euros with the largest increases in 2003 and 2004 (see table in Annex 1). After 2006 the total amount has only increased in line with inflation.

The need for increased funding during the period can be explained by three main factors: EU enlargement, the governance process and the integration of environmental aspects into all EU policies. This has led to a growing number of demands on environmental NGOs as well as an increased number of networks applying for funding.

In particular, EU enlargement in 2004 had two implications for the NGO funding programme. Firstly, a higher number of organisations have become eligible for funding, and six organisations based in Central and Eastern European Member States are currently funded.

Some of them were previously funded under specific pre-accession instruments. Secondly, EU enlargement had implications for the activities of the NGOs already funded by the programme in the sense that they have enlarged their networks to these countries. This has resulted in higher costs for activities such as networking, translations and travel.

7. ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRAMME

7.1 NGO outputs

7.1.1 Problem identification and definition of policy options

To support policy work NGOs, like other stakeholder groups, are systematically invited by DG Environment to participate in various working groups, scientific expert groups, advisory groups and preparatory and implementation committees. They fill the functions of providing specific expertise, balance to other interests and a grassroots' perspective. They also undertake research and studies resulting in scientific information that can feed into the policy process.

The surveys made among DG Environment policy units have shown that most units have experience with NGOs regularly giving this type of input in their policy areas and they underline the role of NGOs as important counterweights to other stakeholders with financial interests. There are numerous examples of research and studies carried out by NGOs in relation to environmental policy, many of which have been directly used as input to the policy process. Environmental NGOs are also active in other areas where environmental interests need to be integrated, for example agriculture, transport and energy.

7.1.2 Policy definition and political debate

The participation of NGOs in consultations and policy debate contributes to a balanced and broad stakeholder representation. The White Paper on European Governance stressed the importance of involving civil society in the consultation processes and the Commission particularly encourages a coherent approach to representation of civil society organisations at European level. Being European networks, the funded NGOs coordinate the positions of the members, providing the Commission with one single interlocutor and giving a voice to a large number of local organisations which would otherwise have difficulties reaching to EU decision-makers. Examples of activities are lobbying and preparation of coordinated press releases, position papers and memoranda to EU presidencies. NGOs also reply regularly to public consultations providing useful input and perspective to the policy process.

An example where NGOs gave important contribution to policy definition is the new chemicals legislation, REACH. NGOs provided negotiating material at all stages of the adoption process for REACH and helped to strengthen certain provisions. Other examples are the policies on Environment and Health, pesticides and genetically modified organisms where NGOs, like other stakeholders, lobby strongly at all levels e.g. by letters and meeting requests.

Internationally, European NGOs help to promote EU environmental leadership on the global political arena. In particular in the area of climate change, NGOs have been reported to be useful in reaching out and supporting EU positions through their networks. Also in the

enlargement process NGOs play an important role by providing input on the compliance of candidate and potential candidate countries with EU environmental legislation.

The fact that an organisation receives funding through DG Environment has no implications on its right to lobby and express views that might not be in support of the policy proposed by the Commission. The funding programme has on occasions been criticised by members of the European Parliament for this. However, the funding is provided to ensure a broad policy debate among as many stakeholders as possible by bringing in the independent views of the NGOs.

7.1.3 Policy implementation

With their networks and specific expertise, NGOs are effective in promoting implementation of EU policy on the ground. They communicate EU environmental policy to their members at regional and national level and they serve as watchdogs for implementation by for example drawing attention to cases of incompliance and publishing black lists and reports.

A clear example of important input from NGOs for policy implementation is the area of nature and biodiversity where there is a wealth of examples of NGOs having drawn attention to potential or actual cases of infringements. Another example of systematic monitoring of implementation by NGOs is the Water Framework Directive. Regular scoreboards on the implementation are produced by two large NGOs, and in 2006 a strategic complaint was submitted against 11 MS on the failure to apply a wide interpretation of a key definition.

Other essential contribution to EU policy implementation is the identification by NGOs of potentially environmentally harmful projects, such as motorways and waste incinerators, financed or planned to be financed by the EU structural and cohesion funds and the European Investment Bank. In 2006 and 2008 NGOs published maps displaying such projects, resulting in considerable press attention and the cancellation of at least one project.

As from 2008, changes linked to the incorporation of the programme in LIFE+ have limited the scope for beneficiaries to involve their national member organisations in carrying out the activities of the work programme. This has in particular had negative impacts for certain NGOs focusing fully on implementation issues and may reduce the efficiency of their activities.

7.1.4 Awareness raising

In support of the above functions NGOs carry out activities in view of raising awareness of public and decision makers e.g. through campaigns, events and awards which often attract high press coverage, production and translation of information material, as well as environmental education targeting various groups like children, officials and professionals. In this area the NGOs have the advantage of being close to the ground and having high credibility with the public and therefore a high potential of achieving effective awareness and outreach. NGOs are also actively raising awareness and promoting EU environmental policy beyond EU borders.

One example that successfully resulted in raised awareness among public and decision makers is the ambitious Detox communication campaign organised by WWF. It ran from 2003 when the Commission's proposal for REACH was published until the adoption at the end of 2006. As a part of the programme, WWF carried out blood tests for chemicals throughout Europe on Members of the European Parliament, ministers, doctors, scientists, celebrities and in three generations of 13 European families.

7.1.5 Organisational development

A separate objective of the funding programme is to contribute to capacity building of the beneficiaries and their networks in order to enable them to become a more effective interlocutor in the policy dialogue.

In the evaluation of the programme carried out in 2005 it was found that since the programme started in 1997 there has been an increase in staff, better organisational structures, improved professionalism and a more co-ordinated action on EU policy-making among the beneficiaries. The EU funding has made it possible for NGOs to increase the volume and quality of their contributions and their communication activities.

There has also been an increase in the involvement of small regional or local associations thanks to improved network structures, co-ordination and capacity building.

With the incorporation of the programme in LIFE+, costs incurred for activities in countries outside of the EU are no longer eligible for funding. This causes constraints as regards network capacity building for organisations with members in non-EU countries. However, certain funding opportunities exist for NGOs in non-EU countries under other instruments. In particular, for the candidate and potential candidate countries, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and a new civil society facility created within its framework provide a basis for supporting NGOs in this area.

7.2 Relevance of the programme

7.2.1 Need to support NGOs

Without funding from the programme, the majority of beneficiaries would need to substantially reduce their activities, including the contributions to the EU policy process. NGOs stress that demands on environmental organisations, their European structures and their offices in Brussels have grown considerably, including demands from citizens and requests from the EU institutions for input and expertise. Insufficient resources force them to make priorities and be selective.

Generally, the total budget available for the programme is not sufficient to fund all meriting applications. Furthermore, in order to provide support to a wide range of organisations who present programmes evaluated as being of high quality, funding to individual NGOs has been reduced compared to initial requests. This reduction has been in the order of 25 %. The final decision is a result of the need to achieve a balance of supporting a sufficient range of NGOs and the desire to avoid an excessive reduction of the initially presented programmes.

However, a number of NGOs, e.g. Greenpeace, do contribute to the policy process although they do not receive funding from the programme. Those organisations manage to attract the necessary funding from other sources, like national authorities, foundations, membership fees or donations from individuals.

7.2.2 Validity of rationale

The rationale of the programme is given by the 6EAP and the White Paper on European Governance and comes down to *greater involvement of civil society in the EU policy process*. The White Paper states that "Civil society plays an important role in giving voice to the concerns of the citizens and delivering services that meet people's needs. [...] It is a chance to get citizens more actively involved in achieving the Union's objectives and to offer them a structured channel for feedback, criticism and protest."

In the area of environment, NGOs make a significant contribution to ensuring the involvement of civil society and they are needed to provide a sound balance in relation to the interests of other actors with more resources and financial interests.

7.2.3 Added value of EU funding

One clear added value of providing funding at EU level is the increased effectiveness in civil society dialogue. By encouraging the creation of NGO networks, the programme provides the Commission with a more cost-effective way of dealing with civil society since one NGO represents the co-ordinated views of all national member organisations. This means that the Commission has only one or a few interlocutors in the NGO community instead of many uncoordinated positions, resulting in important savings of resources.

A second important aspect is that the selection of the beneficiaries is based on the priorities of the 6EAP. The funding programme thereby ensures that NGO input is given to the areas of importance at European level.

Thirdly, without funding at EU level it would not be possible to guarantee the presence of European NGOs as a stakeholder in the EU policy process. National NGOs may be less suited and competent to work with EU institutions and they tend to have a different focus.

8. CONCLUSIONS

Financial support is granted to a wide range of European environmental NGOs through yearly calls for proposals under the single financial instrument for the environment LIFE+ which has been adopted for the period 2007-2013.

The objective is to promote a greater civil society involvement in EU environmental policy development and implementation. The rationale and justification for this is well established and supported at a general level. Also at a more specific level it has been shown that the concrete outputs of the NGOs in the form of various types of contributions at all stages of the policy process are very valuable.

European environmental NGOs contribute to policy development with their specific expertise and perspective and they constitute a counterweight to other stakeholder interests. Being organised as European networks, they provide the EU institutions with one coordinated voice representing sometimes more than one hundred members. As for policy implementation, they communicate EU environmental policy to their members at regional and national level and they serve as watchdogs by drawing attention to cases of non-compliance with legislation. They also carry out awareness raising activities in support of both policy development and implementation.

Since the objectives of the programme are broadly framed it is not possible to exactly measure the resources necessary to achieve them. It is however clear that without funding from the EU most organisations would have to significantly decrease their level of activity even if they would still continue to exist. At the present level of funding it is possible to fund a broad spectrum of NGOs covering all policy priorities, although the demand for funding substantially exceeds the available budget.

It is important to ensure diversity and independence among the funded organisations. The financial support is therefore given in the form of operating grants allowing the applicants to formulate their work programmes according to the priorities as identified by them. By applying broad award criteria with reference to the priority areas of the 6EAP it is ensured that these areas are covered, but with enough flexibility to enable beneficiaries to contribute with their own perspective and optimising their resources.

Since the change of legal base in 2007, costs incurred for activities in countries outside of the EU are no longer eligible for funding under the NGO support scheme. Financing of external activities has therefore to be sought under other instruments. In the case of the candidate and potential candidate countries, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) provides support for NGOs, also for promoting the EU environmental policy.

The external mid-term evaluation (2002-2004) of the NGO funding programme under the previous legal base carried out in 2005 concluded that the programme is useful and effective in achieving the objectives. This conclusion has been confirmed by recent complementary internal assessment. Further evaluation for the period 2007-2009 will be undertaken in the context of the mid-term review of LIFE+ to be carried out in 2010.

Annex 1: Total budget 2002-2008

Year	Total budget (euros)	Budget line
2002	3.910.000	B4-306, B7-811
2003	5.000.000	B4-306, B7-811
2004	6.500.000	07 03 02
2005	7.300.000	07 03 02
2006	8.000.000	07 03 02
2007	8.200.000	07 03 07 (LIFE+)
2008	8.500.000	07 03 07 (LIFE+)

Annex 2: Organisations funded in the period 2002-2007

Organisation	Country	Description and link to web page	Years funded in the period 2002-2007
A. Rocha International	United Kingdom	<p>A Rocha is a Christian nature conservation organisation. It is now a family of projects working in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, North and South America, Asia and Australasia. A Rocha projects are frequently cross-cultural in character, and share a community emphasis, with a focus on science and research, practical conservation and environmental education.</p> <p>www.arocha.org</p>	2002 2004
Agree.Net	Czech Republic	<p>Network of non-governmental organizations working to build clean energy economy, bring in more jobs and address climate change. Its aim is to prevent the environmentally and socially harmful impacts of international and national energy policies, plans, programs and projects and to promote alternative solutions through: raising public awareness in Central, Eastern and South East European countries about the positive outcomes of energy efficiency; advocacy for transparency and public participation in energy policies, programs and projects at the local, national and regional levels; stopping environmentally and socially destructive energy programs and projects and to promote alternatives.</p> <p>www.agreenet.info</p>	2006 2007
Alliance For Northern People On Environmental Development - ANPED	The Netherlands	<p>ANPED works to empower Northern civil society in creating and protecting sustainable communities and societies world-wide. Its main focus is on sustainable consumption and production, the use of goods and services responding to basic human needs and bringing a better quality of life, while minimizing the use of natural resources, toxic materials and emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle, so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations.</p> <p>www.anped.org</p>	2004 2005 2006
Aquanet Foundation Europe	The Netherlands	<p>Aquanet Foundation acts in co-operation with public or private bodies concerned for the protection and management of water, both at national and international level. Its activities cover the whole of the European Union as well as the areas of the world concerned by the European Union's policies.</p>	2006

		www.aquanet.eu	
Avalon Foundation	The Netherlands	Avalon supports rural communities in the Central and Eastern European region and beyond in building sustainable rural societies, thus strengthening nature and the environment, social conditions and the local economy. In cooperation with local organisations, governments, universities and associated experts Avalon has activated a wide range of projects on organic agriculture and nature conservation. www.avalon.nl	2004 2005 2006
Baltic Environmental Forum	Latvia	The BEF group implements environmental protection projects in the Baltic Sea Region and other regions of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. BEF works in a broad range of environmental fields, covering such topics as nature conservation, chemicals, urban environment, waste and waste management. www.bef.lv	2005 2006 2007
Birdlife Europe / Birdlife International	The Netherlands United Kingdom	BirdLife is a partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. BirdLife's aims are to: prevent the extinction of any bird species, maintain and where possible improve the conservation status of all bird species, conserve and where appropriate improve and enlarge sites and habitats important for birds, help, through birds, to conserve biodiversity and to improve the quality of people's lives, integrate bird conservation into sustaining people's livelihoods. www.birdlife.org/regional/europe/index.html	2002 2003 2005 2006 2007
Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative	Slovakia	CERI is a coalition of NGOs and research institutes working towards a common vision for conservation and sustainable development of the Carpathians. www.carpates.org	2006
CEE Bankwatch Network	Czech Republic	An NGO with member organisations currently from 12 countries across the Central and Eastern European region. The aim of the network is to monitor the activities of the international financial institutions which operate in the region, and to propose constructive alternatives to their policies and projects in the region. www.bankwatch.org/	2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

CEE Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity	Hungary	The mission of CEEweb is the conservation of the biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development. CEEweb represents the network of many nature conservation organizations from Central and East European countries, working together to protect the biological heritage of the region. www.ceeweb.org	2003 2004 2006 2007
Climate Action Network	Belgium	CAN-E is recognised as Europe's leading network working on climate and energy issues. With over 100 members in 25 European countries, CAN-E unites work to prevent dangerous climate change and promote sustainable energy and environment policy in Europe. CAN's mission is to support and empower civil society organisations to influence the design and development of an effective global strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure its implementation at international, national and local levels in the promotion of equity and sustainable development. www.climnet.org	2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
Coalition Clean Baltic	Sweden	CCB unites 27 member organizations from Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Ukraine and Sweden. The CCB member organisations combined have over half a million members in all countries around the Baltic Sea. The main goal of CCB is to promote the protection and improvement of the Baltic Sea environment and natural resources. www.ccb.se	2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
Danube Environmental Forum	Hungary Slovakia	DEF's aim is to protect the Danube River and its tributaries, their biodiversity and resources, through enhancing co-operation among governments, non-governmental organisations, local people and all kinds of stakeholders towards sustainable use of natural ecosystems. http://www.def.org.hu/	2004 2005 2006 2007

Environment Education Network	Romania	The mission of the EEN is to support the environment protection and sustainable development through nature protecting and awareness raising activities, thus forming and promoting public attitude based on the principles of sustainable development in the boundaries of the European Union and candidate countries. www.eeen.org	2005
Environmental Partnership for Sustainable development	Czech Republic	A consortium of six foundations in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia that are focused on mobilizing and empowering the people of the region to improve their environment, their local communities and societies. www.environmentalpartnership.org	2005 2006
Escaut sans Frontières / Grenzeloze Schelde	Belgium	Escaut sans Frontières is an international association that carries out activities in the three countries of the Scheldt river basin since 1992; France, Belgium and the Netherlands. The objective of the organisation is to improve and restore the ecosystems of the rivers and canals of the Scheldt river through trans-national cooperation. www.grenzelozeschelde.be	2003
EUCC – The Coastal Union	The Netherlands	EUCC's mission is to promote coastal and marine management that integrates biodiversity conservation with those forms of development that sustain the integrity of landscapes, the cultural heritage and the social fabric of our coasts taking into account the effects of climate change. EUCC advocates best practice by developing coastal and marine policies, mobilising experts and stakeholders, providing advice and information, and implementing demonstration projects. www.eucc.nl	2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
Eurogroup for Wildlife and Laboratory Animals	Belgium	EWLA aims to contribute to sustainable development by promoting the protection of wildlife and laboratory animals through the development and implementation of EU policies. EWLA cooperates closely with its sister organisation Eurogroup for Animals representing a united voice for animal welfare organisations in Europe. www.eurogroupanimalwelfare.org	2005 2006 2007
EUROPARC	Germany	EUROPARC is the umbrella organisation of Europe's protected areas. It unites national parks, regional parks, nature parks and biosphere reserves in 38 countries, with common aim of protecting Europe's unique variety of wildlife, habitats and landscapes. www.europarc.org	2003 2006 2007

European Cyclists' Federation	Belgium	<p>ECF has 51 member organizations in 36 countries. The members are active at local, regional and national level. The aim is to promote the bicycle at European as well as international levels and create a favourable climate in transport, environmental and tourism policies, put forward the views of cyclists, link a dense European network of cyclists and user groups with politicians, industry, media, planners, railway companies and tourism industry, have expertise in cycling issues such as town planning, cycling facilities and tourism, and legal matters.</p> <p>www.ecf.com</p>	2002 2003 2005 2006
European Environmental Bureau	Belgium	<p>The EEB is a federation of more than 140 environmental citizens' organisations based in all EU Member States and most Accession Countries, as well as in a few neighbouring countries. These organisations range from local and national, to European and international. The aim of the EEB is to protect and improve the environment of Europe and to enable the citizens of Europe to play their part in achieving that goal.</p> <p>www.eeb.org</p>	2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation	Belgium	<p>ECOS is a consortium of Environmental NGOs created to enhance the voice of environmental protection in the standardisation processes. ECOS aims at increasing the ecological performance of products, ensuring sound measurement methods for pollutants, greening management systems in businesses and improving consumer information towards sustainable consumption.</p> <p>www.ecostandard.org</p>	2006
European Federation for Transport and Environment	Belgium	<p>T&E is Europe's principal environmental organisation campaigning on sustainable transport. Its primary focus is on European policy but its work in Brussels is supported by 51 member organisations working in 23 countries to promote an environmentally sound approach to transport.</p> <p>www.transportenvironment.org</p>	2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism	United Kingdom	EFNCP is a Europe-wide network which raises awareness of the importance of low-intensity farming for nature conservation and aims to improve the way public policies respond to the needs of these farming systems. www.efncp.org	2003 2005 2006 2007
European Landowners Organisation	Belgium	The European Landowners Organisation (ELO) is a federation of national associations from the EU27 and beyond, which represents the interests of landowners, land managers and rural entrepreneurs at the European political level. ELO's statutory commitment is to defend and promote sustainable development, conservation, protection and amelioration of the environment and the responsible use of natural resources. www.elo.org	2007
European Water Association	Germany	EWA is an independent non-governmental and non-profit making organisation dealing with the management and improvement of the water environment. www.ewaonline.de	2005 2006
Eurosite	The Netherlands France	27 countries represented by more than 100 member organisations including public bodies, private organisations and NGOs. For the benefit of nature and the human enjoyment of it, the goal of Eurosite is to enhance European nature conservation, through both the management of land and water and through the dissemination of practical information working directly with site managers. www.eurosite-nature.org	2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
FERN - Forests and the European Union Resource Network	The Netherlands Belgium	FERN works to achieve greater environmental and social justice, focusing on forests and forest peoples' rights in the policies and practices of the European Union. They co-ordinate several European NGO networks, working co-operatively to achieve change. www.fern.org	2004 2005 2006 2007
Friends of the Earth Europe	Belgium	FoEE campaigns for sustainable and just societies and for the protection of the environment, unites more than 30 national organisations with thousands of local groups and is part of the world's largest grassroots environmental	2002

		network, Friends of the Earth International. www.foeeurope.org	2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
Global Ecovillage Network of Europe	Italy Germany	GEN-Europe is the European eco-village association promoting environmental protection and restoration of nature through the concept of eco-villages as models for sustainable human settlements. www.gen-europe.org	2003 2004 2006
Groupe De Recherche En Agriculture Biologique	France	French network for experimentation and research dedicated to biological vegetable production. www.grab.fr	2004 2005 2006
Health and Environment Alliance Network	Belgium	HEAL aims to raise awareness of how environmental protection improves health. It achieves this by creating opportunities for better representation of citizens' and health experts' perspectives in the environment and health-related European policy-making. www.env-health.org	2004 2005 2006 2007
Health Care Without Harm Europe	Czech Republic	HCWH-E is an international coalition of hospitals and health care systems, medical professionals, community groups, health-affected constituencies, labour unions, environmental and environmental health organizations and religious groups. Their aims are to transform the health care sector worldwide, without compromising patient safety or care, so that it is ecologically sustainable and no longer a source of harm to public health and the environment. www.noharm.org/Europe	2006 2007
INFORSE Europe – International Network for	Denmark	INFORSE is a global network of independent non-governmental organisations working for sustainable energy solutions to reduce poverty and protect the environment.	2002

Sustainable Energy		www.inforse.org	2004 2005 2006 2007
Institut Fur Weiterbildung Und Beratung Im Umweltschutz	Germany	Environmental Institute IWU focuses on vocational training and advice for executives from environmental authorities and services as well as experts actively working in the environment educational sector. www.iwu-ev.de	2005 2006
International Association of Mediterranean Forests	France	IAMF/AIFM has as its aim the addressing of problems of Mediterranean forests, by fostering the exchange of knowledge, experience and promoting collective reflection about how best to make sure planning and development policies to take them into account. www.aifm.org	2003 2004 2006 2007
International Centre of Comparative Environmental Law	France	CIDCE is an international NGO. Its organisational members are legal experts on environmental issues. www.cidce.org	2003
International Friends of Nature	Austria	With over 500,000 members in 50 member and partner organisations, NFI/IFN is one of the largest NGOs worldwide. Its aim is to contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development focusing on Europe and its role as positive example in the world through joint, international projects implemented on the local level and coordinated by IFN. www.nfi.at	2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
International Solar Energy	Germany	ISES has been serving the needs of the renewable energy community since its founding in 1954. A UN-accredited NGO present in more than 50 countries, the society supports its members in the advancement of renewable energy	2002

Society		technology, implementation and education all over the world. www.ises.org	2003 2004 2006
International Solid Waste Association	Denmark	ISWA is an international, independent and non-profit making association, working in the public interest to promote and develop sustainable waste management worldwide. ISWA has members around the world and is the only worldwide association promoting sustainable and professional waste management. www.iswa.org	2004 2005 2006
Justice and Environment – European Network of Environmental Law Organisations	The Netherlands	J&E is a network of public interest environmental law organisations based in the EU member states. J&E aims to use law to protect people, the environment and nature. The primary goal is to ensure the implementation and enforcement of the EU legislation through the use of European law and exchange of information. www.justiceandenvironment.org	2006 2007
Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development	Greece	MIO-ECSDE is a Federation of Mediterranean NGOs with around 105 members from 24 countries. It acts as a technical and political platform for the presentation of views and intervention of NGOs in the Mediterranean scene. It plays an active role for the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development of the Mediterranean region and its countries. Its main objective is to protect the natural environment and the cultural heritage of the Mediterranean region, the ultimate goal being to promote sustainable development in a peaceful Mediterranean. www.mio-ecsde.org	2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
Natureplus - Internationaler Verein für zukunftsfähiges Bauen und Wohnen	Germany	Natureplus e.V. is the International Association for future-oriented building and accommodation with around 100 members in many European countries. The aim of the association is sustainable development within the building sector. www.natureplus.org	2005
Pesticides Action Network	United Kingdom	PAN works nationally and internationally with like-minded groups and individuals concerned with health and the environment. It promotes healthy food, sustainable agriculture and an environment which will provide food and meet public health needs without dependence on toxic chemicals and without harm to food producers and agricultural	2003 2005

		workers. Its aim is to eliminate the use of hazardous pesticides, to reduce dependence on pesticides and to increase the sustainable alternatives to chemical pest control in agriculture, urban areas, public health and homes and gardens. www.pan-uk.org	2006 2007
Reuse and Recycling European Union Enterprises	Belgium	RREUSE is specialized European network of national and regional social economy federations and enterprises with activities in re-use and recycling. It aims at encouraging reuse of end-of-life products. rreuse.org/t3/	2004 2005 2006 2007
Seas at Risk	The Netherlands	SAR is a European association of environmental NGOs working to protect and restore to health the marine environment of the European seas and the wider North East Atlantic. www.seas-at-risk.org	2002 2003 2004 2006
Solidarity Water Europe – Solidarité Eau Europe	France	Solidarity Water Europe promotes access to water, sanitation services and hygiene for the most disadvantaged sections of the European population, informs and raises awareness in water management issues among European citizens especially the youth in a citizen mobilisation perspective and promotes participatory and rational water management. www.s-e-e.org	2002 2004
Taiga Rescue Network	Sweden	TRN is working to support local struggles and strengthen the cooperation between individuals, NGOs and indigenous peoples and nations concerned with the protection, restoration and sustainable use of the world's boreal forests by means that ensure the integrity of natural processes and dynamics. www.taigarecue.org	2002 2003 2004 2005 2006
TERRA Mileniul III / Climate Action Network	Romania	Terra Mileniul III's mission is to develop ecological programmes in order to raise public awareness regarding the effects of climate change and to promote programmes for sustainable development at national, regional and global	2003

Central and Eastern Europe		level. terraiii.ngo.ro	
Women in Europe for a Common Future	The Netherlands	WECF is a network of 80 women's and environmental organisations in 37 countries. They use women's potential in balancing environment, health and economy. WECF's activities are based on its partner's individual visions and needs. Therefore WECF implements solutions locally and influences policy internationally. www.wecf.eu	2003 2004 2005 2007
WWF European Policy Programme	Belgium	WWF-EPO was established in 1989. It is the 'embassy' to the European Union for the global WWF network, which is active in 100 countries. The EPO helps realize WWF's mission to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. It contributes to the achievement of WWF's global mission by leading the WWF network to shape EU policies impacting on the European and global environment. www.panda.org/epo	2002 2003 2004 2006 2007
WWF International – Danube Carpathian Programme	Austria	The WWF-DCP is responsible for leading and to a significant extent implementing WWF's efforts to preserve, restore and sustainably manage the natural values of the Danube-Carpathian eco-regions. The mission of the WWF-DCP is to find solutions to the challenges that the region faces in order to achieve its vision of prosperity, sustainability and biodiversity conservation and to promote this "design for life" through leadership and example. www.panda.org/dcpo	2002 2003 2006 2007
Youth And Environment Europe	Czech Republic	Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is a platform of many European youth organisations that study nature or are active for environment protection. These member organisations come together from 28 countries. The aim of YEE is to encourage youth to be involved in environment protection and to provide a platform where these organisations can work together. yee.ecn.cz	2005 2006