



**Friends of
the Earth
Europe**

Annual Review 2006



for the planet - **for the people** - for the future

Who we are

- the European arm of Friends of the Earth International, the world's largest grassroots environmental network uniting national member organisations and thousands of local activist groups
- the people's voice at the heart of the European Union and throughout united in strong grassroots activism and effective advocacy
- the largest grassroots environmental network in Europe campaigning for the planet, for people and for our future

Index

Greening Europe	3
Campaign Highlights	4-5
History - Milestones	6-7
Financial Report	8-9
Media - Publications	10-11
Grassroots Activist Network	12-13
Climate Change	14
Our Campaigns - Our Future	15
Contacts - Credits	16

Friends of the Earth Europe Board

Martin Rocholl, Germany (Chair)
István Farkas, Hungary (Treasurer)
Evert Hassink, Netherlands (Secretary)
Laura Radiconcini, Italy
Sonja Ribí, Switzerland

Friends of the Earth Europe Management

Fouad Hamdan, Director
Joanna Dober,
Head of Communications
Angela Van Aalst,
Head of Finance and Administration

Greening Europe - a realistic vision

In 2006, the European Union was shaken by dramatic scientific reports about the impact of climate change. Some European leaders reacted by pressing in good faith for solutions based on promoting energy efficiency and renewables like solar and wind power. Others paid lip services publicly while actually doing all they could behind closed doors to weaken EU-level solutions. Some supported either their coal or car industries. Others were quite content trying to deceive Europeans with the claim that nuclear power is the solution to the most serious environmental problem threatening life on Earth.

Adding insult to injury, Russian President Vladimir Putin used gas as a political weapon against Ukraine and Georgia, and temporarily halted oil supplies via Belarus to Germany and Poland. Given its growing dependence on imported energy, Europe's response has mainly been to panic and to sign bilateral energy deals with autocrats in Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia. This is disturbing because so-called Putinism, or 'managed democracy', is an assault on Europe's entire system of values.

At Friends of the Earth's Brussels office, we play an important role in helping shape the EU's environmental policies. We are, at the heart of Europe, the voice of 31 European member groups representing hundreds of thousands of members and volunteers. Our campaigners confront a powerful business lobby constantly striving to weaken environmental legislation. But using our modest resources with stacks of creativity we apply pressure and uncover intrigues, and deliver critical opinions and solutions.

In 2006, we and other like-minded groups succeeded in convincing EU officials and national governments to agree to a new chemicals law that will for the first time see industry taking responsibility for its own products. This historic law will help replace toxic chemicals with safer ones. We shall monitor how well it is implemented.

We have also pressed EU officials to agree fair deals with developing nations when they sign trade agreements. In cooperation with CEE Bankwatch, we have monitored how EU funds are being spent in new Member States in Central and Eastern Europe. We have campaigned for transparent lobbying in Brussels and opposed the destructive practices of international corporations. And we have begun planning future work on nanotechnology and biofuels.

One of our great successes was in December 2006 when EU environment ministers rejected a proposal to force Austria to lift its ban on genetically-modified food and crops. We believe that every country has the democratic right to protect its citizens and environment.

To improve the impact of our campaigns, we initiated an Organisational Development Plan for 2007-2010. For the first time we also developed fundraising and communications strategies, and we hired our first fully-fledged communications officer in May 2006 and a professional fundraiser at the end of that year. As a result, our higher-quality communications have made our positions on EU policies more visible. This means we carry greater political clout with decision-makers.

Thank you for supporting us and for contributing to the pressure for change. I invite you to join us in making Europe greener.

Greening Europe



Fouad Hamdan
Director, Friends of the Earth Europe

PS: The EU celebrated its 50th anniversary in March 2007. I believe it is still the best democratic system available in the world. It is not perfect, but evolving slowly. And the EU is an amazing peace project since it provides the framework for 27 nations to debate and agree on policies impacting the lives of all its citizens, without bloodshed. Skeptical? Then just have a glimpse around the world at other regional systems.

Campaign Highlights

Putting pressure on the EU

Lobbying scandals and shocking examples of privileged access were revealed in the "Worst EU Lobby Awards" in December 2006. The awards' high attendance, attention and online participation propelled the issues into the spotlight in Brussels.



Commissioner "Barroso" meets "a businessman" at the annual back-pat of Business Europe in October.

Engaging people with big issues

As Europe contemplated a revival of nuclear, hundreds of thousands of people signed a petition demanding a phase-out of nuclear power and the abolition of the outdated pro-nuclear EU Euratom Treaty. Flyers and postcards explaining the risks and dangers of nuclear in 20 languages were given to people all across Europe.

Balanced EU policy making

Following pressure from us, the European Commission opened up its consultation on its Biotech Strategy to civil society, instead of just taking industry views into account.

Mass mobilisation

In April 2006, we helped organise a series of events to demonstrate resistance to GMOs. Information stalls, farmers' markets and exhibitions were held around Europe; and more than 3000 people from 20 countries marched towards the European Commission's conference on the co-existence of genetically modified, organic and conventional crops where we spoke on behalf of all NGOs.



Protesting outside the Council building in May as Agriculture Ministers discussed laws that risk exposing food to GM pollution.

Winning political strategies

We insisted on urgent action to protect human health when an illegal and unapproved variety of genetically modified rice was found to have contaminated rice imports into the EU from the USA in August 2006. The European Commission eventually introduced an Emergency Measure to keep the contaminated rice outside EU borders.

Investing in effective coalitions

Together with the Green 10 coalition of leading environmental NGOs in the EU capital, we managed to secure an extra 100 million Euros from the EU budget for environmental protection (Life+).

Counterbalancing the industry lobby

The new law for regulating chemicals in Europe – REACH – requires the chemicals industry to prove that their products are safe before placing them on the market. Chemicals that linger and accumulate in the body or the environment will now have to be substituted if safer alternatives are available. We worked hard to expose industry mistruths and bring the decade long debate to a balanced conclusion.



Reminding EU Parliamentarians of the importance of strong chemicals rules in July.

Powerful advocacy

As the EU debated the revision of its waste legislation, we steered the focus away from relieving the burden on industry and back to the core environmental issue of making Europe more resource efficient. As a result of our campaigning, Members of the European Parliament adopted crucial amendments promoting recycling and waste prevention.

Raising awareness

We alerted MEPs and the European Commission to the potential toxicity and environmental risks of products containing tiny nanoparticles and highlighted the failure of the current chemicals regulatory framework to provide protection.

Getting more people involved

Our cyber actions allow hundreds of thousands of people to have their say on EU policy. In 2006 our network of cyber activists demanded tough action on climate change, GM crops and foods, safer chemicals, waste prevention, recycling and a nuclear phase out. Thousands of people also sent emails to Shell demanding they clean up their operations around the world.

Strengthening our network

Our capacity building programme has helped Friends of the Earth groups in Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Slovakia and Spain make a leap forward in organisational development.

Holding the EU to account

In July 2006, the European Ombudsman ruled in that the European Commission had been wrong to conceal documents from us concerning the safety of genetically modified foods. The documents related to the WTO dispute, in which the US, Argentina and Canada claimed that Europe's precautionary approach on GM foods was a barrier to trade.

Forcing EU transparency

As a leading member of the coalition ALTER-EU, we set the course of debate on the European Transparency Initiative by proposing a mandatory system of registration for lobbyists with sanctions for non-compliance.

Providing emergency support

We advised Lebanese NGOs how to manage the environmental clean up of an oil slick following the Israel-Hizbullah war in the summer of 2006.



Beirut coastline after the destruction of oil tanks by Israeli warplanes in August.



Activists offered "Secret Deal" cocktails to EU trade officials in May as they arrived for a closed-doors meeting with big business.

Cleaning up the seas

We contributed substantively to the development of the Horizon 2020 initiative to depollute the Mediterranean Sea by 2020. This high profile commitment by EuroMed countries to slash pollution levels in the Mediterranean Sea was adopted by EuroMed Environment Ministers in November 2006.

Strong coalition work

Pressure from us and other civil society organisations led to the collapse of the Doha round of WTO negotiations. The aggressive trade liberalisation in the proposed deal could have inflicted further poverty and environmental damage on developing countries, evidenced in detailed research.

Intelligent policy solutions

Working with the European Coalition for Corporate Justice, we gained the support of MEPs for directors of corporations to be legally responsible for their social and environmental behaviour; for European corporations to be liable for damage they cause abroad; and for lobbyists to disclose their corporate clients and budgets.

Exposing mis-spending of EU funds

In March 2006, we exposed plans to use EU funding for controversial infrastructure projects in Central and Eastern Europe by publishing a map showing sites where motorways would cut through nature protected areas, waste incinerators might be built unnecessarily and new dams and canals would destroy local heritage.



History Milestones

1985

Friends of the Earth opens its first office in Brussels to put the environment at the top of the European Union agenda.

1987

Outreach programme to fledgling environmental groups in Central and Eastern Europe.

1991

Biotechnology programme established to inform EU policy makers of the risks to the environment from genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in crops and food.

1992

Rainforest campaign at the Rio Earth Summit brings together Friends of the Earth campaigners from all around the world.

1993

Mediterranean network starts to link Friends of the Earth groups in North Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

1995

Sustainable Europe programme established to pressure the EU to act on sustainable development.

1997

Billions for Sustainability campaign launches by revealing mis-spent EU funds in accession countries.

1999

Trade programme established to inform policy makers on the risks of unfettered globalisation.

2000

Climate change campaign launches by mobilising thousands of people to the Hague to build a 'Dike' around the international climate change talks.

2001

Activists pull a giant lifeboat through the street of Bonn to symbolise the drowning planet during the international climate negotiations.

2002

- Corporate Giant tours Europe highlighting the lack of corporate accountability for environmental and social damage around the world; travels onto Johannesburg for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to score a success with a new clause written into the Summit Declaration.
- Activists from 20 European countries push shopping trolleys to the EU Council headquarters demanding GM free food.
- Abolish Euratom conference reminds Europe of the EU Treaty that promotes nuclear power.



In 2000, thousands of people built a dike around the international climate talks in the Hague, Netherlands.



Friends of the Earth Europe delegates and staff at the Annual General Meeting, Estonia, June 2006.

2006

- The REACH law is adopted despite heavy efforts by the European chemicals industry to water down the proposals with non governmental organisations scoring a major success on the substitution principle.
- The European Commission decides not to push for 'sector-by-sector' liberalisation of natural resources at the WTO as a result of intense campaigning.
- The Austrian government is allowed to retain its national ban on GMOs despite a long and complicated WTO trade dispute.

2005

- Climate change messages painted by thousands of Europeans are displayed at the United Nations climate talks in Montreal.
- GMO free zone conference spurs many regions of Europe to introduce bans on genetically modified crops.

2004

- Dirty 'fossil fuelled' Dinosaur (10m high!) tours Europe to raise awareness of climate change.
- 100,000 strong petition objects to the WTO forcing GM food and crops into Europe.
- Vote Watch website exposes EU Parliamentarians' voting records on EU environment laws.

2003

- Giant Tomato tours Europe alerting people to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) attempt to force Europeans to eat GM products.
- Sustainable agriculture gets a boost with new Common Agriculture Policy rules strengthening rural development.
- Fair trade hearing unites experts in warning of environmental damage to the developing world from EU trade policy.



"We promise to lower the indoor temperature during winter by at least 1 degree at Sdr. Vang School. In return the Government should install solar energy in schools." The girls from 7 A, Denmark

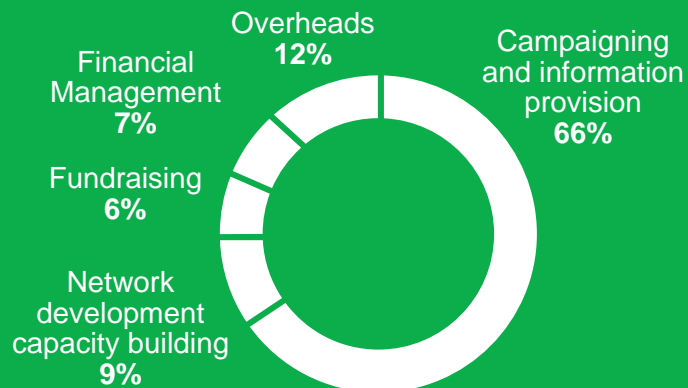
"Friends of the Earth Europe has been one of the Heinrich Böll Foundation's priority partners for 10 years. Its consistency, forward-thinking, and excellent knowledge regarding EU sustainable development policies and the EU's decision-making processes are the basis for a straight-forward and fruitful relationship between FoEE and the Heinrich Böll Foundation. Moreover, its democratic structure and gender-sensitive approach mirror the fundamental values of the Heinrich Böll Foundation. As such, FoEE remains a crucial partner to the Heinrich Böll Foundation."
Claude Weinber, Director of Heinrich Böll Foundation EU Regional Office

"Our grant to Friends of the Earth Europe over the last four years has enabled the groups in Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean to improve their capacity for effective advocacy, making them better equipped to protect the right to a healthy environment. I am very pleased to have been able to contribute to this process."
Sigrid Rausing, Founder and Trustee of the Sigrid Rausing Trust

"As an international player in the forefront to fight environmental degradation, Friends of the Earth have been a strong point of reference for Mediterranean Action Plan in the development of sustainable development policies".
Paul Mifsud, Coordinator Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme

Growth (in Euros)

2001 —	647,636
2002 —	812,347
2003 —	887,655
2004 —	1,023,332
2005 —	1,154,986
2006 —	1,377,430



Total income 2006	EUR 1,377,429.88
Campaigning and information provision	897,377.41
Network development capacity building	128,533.09
Fundraising	84,908.00
Financial Management	96,455.14
Overheads	163,553.51
Total expenditure 2006	1,370,827.15
Reserve carried forward	6,602.73

"We have audited the balance sheet and income statement for the year ending December 31, 2006, prepared in accordance with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium. In our opinion, the balance sheet and income statement for the year ended December 31, 2006 give a true and fair view of the company's assets, liabilities, financial position and results of operations." Antwerp, April 2, 2007 Clybouw Reviseurs d'entreprise scprl represented by Andre Clybouw.

Full copies of the accounts are available free of charge from Angela van Aalst on +32.2.542 0180 or download at www.foeeurope.org

Thank you !

Many thanks to everyone who has given generously to help make our work possible this year. Special thanks to the EU Commission Directorate General (DG) Environment, DG Employment and Social Affairs and DG Trade, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the James M Goldsmith Foundation, the Ministry for Environment Austria, the Ministry for Environment Germany, the Ministry for Environment Netherlands, the OAK Foundation, the Sigrid Rausing Trust and the United Nations Environmental Programme. Thanks also to Friends of the Earth International and Friends of the Earth national groups.

8 February, New York Times quotes Alexandra Wandel, Friends of the Earth Europe: *"The World Trade Organisation, with its secretive decision-making processes, is unfit to decide what we should eat or what farmers should grow."*

6 March, Newsweek International quotes Aleksandra Kordecka of Friends of the Earth Europe: *"[The REACH lobby by the chemicals industry] is a mind-boggling, absolutely unprecedented campaign of political pressure."*

13 March, Financial Times quotes Paul de Clerck, Friends of the Earth Europe: *"Mr Verheugen intervened on the CSR issue to strengthen the Commission's pro-business stance. Originally the Commission wanted to improve social standards but now it only wants to boost business competitiveness."*

17 April, The Independent quotes Martin Konecny of Friends of the Earth Europe: *"The need to spend all the money [under EU rules] sometimes leads the authorities to fund all kinds of reckless projects."*

24 June, Daily Star (Lebanon daily) quotes Fouad Hamdan, Friends of the Earth Europe: *"Trade liberalisation negotiations for services must exclude those services that are vital to human development, such as water, energy, education and health."*

17 September, Reuters quotes Helen Holder, Friends of the Earth Europe: *"The discovery of GMO-contaminated rice on supermarket shelves is extremely worrying. GM rice is illegal, it has not even been properly investigated and there is no guarantee that it is safe for human consumption."*

30 September, Financial Times quotes Adrian Bebb, Friends of the Earth Europe: *"This trade dispute has been a pointless exercise that will change absolutely nothing because Europeans will continue to reject genetically modified food."*

6 October, Bridges Weekly quotes Adrian Bebb, Friends of the Earth Europe: *"If the WTO, as a bare minimum, made itself more transparent, democratic and open, then there would be no need for documents to be leaked and published unofficially. Friends of the Earth acted in the public interest and would not hesitate to do it again."*

27 October, International Herald Tribune quotes Paul de Clerck, Friends of the Earth Europe: *"The Commission must apply clear rules with sanctions in case of non-compliance and false registration or else the whole exercise is not credible."*

28 October, Guardian front page article ("Europe falling far short of targets") quotes Esther Bollendorff, Friends of the Earth Europe: *"This is dramatic as the projected 0.6% (emissions cut) is not even a tenth of the target. This sends a very weak signal about the EU ahead of the Nairobi conference."*

18 November, Le Monde quotes Jan Kowalzig, Friends of the Earth Europe: *"No deadline has been set for finalising the next climate negotiations. This is extremely dangerous as endless discussions could result."*

23 November, European Voice quotes Jan Kowalzig, Friends of the Earth Europe: *"If we carry on at this speed, we will have an agreement when the planet is already drowned."*

European **Voice**

Herald INTERNATIONAL **Tribune**

FINANCIAL TIMES
EUROPE & INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY
Tougher laws spur... Lobbyists fear complaints will lead to harder crackdown in Brussels
Moscow 'imposes' on states, US says

Entre Nous
partners in Viennese waltz

the guardian
weekend edition
s reveal Europe falling short of climate targets
break emission limits, says environment commissioner

Stay in bed that extra hour: it aids thinking, say researchers

Alak Jha Science correspondent
Early morning...
The creation of a Socialist-Christian Democrat...
He will be off to the private sector to make a personal fortune even bigger than the one he married into when he wed...
Swatoski, heiress to the glassware dynasty's fortune. Apparently his aim is to find a job which will give him a private jet. He would be replaced by an SPO minister such as Christoph Matznetter. For now, Ursula Plassnik (pictured) is tipped to stay on as one of Europe's tallest foreign ministers. She has always been...
Guido Sacconi, the Italian...
The 700-page proposal...
But apparently that's not...
So will it be an (acid-free) p...
romantic novel, describing ho...
personalities (an environment...
industrialist) learn to live to...
for the beach? More like is a...

"In my work as an MEP, I've found Friends of the Earth Europe to be an invaluable source of information and insight on a wide range of sustainability issues. Rigorously researched, and accessibly presented, FoEE's work is always of the highest standard, and is made available in a timely and effective way."

Caroline Lucas, Member of the European Parliament

"As the European Parliament debated its groundbreaking report on Corporate Social Responsibility, Friends of the Earth Europe played a crucial role, lobbying MEPs and mobilising the NGO network to assert political pressure in Brussels and across Europe."

Richard Howitt, Member of the European Parliament

"As a key player in European environmental politics, FoEE extends its reach into related fields such as trade policy to work towards sustainable economies and environmental justice. A comprehensive and effective environmental policy can only take shape if other policy fields respect the principle of sustainable development. If FoEE did not exist, it would have to be invented!"

Frithjof Schmidt, Member of the European Parliament



who benefits from gm crops?

monsanto and the corporate-driven genetically modified crop revolution



A programme for the Sustainable Development of the European Union

Proposals from Environmental Organisations for a realistic and ambitious Sustainable Development Strategy – to be adopted by the June 2006 European Summit



REACH

Economic facts and figures

Reaching the right conclusions.



Transparency in EU decision making: reality or myth?

Do EU consultation practices and codes of conduct for decision makers and lobbyists contribute to transparency and ethical decision making?



for the present | for the people | for a sustainable future



The Citizens' Deal Against Climate Change

PEOPLES' WILL TO ACTION GOVERNMENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO REACH



LOST IN TRANSPOSITION?

A STUDY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INDIVIDUAL PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY IN THE WEEE DIRECTIVE

EDITED AND WRITTEN BY: FRITHJOF SCHMIDT (FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EUROPE) THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONELLA MILJÖINSTITUTET

Friends of the Earth Europe produces a range of publications each year, all of which are available free of charge on request.



Grassroots Activist Network



Friends of the Earth Norway's campaign "Save the polar fox" is showing results. Once Norway's most threatened mammal, the polar fox is now reclaiming territory and breeding.

Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland's Big Ask campaign resulted in over 130,000 people asking their Member of Parliament to support calls for a new law to make annual cuts in carbon dioxide. In response the UK Government announced last November that it would introduce a Climate Bill. This is a fantastic success for the Big Ask.



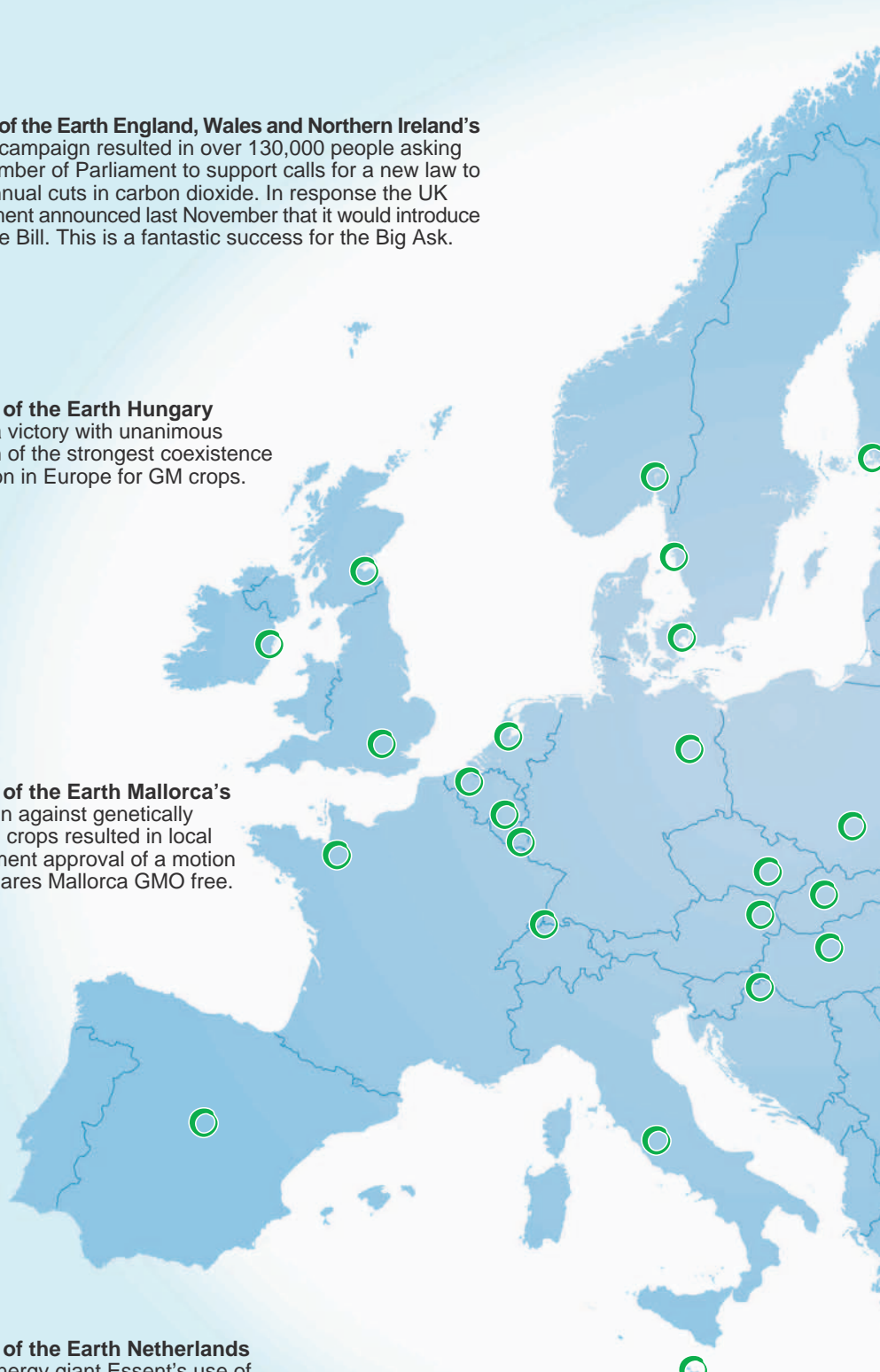
Friends of the Earth Hungary scored a victory with unanimous adoption of the strongest coexistence legislation in Europe for GM crops.



Friends of the Earth Mallorca's campaign against genetically modified crops resulted in local Government approval of a motion that declares Mallorca GMO free.

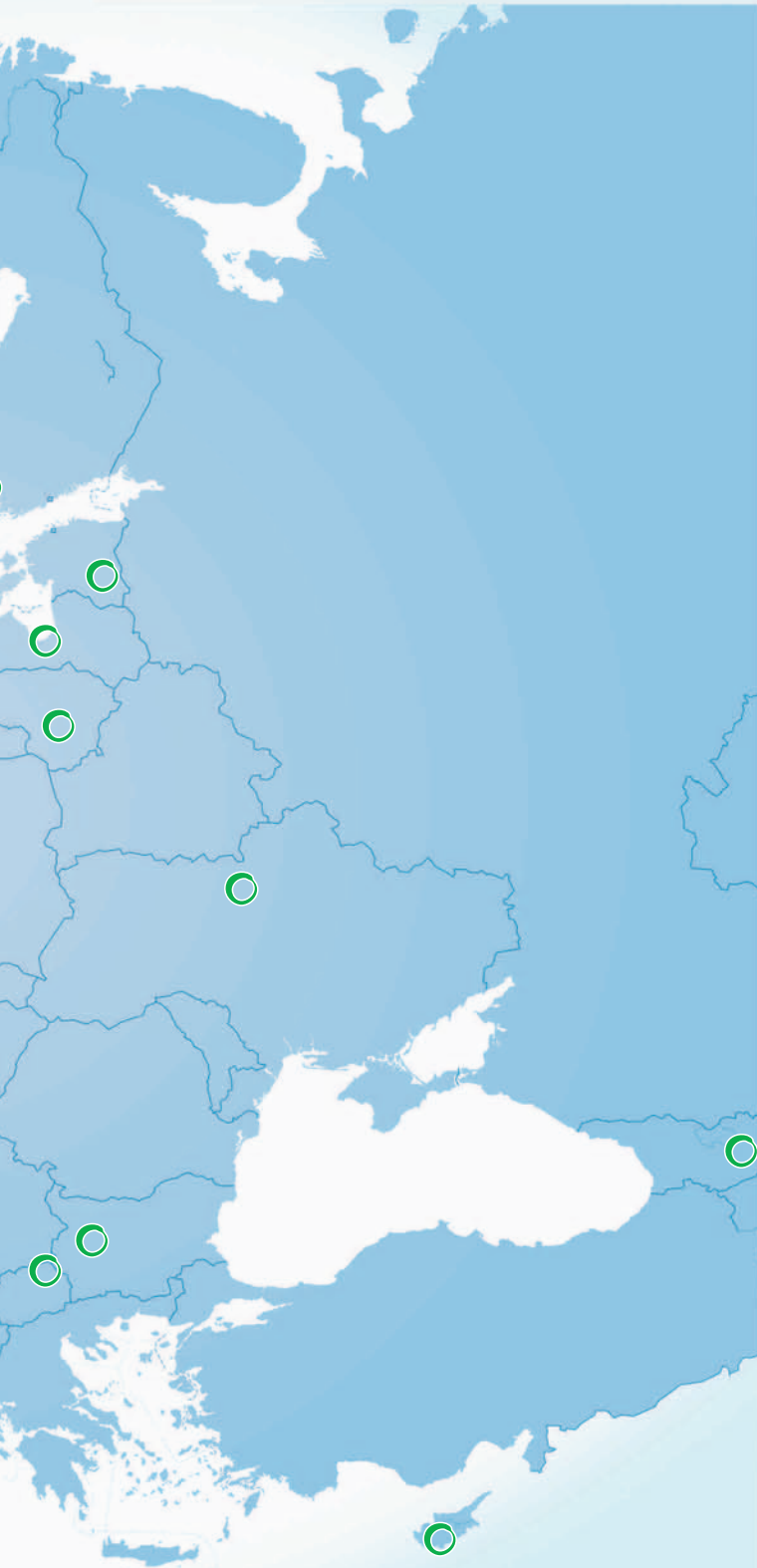


Friends of the Earth Netherlands halted energy giant Essent's use of palm oil by exposing the facts. The orang-utan is close to extinction because the Indonesian rainforests are being cut down to make space to grow palm oil.



Friends of the Earth Slovakia and local residents gained the support of the Slovakian Ministry of Environment, which called for the cancellation of plans for what would have been the largest hazardous waste incinerator project in the country. The project, designed for the disposal of industrial waste, was deemed flawed and unsafe.

- **821,166** people visited the FoEE website in 2006 - and more than 2 million web pages were viewed
- **82%** increase in turnover between 2001 and 2006
- **24** staff in Brussels compared with 7 staff in 1996
- **73** national member groups in our sister organisation Friends of the Earth International
- **31** national Friends of the Earth groups make up our European membership



Friends of the Earth Malta won the EU's "Golden Star" award which the European Commission awards annually for outstanding projects of Active European Citizenship

Austria, Vienna

Global 2000 | Global 2000

Belgium - Wallonie, Namur

Les Amis de la Terre | Friends of the Earth

Belgium – Flanders, Gent

Friends of the Earth Vlaanderen & Brussel
Friends of the Earth Flanders & Brussels

Bulgaria, Sofia

Ecoglasnost | Ecoglasnost

Croatia, Zagreb

Zelena Akcija | Green Action

Cyprus, Limassol

Friends of the Earth | Friends of the Earth

Czech Republic, Brno

Hnutí Duha | Rainbow Movement

Denmark, Copenhagen

NOAH | NOAH

England/Wales/Northern Ireland, London

Friends of the Earth | Friends of the Earth

Estonia, Tartu

Eesti Roheline Liikumine | Estonian Green Movement

Finland, Turku

Maan Ystävät Ry | Friends of the Earth

France, Montreuil

Les Amis de la Terre | Friends of the Earth

Georgia, Tbilisi

Sakartvelos Mtsvaneta Modzraoba | Greens Movement of Georgia

Germany, Berlin

Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland | Association for Environment and Nature Protection

Hungary, Budapest

Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége | National Society of Conservationists

Ireland, Dublin

Friends of the Earth | Friends of the Earth

Italy, Rome

Amici della Terra | Friends of the Earth

Latvia, Riga

Zemes Draugi | Friends of the Earth

Lithuania, Kaunas

Lietuvos Zaliuju Judėjimas | Lithuanian Green Movement

Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Mouvement Ecologique | Ecological Movement

Macedonia, Skopje

Dvizhenje na Ekologistite na Makedonija | Ecologist's Movement of Macedonia

Malta, Valletta

Moviment għall-Ambjent | Movement for the Environment

The Netherlands, Amsterdam

Vereniging Milieudefensie | Environmental Defence

Norway, Oslo

Norges Naturvernforbund | Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature

Poland, Krakow

Polski Klub Ekologiczny | Polish Ecological Club

Scotland, Edinburgh

Friends of the Earth Scotland | Friends of the Earth Scotland

Slovakia, Banská Bystrica

Priatel'ia Zeme – Slovensko | Friends of the Earth Slovakia

Spain, Madrid

Amigos de la Tierra | Friends of the Earth

Sweden, Gothenburg

Miljöförbundet Jordens Vänner | Environmental Group Friends of the Earth

Switzerland, Basel

Pro Natura | Pro Nature

Ukraine, Kiev

Zelenyi Svit | Green World

Climate Change



Europe's Energy Ministers were greeted by a 10m high dirty fuels dinosaur and an inflatable nuclear power plant at their March Council meeting.



Energy Commissioner Piebalgs accepted an edible mini-power station as he heard our demands for renewable energy in March.



We made a hard-hitting demand for a phase-out of nuclear power on the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster with hundreds of actions all over Europe in April.

Taking people's voices to a world stage

Our campaigners hit the streets across Europe last summer collecting thousands of photos of people pledging Climate Deals. People committed to make changes to their own lifestyle. In return they asked politicians to take real action on climate change. The images and the messages made a deep impression on Europe's Environment Ministers and delegates at the UN climate talks.



On behalf of all 27 EU Environment Ministers, Finnish Environment Minister Jan-Erik Enestam accepts booklets of climate deal photos from our Climate Campaigner Esther Bollendorff in October.



Criticising European Commission President Barroso for his "Big Talk and Big Emissions" because of his choice of gas-guzzling private car in May.

Our Campaigns Our future

- **Biofuels:** Our aim is to reduce the trade in unsustainably produced biofuels. Our work on new EU Directives that will impact the way biofuels are developed will highlight the environmental and social problems of the worst fuels such as palm and soy oil.
- **Chemicals:** We will oversee proper implementation of the new EU chemicals rules - REACH, particularly in the new Member States. And we will monitor the European Chemicals Agency to ensure public health and the environment get the highest priority
- **Climate and energy:** We want Europe to make the shift towards sustainable energy through strict targets for energy efficiency, phasing out subsidies for fossil and nuclear energy, supporting renewable energies and ambitious targets for cutting CO2 emissions. Europe's politicians must take the lead on the post-2012 international climate regime.
- **Corporate accountability:** Many EU based companies are responsible for social and environmental problems in developing countries, yet there are no effective mechanisms for affected communities to hold companies accountable - the extractive industries (oil and gas) are amongst the worst offenders.
- **EU funds:** There are more than 500 major projects planned by 2013 in the new EU member states worth EUR 22bn of EU money. Many are environmentally, socially or economically problematic. We will expose and stop the most damaging proposals.
- **Food and farming:** The EU has the strictest biosafety legislation in the world. Yet this has made the biotechnology industry even more determined to force us to grow and eat GMOs. We will prevent the weakening of GMO rules and support sustainable farming.
- **Mediterranean:** The EuroMed free trade area planned by 2010 will have negative environmental impacts on agriculture and water quality. We will continue to work with the region's NGOs to exert pressure on the process.
- **Nanotechnology:** Manufactured nanomaterials are already present in consumer products in Europe. Yet research suggests that some nanomaterials might be harmful to human health and the environment. We want the EU to properly address nanotechnology.
- **Trade:** Sustainable development and poverty eradication are severely downgraded in the EU's new trade priorities. If not changed, the new 'Global Europe' agenda will have tremendous detrimental impacts on people and the environment.
- **Transparency:** The European Commission is giving privileged access to corporate lobbyists, resulting in significant weakening of EU environmental policies. We will continue to argue for lobby transparency.
- **Waste:** Improving waste management is an important part of reducing resource consumption and climate emissions. We need stronger rules to minimise residual waste by reusing, recycling, composting and preventing waste.



"We use low energy light bulbs and we ride bicycles. We ask for more bike lanes and public garages outside the city." Fran, Sanja and their son, Croatia



"I will switch off the stand-by function of my television. The government should invest in renewable energy." Laetitia, Belgium



"We are travelling by bike. We demand energy saving technologies!" Ania and Robert, Poland



"I avoid taking the car as much as possible – I use the bike instead. ..." Deborah, France



Friends of the Earth Europe

Friends of the Earth Europe 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 network, Friends of the Earth International.

Contact us

By email: info@foeeurope.org

By phone: +32.2.542 0180

By fax: +32.2.537 5596

By post: Friends of the Earth Europe

Rue Blanche 15 - 1050 Brussels - Belgium

www.foeeurope.org

Thanks to your help Friends of the Earth is making a difference. Our messages are being heard, more than ever before. With so many important decisions being made in Brussels that impact the health of the planet it is important that our messages are heard even louder next year. We look forward to working with you.

Editorial team:

Joanna Dober, Rosemary Hall, Anja Leetz

Design:

prinzdesign berlin

Picture credits:

Assembly of European Regions, Jennifer Bates/Friends of the Earth, Celine Bernard, Esther Bollendorff, Friends of the Earth Estonia, Friends of the Earth France, Friends of the Earth Mallorca, Rosemary Hall, Eric Isselée, Jon Østeng Hov/Friends of the Earth Norway, Monika Kaiser/Friends of the Earth Hungary, Anja Leetz, Christian Mosar, Neubau Welt, photocase.com, Lode Saidane, Holde Schneider, Jeroen Verhoeven

April 2007



Printed on paper made from 100% recycled paper, using vegetable-based inks and by a printer holding an internationally recognised environmental accreditation.