



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Europe**

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the Earth  
Europe**

**October 2012**

for the people | for the planet | for the future

**Network News**



# Network News October 2012

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*Dear Friends,*

We proudly present you with the October 2012 issue of the FoEE Network News, an issue packed with updates and achievements from the FoEE office and network. After a busy spring and summer comes an even busier autumn!

The biggest office news is the (early) arrival of Filip, the son of Magda and Paul, born on the 12th of October. Everybody is doing well. Please note that during the maternity leave of Magda, the FoEE office will be covered by a Management Team composed of Agnieszka Komoch and David Heller. The division of their roles has recently been sent to the FoEE network by Agnieszka.

In the end of September, FoEE held its annual Staff Retreat in a beautiful and cosy location, time for some "us time". Two days of serious work on FoEE's internal communication within the office and some valuable skills-sharing between campaigners. It was not all serious work, intertwined with group excursion to Maredsous

abbey brewery, and a colourful, wacky high octane special FoEE Quiz, a night we are not about to forget!

Early October, the XC met for 2 days in the office and this gave the office the opportunity to have cake and coffee with the XC members, one of the few occasions for the FoEE staff and XC to have time for informal chat.

As you will see from the 'People News' section, a lot of new people have started in the FoEE office since September, while we also have to say goodbye to some valuable colleagues. While there is now less than 2 months till Christmas, the office rhythm is not about to slow down. We invite you to take a look at the upcoming numerous events organised by FoEE.

And last (and definitely least) a little Halloween joke from us to you - to set the mood: "What do the skeletons say before they start to eat? – Bone appétit.

*Stine, Francesca, Sam and John*



**Friends of the Earth Europe**

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## Office news

### FoEE strategy meeting: 27-28 November, Brussels

As all of you know, the process towards building a new strategy for the FoEE network post-2013 has kick started. Because of Magda's early departure on maternity leave, David Heller will take on her role in the steering group. The steering group thanks all the groups who have already filled in the questionnaire and sent their input. This has been invaluable in setting up the basis of a process that will last until the next AGM in June 2013.

We are now gearing up to the network meeting that will take place in Brussels at the end of November. You can register [here](#) until 5 November. More details on content and logistics will follow.

For questions in relation to the process, please contact: [david.heller@foeeurope.org](mailto:david.heller@foeeurope.org)

### Upcoming events

#### November 13-14th Brussels: Meeting on Financing Land-grabbing

Please register by November 2nd at:

[amiando.com/landgrabbing.html](http://amiando.com/landgrabbing.html)

For more information, please contact: [anne.vanschaik@foeeurope.org](mailto:anne.vanschaik@foeeurope.org)

#### November 16th Brussels: Participation, Ethics & Transparency: What citizens want from Brussels

Please register by November 13th at:

[amiando.com/Alter.html](http://amiando.com/Alter.html)

For more information, please contact: [natacha.cingotti@foeeurope.org](mailto:natacha.cingotti@foeeurope.org)

#### December 3rd Brussels: Resource efficiency and land footprint

For more information please contact: [ariadna.rodrigo@foeeurope.org](mailto:ariadna.rodrigo@foeeurope.org)

#### December 5th Brussels: European NGOs/Civil Society Meeting on Biofuels

For more information please contact: [Robbie.blake@foeeurope.org](mailto:Robbie.blake@foeeurope.org)

**The members of the strategy group are:** David Heller (FoEE), Klaus Kastenhofer (Global 2000), Mike Childs (FoE Ewni), Max Biennati (Amici della Terra), Natacha Cingotti (FoEE), Ben Fuchs (consultant)

## Office media

It has been another busy period for us in the media.

Over the summer, our report on transparency in the European Parliament made headlines – including the **EU Observer** and **Public Service Europe**. More recently, the same report returned to the news when a potential conflict of interest was uncovered involving a Belgian MEP and €5.3 million worth of shares in beer company AB Inbev. **Natacha Cingotti** spoke to **La Libre Belgique** and **Le Vif Express** amongst others. Natacha also gave an in-depth interview to TV channel **RTBF**.

The shale gas campaign is still very young but has already attracted a lot of media interest and **Antoine Simon** is fast becoming the leading Brussels spokesper-

son on it. With the launch of our report (see page 15), and reports from the European Commission and Parliament, we had plenty of chances to comment, including to **EurActiv**, **Public Service Europe**, **European Voice**, **Utility Week** and **Natural Gas Europe**.

On food speculation, our demands and our joint action outside the parliament were reported by **EuroNews**, **EurActiv**, **Volksblatt** and **Food Navigator**, to name a few. *"It is crucial that MEPs make sure the regulations work and put the hunger of people before the hunger of the financial sector,"* said **Anne Van Schaik**.

'What is the role of CCS in the new energy future?' was the question **Sonja Meister** answered in a comment piece for



the EuroNews site **Comments Visions**.

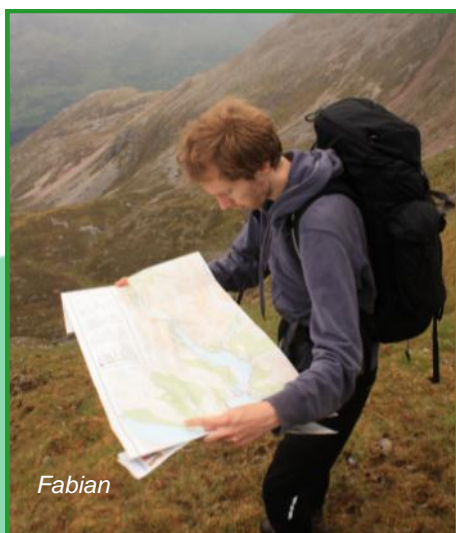
This is just a small selection of coverage from the last weeks, there is too much to list it all. But, the communications team does archive media stories about FoE Europe so let us know if you're interested in a specific article or story.



# People news

## Hellos:

**Fabian Flues** will be working together with Natacha organising the transparency and citizens' participation conference in November, and with Anne on food speculation and land grabbing. Before Brussels he lived in London studying geography and working in social housing. He is looking forward to climbing Wallonia's enormous mountains and trying as many Belgian beers as possible.



**Elena Gaita** joins the ECCJ team as an intern.

**John Hyland** will be with the FoEE communications team until March. John has just finished his Master's in Politics in Dublin, and this summer he worked with Friends of the Earth Ireland on policy and campaigns with Molly. Hi Molly! John wants to make sure that our words are properly hyphenated – and that we're clinically consistent with our en dashes.

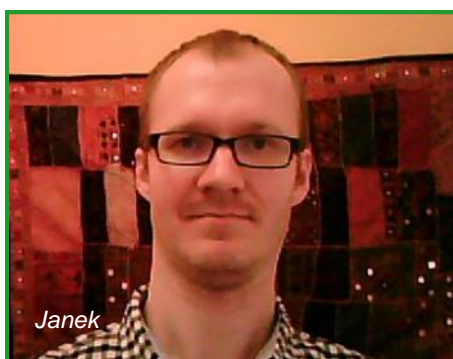


**Joe Payne** will spend two days a week assisting the FoEE finance team.

**Michael Pidgeon** is the new intern for the Climate Justice and Energy Programme. He was previously a trainee at the Commission, an English teacher in Vietnam, and worked for the Greens in the Irish parliament. He'll be working on energy efficiency, and the new Community Power campaign.

**Lukas Schmelzeisen** returns from an Erasmus semester in Berlin, where he embraced homely German air and the – relative to Belgian – easier German education system. He is working as an assistant to the Management Team. He still runs a shared house in the centre of Brussels and studies Business Engineering at the HUB as a working student, finishing his bachelor's degree in a little more than a year!

**Janek Vahk** is our new fundraiser. He previously worked in Spain for four years in development cooperation sector, entrepreneurship promotion,



marine protection and environmental law. He is Estonian – the first in FoEE. He studied environment and forestry and has a diploma in education.

## Goodbyes:

**Esther Bollendorf** leaves for another challenge, working with crazy Claude Turmes (Luxembourgian green MEP) in the European Parliament. She is looking very much forward to the change and new stimulus but she will miss the creative, colourful, human, crazy and campaigning side of FoEE. The campaigner meetings where we all met and could learn from our diversities will indeed be missed in the big glass pot which is the European Parliament.

**Muriel Treibich** returned to Lille to finish her Master's. Her summer at FoEE was a great experience – she never thought she would know more than 5 different MEPs, yet completed a report on 'dodgy' MEPs and their declarations of financial interest! Many thanks to the EJ team for making those months so great.



# Campaign news

## FoE European GMO Campaigners' Meeting

On the 3rd and 4th of September, campaigners from 8 countries met in Brussels to develop the strategy for the continued work on GMO, also focusing on the European Commission's plans to withdraw its zero-tolerance policy, as well as to authorise new GM crops for cultivation. FoE Latvia presented their "Thank you campaign" with which they convinced the leading supermarkets to stop selling GMO products. For more information, please contact Mute: [mute.schimpf@foeeurope.org](mailto:mute.schimpf@foeeurope.org)

## Biodiversity meeting, Solta, Croatia

The FoEE Biodiversity campaign had its yearly meeting in September. Biodiversity campaigners from seven groups across Europe were guests of FoE Croatia/Zelena Akcija – who organised the meeting at their Solta Solar Academy, the amazing venue they manage in the midst of Mediterranean nature on Solta Island, Croatia.

Participants spent three days reviewing the achievements of the European campaign, identifying next steps, and strategising for the future of biodiversity work within FoEE and its member groups.

### **Main conclusions:**

- Implementation and full integration of the current two



strands of work: "Aichi Barometer" (a review and comparison of the fulfilment by European countries of the commitments agreed at the CBD) and "The Nature's Keepers" (a communication project about the huge engagement of FoEE local groups and volunteers all throughout Europe), with common fundraising and campaign development

- Make MEPs accountable for biodiversity loss through the new CAP, by pointing out what they need to do to save specific species and habitats
- Better integration of and support to local struggles
- Identification of a few big themes for more aligned European work (such as governance, increased corporate power, weakening of rules, privatisation and bad use of public money).

## Biofuels capped but still likely to starve and pollute

We criticised reforms announced this month by the European Commission on Indirect Land-Use Change (ILUC), saying they will not stop biofuels pushing up food prices and accelerating climate change.

The proposals include a 5% cap on crop-based biofuels, which goes some way to controlling the quantity of crops which will be used for fuel. But, this limit is still above current consumption levels and will not prevent biofuels competing with crops for food or pressurising food prices in tight markets.

The proposals will need to be agreed by EU politicians in the coming year. So FoEE will be bringing its focus to the European Parliament and Council over the coming months.

### **Robbie Blake, biofuels campaigner for Friends of the Earth Europe said:**

*"After two years of dithering the European Commission has virtually ignored the significant deforestation and climate emissions from biofuels."*

*"National governments and the European Parliament must now step in to cut biofuel use to zero and call for a genuinely green transport policy that serves people and the planet."*

## European position reached on biodiversity

Friends of the Earth Europe have reached a position on Biodiversity – a very significant step for the European Biodiversity campaign!

The paper introduces biodiversity in the European context, gives views on the three fundamental "indirect" drivers of biodiversity

loss (population growth, individual consumption and resource use inefficiency), gives an overview of what needs to be done to reduce the five "direct drivers" of biodiversity loss, and gives guidance on the major issues regarding biodiversity.

Download the paper here: [foeeurope.org/node/594](http://foeeurope.org/node/594)



## Calling for immediate suspension of GM foods

We called for immediate action by the EU to protect public health following the publication of new research that linked GMOs and cancer in rats. The peer-reviewed research in the internationally respected journal Food and Chemical Toxicology found significantly increased rates of cancer and death in rats fed both Monsanto's GM maize and its herbicide Roundup.

In the current EU safety checks, only short-term tests of 90 days are conducted to assess the potential risks. Longer tests, as conducted in this new research are not required. The results raise serious new issues that need to be addressed by the EU's approval process, including mandatory long-term testing, and testing that includes the herbicides used in real farming situations.

We then criticised the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for failing to take the concerns about the safety of genetically modified (GM) crops and herbicides seriously.

We continue to call for national governments and EU safety authorities to suspend all new

GM approvals, and to remove GM products with a resistance to the herbicide Roundup (glyphosate) from the market.

## 4,000 demand reduction in Europe's land use

Along with our groups in Austria, Malta, the Netherlands, Spain, Germany, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Hungary, and England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Friends of the Earth collected 4,087 signatures from people who wanted to send a strong message to Commissioner Potocnik and the European Commission that they need to ensure the measurement of land is part of the key indicators for better resource use.

This formed part of our work to get the European Commission to address the urgent issue of Europe's land use. As a result, the European Commission has proposed to use the 'land footprint' measurement method in its 'Resource Efficiency Roadmap' – a set of policies to make sure Europe can cope with a future of more constrained and expensive resources.

Friends of the Earth Europe will host a conference in December on Europe's land footprint, and will publish a report on the issue early in 2013. For more

information please contact Ariadna Rodrigo:  
[ariadna.rodrigo@foeeurope.org](mailto:ariadna.rodrigo@foeeurope.org)

## Weaknesses found in MEP ethics rules

We criticised new ethics rules in the European Parliament for not being strict enough to ensure complete transparency on MEPs' outside interests, following a first analysis of declarations made under the code of conduct.

We conducted research that revealed weaknesses in the new declaration system introduced in January in response to last year's 'cash for law' scandal. The questionable accuracy of the data provided by some MEPs, and the failure of some MEPs to treat the declaration seriously, means full transparency cannot yet be assured.

The analysis of the declarations of interest of the 754 MEPs found 88 declarations empty, 88 do not declare any occupation prior to taking up their mandate and 118 MEPs declare remunerated activity outside of their mandate, with 19 of these not declaring how much.

Read the full report [here](#).

## European money well spent?

Alongside WWF and CEE Bankwatch, we released a new map showing how regional spending can guide investments that are sustainable, innovative and really benefit the public.

Visit [wellspent.eu](http://wellspent.eu) to watch the video, and read the specific country cases where Cohesion Policy is working for the environment, society and the economy. European spending has often been misguided and damaging, **through investments promoting fossil fuel use, carbon-intensive projects or the destruction of nature**, so it's a relief to see some

positive examples that show how our money should be spent.

If your group is interested in using the cases, the video or the map, please contact:  
[markus.trilling@foeeurope.org](mailto:markus.trilling@foeeurope.org)



# Young Friends of the Earth and network development news

## reCAP: 50 actions, 50 days for a greener CAP

This autumn, Young Friends of the Earth groups are running a series of actions to promote sustainable farming and reject intensive and polluting factory farming, as part of our **reCAP** campaign.

The campaign was launched at the Good Food March (page 10) in September, and is running for 50 days until 7th November. We hope to organise 50 actions; 30 have already taken place or are planned – ranging from street actions across Germany to collect 5,000 postcards addressed to the German Agriculture Minister, a film screening of the movie 'Seeds of Freedom' in Brussels, and converting a car parking space into an urban garden for a day in Zagreb, Croatia.

There's still time to get involved. Join us on facebook: [facebook.com/reCAP2012](https://www.facebook.com/reCAP2012) or download the action pack on our website [youngfoee.org](http://youngfoee.org) to find out how and why to get involved in reCAP. A special finale will be released after the end date of the action on 7th November.

## Annual Young FoEE Summer Camp, 14th-19th August

Pictures from this year's summer camp speak for themselves! We were hosted by Friends of the Earth Spain at their environmental education centre *As Corcerizas*, in the fantastic mountains of north west Spain. Along with the usual networking and exchanging between young activists from YFoE and FoE groups across Europe, there was a special focus on the background to our new reCAP campaign – calling for reforms to Europe's current policies and subsidies for farming. We learnt about the practical ways that we can go about living in and building a more sustainable society. We also met, and learnt from, the lo-



Launching recap in Brussels.  
Photo credit: Luka Tomac

cal people of the region.

The *As Corcerizas* centre was the perfect place for our summer camp, and we helped them celebrate 10 years of providing environmental education in a sustainable meeting venue.

For more pictures and news about what went on at this year's summer camp: [foeeurope.org/magical-summer-camp2012](http://foeeurope.org/magical-summer-camp2012)

## Get Moving, 18th-21st September

This September, the network development programme held an unprecedented four day learning, training and skill-sharing event on the theme of mobilisation. **Get Moving** brought together staff and volunteers working in many

different capacities from across the FoEE network to build and share our skills and experience on all forms of mobilising, event organising and volunteer engagement.

Participants also had the chance to take part in the Good Food March on 19th September, joining staff from the FoEE office, and other activists who had travelled to Brussels from across the network, and enjoyed four days of delicious, nutritious and organic vegan food, prepared by local cooking collective 'le debut des haricots' ("the start of the beans").

Find out more:  
[david.heller@foeeurope.org](mailto:david.heller@foeeurope.org)





# Global Frackdown

## European-wide action day against unconventional gas

Tens of thousands of activists in hundreds of different groups in different countries campaigning against hydraulic fracturing took part in 'Global Frackdown', to call a halt to this dangerous extractive process and the exploration of unconventional fossil fuels.

Global Frackdown was an international day of protest, with over 100 actions from Ohio to Australia and, of course, all across Europe. The purpose of the Global Frackdown was to unite concerned citizens everywhere for a day of action to send a message to elected officials in their respective communities and across the world that they want a future fueled by clean, renewable energy instead of dirty, carbon-emitting fossil fuels.

Protests were held in the west of Ireland, where fracking is proposed in the Lough Allen Basin. There is large concern about shale gas exploration in this area, particularly, as it is where the Shannon, Ireland's largest river, rises. Protestors lined the bridge over the river in Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim, with other protestors in boats on the river itself. A 'family day' protest was held in nearby

Manorhamilton. Activists, residents, farmers, business-owners and politicians all spoke to the crowd condemning fracking, and participants were entertained by live music from several local bands. Young Friends of the Earth Ireland also protested in Dublin to raise awareness in the capital of proposed fracking in other parts of the country, and how the city's water supply could be contaminated as there are plans to pipe drinking water across the country to meet increasing demand.

Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland took part in protests and lobbying at the Liberal Democrats' party conference in Brighton, England. The Liberal Democrat energy secretary, Ed Davies, is due to make a decision on whether to allow fracking to continue in the Flyde in Lancashire later this year, after earthquakes were recorded there. The Liberal Democrats were told to stop George Osborne's "dash for gas", if they wanted to retain any green credentials. Two areas in Sussex, Balcombe and Pulborough, have been suggested for possible fracking operations, and there has been strong opposition.



Protest on the Shannon – Ireland's largest river.

**Brenda Pollack, campaigner for Friends of the Earth South East, said:** *"We know that Sussex residents are concerned about companies wanting to drill for gas – there have been meetings locally – in Balcombe, Pulborough, Lewes and Brighton. This is an opportunity to hear more about the issue and to directly lobby Liberal Democrat MPs and delegates. Voters want to know where the Liberal Democrats stand."*

France saw a lot of action, with protests in Paris, Saint Christol in the south and Tarn-et-Garonne in





the south-west. In Paris, protestors, some dressed as clowns and mimes, erected an inflatable fracking pad beside the Eiffel Tower. In Tournan-en-Brie, 400 demonstrators formed a conga line around the hall where they were holding talks and presentations about the dangers of fracking. An extremely large protest was held in Saint Christol, with over 3,000 people in attendance, and speakers from Poland, the Netherlands and Canada updating participants on the situation regarding fracking in their various countries. Even though fracking is technically illegal in France, licences are still being granted for similar explorations, and there are serious loopholes which unscrupulous extractive companies may be able to exploit, with the same dangerous results.

350 people gathered on the main square of Trutnov, in north-eastern Czech Republic, to speak out against hydraulic fracturing and sign a petition calling for a halt to fracking and a focus on development of long-term sustainable solutions. Participants were told that although there is a proposed law



By the Eiffel Tower in Paris



Fracking technicians in Paris

***We want a future fuelled by clean, renewable energy instead of dirty, carbon-emitting fossil fuels.***

in both chambers of the Czech parliament that would ban fracking, the main opponent of the law is paradoxically the Ministry of the environment. The solution favoured by the ministry is a 2-year moratorium, which in practice means that new applications for drilling licences can be accepted, and the fossil fuel corporations have more time to prepare. One such application had been submitted the previous week by South Oil, a politically well-connected group. Czech environmentalists aren't about to give up, however, and their protest was joined by the mythical *Krakonoš*, a benevolent wood spirit.

These, of course, are just a few of the many protests that took

place around Europe and across the world. Dozens more organised demonstrations, petitions, concerts, seminars and more than a few screenings of *Gasland*, Josh Fox's 2010 film about the fracking industry in America and the problems it's causing there.

Friends of the Earth Europe is getting even more heavily involved in the fight against unconventional fossil fuel extraction, and held a shale gas/fracking campaigners' meeting this month with activists from other NGOs, as well as from our member groups.

We also launched our report 'Shale gas: unconventional and unwanted' in September. For more information about European coordination on shale gas/fracking campaigns, contact Antoine Simon:

**[antoine.simon@foeeurope.org](mailto:antoine.simon@foeeurope.org)** and you can find the report and more information at: **[foeeurope.org/shale-gas](http://foeeurope.org/shale-gas)**



Over 3,000 people gathered in Saint Christol, France, to protest against shale gas developments.





Hundreds join the Good Food March in Brussels for greener, fairer farming (Credit: Jan Gerschow)

## Marching in Brussels for good food

### Hundreds join march for radical reform of CAP

Hundreds of farmers and consumers descended on Brussels on the 19th of September to ask the EU for radical reform to the Common Agricultural Policy. Many had been travelling for days or weeks, some by tractor or bicycle, from many corners of Europe.

The CAP, which takes up big share of the EU's budget, at around 40% of the total budget, is currently being debated by decision-makers in Brussels, including, for the first time, the European Parliament.

There is huge concern that the CAP as it currently exists is geared towards massive industrial farms which are damaging to the environment and local people in many different ways. Monoculture farms, factory farms and excessive fertiliser-use raise greenhouse gas emissions, harm local biodiversity, pollute waterways and put small family farms out of business. EU funds directed to these agro-industry farms make

local, organic and seasonal produce a niche market and not the norm, which gives consumers less choice in the provenance of their food.

The protestors, farmers and consumers from 19 different EU countries, gathered in the morning in Parc Cinquantaire, where they were greeted by members of the press and held a brief press conference while more protestors assembled, some packing up their tents after camping in the park the night before. Most of the people coming from other countries had joined up on either the route from Strasbourg, from Calais, or coming across the Dutch

***Commissioner Ciolos was asked to ensure the CAP supports family farms, stops food speculation, and that public money is spent for the public good***

flatlands, and many had arrived in Brussels the previous day.

Once the protestors had gathered, they left the park and marched to the European Commission and Directorate General of Agriculture and Rural Development to present picture books to Agriculture Commissioner Ciolos and other public representatives. These books contained pictures of 1,000 people, farmers and consumers, holding their messages for the EU and their wishes for CAP reform on chalkboards or pieces of paper.

The procession marched to the European Parliament, a trail of protestors walking and cycling with lots of banners, many of them in fancy dress – most notably Milieudéfense's trashy Miss Piggys, toting signs declaring that, when it comes to farms, size really does matter. Decorated tractors, one pulling cow statues on a trailer, crept through central Brussels accompanied by a fanfare band who, tired of walking





with their heavy instruments, climbed on the backs of the cow statues and rode along to the tune of Ra-ra-rasputin.

The march arrived at the plaza in front of the Parliament and used their banners to decorate the tents set up there, arranging the cow statues and bales of hay from the parade about the square. Participants were treated to a massive brunch of seasonal organic food outside the parliament – a selection of salads and a particularly delicious vegetable stew – while marchers and representatives gave speeches and testimonials. A few MEPs mingled with their constituents in and out of the various tents set up around the plaza, which became very full for the ten minutes that the sky opened and bucketed down rain.

Slow Food and ARC2020, co-organisers of the Good Food March, held a conference inside the European Parliament, where Commissioner Ciolos was asked to ensure that the CAP would support family farms, do away with food speculation, and make sure that public money was being spent on the public good, not on increasing the profits of huge

### ***Our message is that we want good food and good farming***

multi-nationals. The Romanian Commissioner assured protestors and campaigners that the voices of consumers and small farmers were being heard and, although he insisted that compromises must be made, he said that discussions would happen with transparency.

**Friends of the Earth Europe Food, Agriculture and Biodiversity campaigner Adrian Bebb** was concerned, however, that the CAP reform discussions were still not heading in the right direction, so that the very vocal protest was necessary. *"We are still going to end up with an agriculture policy which is going to destroy nature, the environment, jobs and rural communities. We want to say to the European institutions that enough is enough,"* he said. *"Our message is that we want good food and good farming."*

The Good Food March also saw the launch of Young Friends of the Earth Europe's reCAP campaign. Young Friends of the



Earth Europe are aiming, with Young Friends of the Earth member groups, to do fifty actions in fifty days to call for a greener CAP. You can follow, and join, the reCAP campaign at [foeeurope.org/yfoee/reCAP](http://foeeurope.org/yfoee/reCAP)

The Good Food March photo campaign continues, with a second picture book currently in the works. If you want to send your wishes for CAP reform to the EU, follow the instructions at [good-foodmarch.eu/photo-action](http://good-foodmarch.eu/photo-action) to have your photo included.



## Groups' news

### FoE Belgium (Flanders and Brussels)

#### *Countering shale gas rhetoric*

Campaigners from Friends of the Earth Flanders and Brussels greeted delegates attending the European Gas Policy Forum in October with a simple message: fossil fuels like shale gas are unconventional, and unwanted in Europe.

The event, which took place at the Renaissance hotel in central Brussels, was organised in partnership with Chevron and Exxon Mobil. It is part of a huge industry push to open up EU countries for unconventional gas extraction with minimum legislation and regulation. Friends of the Earth Flanders and Brussels provided information to balance the pro-shale gas speakers appearing at the conference.

Friends of the Earth Flanders and Brussels (together with Climaxi) has launched a campaign to stop Dart Energy's plans for coal bed methane extraction in Limburg. The Australian unconventional gas company, in partnership with regional development agency LRM, has a budget exceeding



*Power Shift Belgium: December 1st—3rd*

EUR 10 million to exploit methane reserves in the Campine basin over the next 3 years.

For more information:  
[motherearth.org](http://motherearth.org)

### FoE Belgium (Flanders and Brussels)

#### *Power Shift Belgium!!!*

With the next international climate talks in Qatar, and the big business lobby in Brussels, Power Shift Belgium aims to bring youth and youth organisations together to share knowledge and skills about climate justice, and in particular about "corporate capture".

On 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, in the heart of Brussels, and in the middle of the COP18 international climate talks, Young Friends of the Earth Flanders and Brussels, working together with Climaxi, Catapa, CEO, Oxfam and others, will run a weekend of workshops, discussions and action.

For more information:  
[power-shift-belgium.org](http://power-shift-belgium.org)

Young Friends of the Earth Europe will also run Qatar in Brussels, to coincide with the COP18, 1st - 8th December: [foeeurope.org/yfoee/qatar-in-brussels](http://foeeurope.org/yfoee/qatar-in-brussels)

### FoE Croatia

#### *The struggle against Ombla power plant*

The natural heritage of the UNESCO city of Dubrovnik is threatened by plans to build a hydroelectric power-plant at the source of city's river Ombla – a potential Natura 2000 area with rich biodiversity, and the source of drinking water for Dubrovnik city.

Friends of the Earth Croatia, Friends of the Earth Europe and local citizen's initiative Srđ je naš, expressed concern at a press conference in September, calling for greater public participation in the project.



*FoEE biodiversity campaigners at the site of the proposed Ombla power plant*



If construction goes ahead, Croatian electricity company HEP will flood a cave system that is due to be protected as part of the Natura 2000 biodiversity network when Croatia enters the European Union in 2013. The strain on the water supply would also impact local residents' access to water.

The decision to build depends upon the environmental impact assessment of the project – a report that is now over 10 years old, and is considered both outdated and of poor quality. This report is challenged by four independent Croatian experts, and was deemed unacceptable by the European Commission.

**Enes Ćerimagić from Friends of the Earth Croatia said:** *“The original impact assessment is simply not credible, and the project will only move forward at great expense to local biodiversity and the citizens of Dubrovnik. It is hard to believe that the Croatian Government is still pushing for this.”*

**FoE Croatia**  
**Challenging the Srdj plateau golf resort in Dubrovnik**

There are plans to build a golf resort on the Srdj plateau above the city of Dubrovnik – an area of mixed forest and agricultural land.

The Srdj plateau sits within the city of Dubrovnik, just above the medieval city, and UNESCO cultural heritage site. For over ten years, there have been plans to build a golf resort on the plateau, with support from some locals, to boost tourism.

The golf resort would cover over 300 hectares of the plateau and would be heavily reliant upon local infrastructure (electricity, water, sewage system) which would be provided by Dubrovnik city at the expense of local citizens.

The development plan was presented to the public in



September 2010, where it was rejected – it included 268 villas, several hotels, as well as the golf course. The project has been developed behind closed doors and without public participation, and is based upon proposals that were rejected by local residents two years ago.

Đuro Capor, from the local citizen group Srđ je naš said: *“the mayor of Dubrovnik is planning development away from the public eye. Projects like these will have huge impacts upon the local community – the local community need to be involved.”*



**FoE EWNI**  
**Major victory for The Bee Cause campaign**

The Welsh Government announced a Welsh Pollinator Action Plan in July after talks with Friends of the Earth's The Bee Cause team. Championed in Wales by Welsh Environment Minister John Griffiths, the plan is a significant win for The Bee Cause. The campaign has been calling for National Bee Action Plans to be introduced in Wales and England.

**Friends of the Earth Cymru campaigner Bleddyn Lake said:** *“It's fantastic that Wales is taking the lead with action to safeguard our environment. This is great news for Wales and will hopefully also sting David Cameron into taking action by introducing a UK Bee Action Plan.”*

*“Our bees are declining fast and urgently need protecting - without them the UK would have to spend billions of pounds hand-pollinating many of our favourite fruit and vegetables.”*

Friends of the Earth and other groups will now work in partnership with the Welsh Government on the content of the Plan. Initial suggestions look



promising. They include changes to the Welsh planning system; more pollinator-friendly planting on public land, like road verges; work with local authorities on parks and public green spaces and research into the impact of pesticides in Wales.

## FoE France

### *New website launched*

Friends of the Earth France (Les Amis de la Terre) have launched their **new website**. The new website is designed to make it easier for supporters to get involved, with lots of opportunities to sign up or join actions, as well as news of successful campaigns like those against shale gas exploration in France and the Notre Dame des Landes airport. Friends of the Earth France's regular magazine, **La Baleine**, France's first environmental magazine, will also be available online. Visit :[amisdelaterre.org](http://amisdelaterre.org)

## FoE Sweden

### *A busy autumn for Friends of the Earth Sweden*

Friends of the Earth Sweden was present for all four days of the Gothenburg Bookfair, visited by over 100,000 people, promoting their work and meeting the public.



One of FoE Sweden's seed bombs



Little miss piggys from FoE Netherlands at the Good Food March, page 10

The last day saw a seminar where FoE Sweden presented their work alongside indigenous people from the Amazon rainforest in Brazil – an event that was then repeated in Malmö, south Sweden, a week later.

In mid-September, a small group from FoE Sweden joined the Good Food March in Brussels, and met with five Swedish MEPs as well as the shadow rapporteur for CAP, bringing FoE Sweden's views on food sustainability, as well as sustainable agriculture and forestry, to the table.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, as a part of an annual event called Culture Night, FoE Sweden made Gothenburg a greener city. Their workshop *Make your own Green bomb*, where anyone could make their own 'bomb' out of soil and flowers, was very popular. The idea was then to place the green bomb somewhere in the city where you thought a greener touch was needed.

Through the night FoE Sweden hosted an alternative city walk, as well as two workshops where participants could plan and build (with recycled material of course) the city they would like to live in. Over 70 people signed up to learn more about FoE Sweden as a result of the events.

*Eva Lindholm, Communication & Fundraising officer*



## FoE Switzerland

### *100% renewable*

FoE Switzerland, alongside the Swiss Environmental Alliance, published a new manifesto on energy and renewables "Energy 2035: 100% renewable, local, efficient" showing how a future of renewable energy supply in Switzerland is possible. Increased efficiency can save up to 20 billion kWh by 2035, while photovoltaic energy will cover 25% of the needs; these two main elements would allow Switzerland to switch off its nuclear power stations that currently account for almost 40% of electricity supply. The document also explains how a scenario of no electricity consumption increase is possible.

The document can be downloaded at: [pronatura.ch/energie-climat](http://pronatura.ch/energie-climat) (in French) or [pronatura.ch/energie-klima](http://pronatura.ch/energie-klima) (in German).

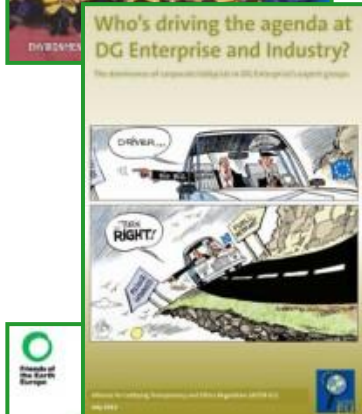
Further information:  
[bertrand.sansonnens@pronatura.ch](mailto:bertrand.sansonnens@pronatura.ch)





## Green 10 Off Their Game - The Green 10's Mid-Term Review of the European Commission's Environmental Track Record 2010-2012

Halfway through its term in office, the European Commission is falling behind in the race to create sustainable long-term prosperity in Europe, warn Europe's leading green groups in this critical assessment of the Commission's environmental performance since 2010.



## Lobby transparency Who's driving the agenda at DG Enterprise and Industry?

Two thirds of DG Enterprise's advisory groups are corporate-dominated - meaning industry experts and corporate lobbyists have effectively captured key areas of policy advice within the European Commission according to this research carried out by the Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation (ALTER-EU), and Friends of the Earth Europe.



## Lobby transparency Transparency in the European Parliament

In March 2011, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) were caught red-handed accepting money for tabling amendments to legislation. What was soon to be referred to as the 'cash for amendments' or 'cash for law' scandal caused an outcry in Brussels circles.



## Shale gas Shale gas: unconventional and unwanted

Europe risks side-lining its vision for a more sustainable, low-carbon energy future, according to this report, unless it permanently closes its doors to unconventional and unwanted fossil fuels like shale gas.



## EU funds Well Spent: Cohesion policy that works for the environment

With €350 billion for the period 2007-2013, the EU's Cohesion Policy is a formidable investment tool for promoting regional development across the 27 Member States. While the EU is misguided in many of the projects it supports, through investments promoting fossil fuels, carbon-intensive projects or the destruction of nature, sometimes it does get it right.

## Website update

The communications team is continuing to develop the new FoE Europe website – [www.foeeurope.org](http://www.foeeurope.org) – which was launched in March.

Over the summer we added a Twitter feed which aggregates the Twitter accounts of groups in the network – one account per country. It helps to show the liveliness and diversity of the network, and all the issues, and lan-

guages, we represent.

We also added animated image captions. And Young Friends of the Earth has an improved news section allowing them to better share stories from their network.

All the improvements are based on the consultation we did with stakeholders when we designed and built the site. We are planning to do a thorough evaluation

of the site early in the new year, so we'll be asking for your views and making more improvements based on what you tell us.

Don't forget to send us news of your successes and campaign developments for us to put on the website – especially if you have great images or videos to go with them! You can send your stories to any of your contacts at the FoEE office, or direct to [francesca.gater@foeeurope.org](mailto:francesca.gater@foeeurope.org)



## FoEE actions

### MEP vote falls short of what is needed to tackle food speculation

Campaigners used 925 pots and pans to spell out 'Stop food speculation' in giant letters outside the European Parliament at the end of September. The 925 pots and pans represent the 925 million people facing hunger worldwide.

This coincided with the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) adoption of its report on the review of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID). This piece of legislation is critical to achieve stronger regulation of commodity derivative markets and limit harmful financial speculation on food.

Alongside Oxfam, World Economy, Ecology and Development (WEED), and World Development Movement, we welcomed the introduction of mandatory limits on speculation, but warned that a number of loopholes must still be fixed to make the proposed rules

effective. We presented a petition with over 100,000 signatures from across Europe to the lead MEP for the legislation, Markus Ferber of Germany.

### No medals in sight for Barroso II

Halfway through its term in office, we assessed the European Commission's environmental performance and concluded it is falling behind in the race to create sustainable long-term prosperity in Europe. Our activists, dressed as Olympian Commissioners, released the report at a press conference in July – warning that unless it changes track, the Barroso II Commission could have one of the worst ever environmental records yet.

To download the Green 10 report, go to: [www.green10.org/docs/2012commissionreview.pdf](http://www.green10.org/docs/2012commissionreview.pdf)

For pictures from the launch event, go to: [bit.ly/offtheirgamepics](http://bit.ly/offtheirgamepics)

### Fracking fluid for MEPs

On the 18th of September, Friends of the Earth Europe, along with Green MEPs and other NGOs, staged a protest outside the European parliament to highlight the health and environment risks of shale gas extraction and fracking, and to increase pressure for an EU-wide moratorium on fracking. Activists and public representatives drank some murky 'fracking fluid', toasting the health of our environment, and drawing attention to the danger of industry interests clouding the debate around this unconventional and unwanted fossil fuel. Let's continue to convince our elected officials that what we need are renewable energy systems and energy efficiency, not more gas!

### Friday 13th: Lucky or unlucky for CAP reform?

Activists dressed as cows asked the European Commission if they would make it a lucky day for CAP outside a conference on the future of farming in July.

Calling on MEPs to bring an end to food speculation

Drinking 'fracking fluid' outside the European Parliament



Front cover: The Good Food March comes to Brussels with its message of good food and good farming (page 10). Photo credit: Luka Tomac  
Back cover: Our cows ask whether the European Commission will make be a lucky day for CAP outside the European Commission

Friends of the Earth Europe gratefully acknowledges financial assistance from all its donors. Detailed information about Friends of the Earth Europe's funding can be found at: [foeeurope.org/about/financial](http://foeeurope.org/about/financial)