

Invitation: PEERspectives on Strategic Investments in Europe's Competitiveness, Resilience and Security

Europe is navigating a period of intensifying global competition, geopolitical uncertainty and growing environmental pressures. Climate change, biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and pollution are no longer solely environmental concerns; they pose systemic risks to economic stability, supply chains, security and long-term prosperity. **Environmental research and innovation are essential to strengthening Europe's competitiveness, resilience, strategic autonomy and preparedness.**

We are pleased to invite you to this in-person event, which will be held at **Norway House in Brussels on 10 November 2026, from 15:00 to 18:00 CET.**

At this PEERspectives event, we will showcase and reflect on **the strategic contribution of environmental research to Europe's key policy priorities.** The programme will feature high-level perspectives, practical examples of research impact and a forward-looking discussion on the future of European environmental research. It will be followed by a networking reception celebrating PEER's 25th anniversary.

Registration is compulsory, **please register before 2 November with this link.**

PEERspectives Programme

Date: 10 November 2026, 15:00-18:00 CET

Location: Norway House, Rue Archimède 17, 1000 Brussels

Registration starts and welcoming coffee will be served at 14:30 CET.

PROGRAMME

Welcome and opening remarks

- **Pål Molander**, PEER Chair, Chief Executive Officer, The Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA/CIENS)

Environmental research as a foundation for European competitiveness, resilience and security and PEER project cases

- Introduction and chairing the discussion, **Katrin Böhning-Gaese**, Vice-President, Helmholtz Association, Scientific Director, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
- Competitiveness in the EU Transition to a Bioeconomy, **Berien Elbersen**, Senior Researcher Spatial Environmental Assessments, Wageningen Environmental Research (WENR)
- From maps to policy: Lessons learned from the PEER-PRESS project in support of ecosystem resilience, **Joachim Maes**, Team Leader, Sustainable Freshwater Unit, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- Comprehensive security is founded on a good state of the environment, **Leif Schulman**, Director General, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)
- Comments from **Kurt Vandenberghe**, Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General Climate Action

Strategic reflections: What's next for European environmental research?

- Chaired by **Maria Sommer Holtze**, Director, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy, Aarhus University
- Comments from **James Morrison**, Director, European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Directorate 'Healthy Planet', and **Vadim Kononenko**, Foresight and Policy Expert, European Environment Agency (EEA)

Closing remarks

- Looking ahead: PEER's role in supporting Europe's future ambitions, **Stuart Wainwright**, Chief Executive, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH)

PEER's 25th anniversary reception

- Moderated by **André van Lammeren**, Managing Director, Environmental Sciences Group (ESG), Wageningen University and Research (WUR)
- The story of PEER by **Jan Marco Müller**, the first secretary of PEER
- Interviewing PEER's first chair **Herman Eijsackers** and **Alessandra Zampieri**, Director – Sustainable Resources, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission

Networking