



## A 'popular' summary of the EEAC Strategy

EEAC as a network of national independent advisory councils is science based and defined by its members high integrity. Its overarching goal is to make the advisory work of its member and partner councils more effective and efficient by exchanging information and help set priorities in the context of European environmental, nature protection and sustainable development policies, strategies and developments. The network and its members and partners support decision makers in adopting and applying a more sustainable concept of development. This concept of development will acknowledge economic needs and social aspirations, but will also respect the constraints imposed by the requirement to protect the critical and unique values of the natural environment.

The network wants to strengthen its credibility and authority in relation to the European Commission and the Parliament by providing impartial statements and discuss these timely with representatives of these institutions. This includes giving recommendations to draft Directives. Its interdisciplinary, multi-stakeholder and nationally rooted member and partner councils provide potentials to be an influential environment and sustainability think-tank in Europe. As such, EEAC could serve as a crucial interface between science and policy development.

The EEAC Strategy is the tool to create a high delivery capacity concerning the future political and societal challenges. It enables EEAC to build on its strengths while balancing the external output with its internal cohesion and rooting within its councils.

Crucial mindsets and organisational requirements identified by the Strategy are:

- scientific integrity and maintained independence from political influence for the member councils,
- a selective work mode and strong mechanisms to prioritise,
- a high ambition and capacity to respond to medium and long-term key challenges,
- the courage and forum to debate controversial topics,
- a truly pan-European perspective and representation, and
- a clear picture of Europe's role in global politics and international partners with common goals.

To contribute to ongoing and planned policies at EU level and to in the longer run help set the political agenda, EEAC needs to be timely and selective. This is achieved by: regularly conducted 'horizon scanning' and the usage of broader forward looks by other organisations; the APS yearly and actively prioritising on the basis of an internally produced forward looking paper; the annual conference inspired by the EU SDS agenda; and network activities that are systematically reflecting the Commissions work programme. Councils who do surveys on EU policies individually are invited to extend this for EEAC.

EEAC wants to keep the SD agenda visible and the environmental dimension strong, by drafting alternative paths for the future and being ready, when windows of opportunity open. Dialogue with economic and social players should also be sought and improved.

To better the EEAC's external voice, EEAC needs to undertake robust analysis of issues, built on the science-based work of member councils and insight from stakeholder processes. Working Groups - the origin of the EEAC statements - needs to be more effective; They should be time limited, goal oriented, transparent and monitored on a regular basis. EEAC aims at deepening the relationship with EEA.

EEAC products are EEAC Statements, Working Group Statements and Working Group Chair letters/papers. Media opportunities are sought when there are appropriate EEAC activities and products.

To increase ownership within the network, concurrence of the agendas of individual councils and the joint EEAC agenda will be improved. This is a two way process where the EEAC collective and its individual member and partner councils jointly learn from each other.

To consolidate and enlarge the network the European regional representation of independent advisory expert/stakeholder councils, particularly in the Eastern and Southern areas will be supported and analysis and advice on internal governance of councils provided.

To improve among its members an understanding of Europe as a global actor, global issues will be made part of the agenda of individual councils as well as of EEAC. Prioritised contacts at the global level are existing advisory councils and their networks. EEAC actively supports countries, which decide to establish an advisory council.