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WWF Europe Newsletter, March 2015, Issue 3

## Europe, still in need of a climate and energy vision without blind spots

By [Adam White](#), *Climate and Energy Research Coordinator, WWF*

The Junker Commission's first communications on climate and energy – published on 25 February - leave plenty of room for improvement. The Energy Union is a once in a generation opportunity to ensure the EU's climate and energy policies match today's social, economic, and environmental realities – this is not the moment for a re-shuffling of a well-worn deck of cards.

Any seasoned political observer is wary of documents heavy on rhetoric, and the Commission has certainly provided plenty of this. In its own words, the vision is nothing less than “a fundamental transformation of Europe's energy system”. [Read more](#)

## 28 March, 8.30 pm: join Earth Hour and switch off your lights!

Every year in March, WWF celebrates [Earth Hour](#), where millions of people, businesses and governments - including the European Institutions - around the world turn off their lights for one hour, sending a powerful message for action on climate change.

## Take the March challenge now and save water without big effort!



## LATEST NEWS

### [EU split over ending public support for overseas coal plants](#)

3 March - 34 OECD countries will discuss ending public 'export



credits' for funding overseas coal plants after EU countries failed to find an agreement.



### **Geneviève Pons-Deladrière named Director of WWF's EU Office**

3 March - Geneviève Pons-Deladrière, a French national with a lawyer background will take over from Tony Long as head of WWF's EU office. Long will retire in June 2015 after over 25 years at WWF in Brussels.



### **Europe's Environment Agency throws down green gauntlet to Juncker Commission**

3 March - The agency's report 'State of the Environment' warns the Commission to give greater importance to environment and shows that green policies can lead to innovation, jobs and growth.



### **EU's climate and energy vision comes with blind spots**

25 February - WWF warns that the EU Energy vision and 'Paris Protocol' by the Commission are unclear on how to shift Europe to a low-carbon economy and seriously address climate change.



### **European Parliament takes a step to knock out Europe's toxic tonnes...later than sooner**

24 February - MEPs agreed to curb the amount of CO2 pollution permits in the market but postponed reforms to 2019.



### **Copa Cogeca should continue dialogue on large carnivores**

19 February - WWF and other NGOs wrote to European farmers highlighting the need for different stakeholders to ensure large carnivores coexist with human activities.



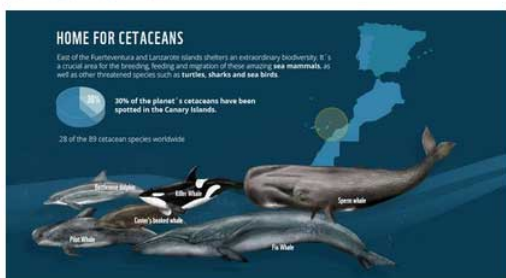
### **Good progress in Geneva, but hard work still ahead**

13 February - WWF points out the need for political decisions at national levels, such the CO2 emissions plans, to lead to an ambitious deal before Paris climate meeting.

**TOP TWEETS [@WWFEU](https://twitter.com/WWFEU)**



Bye-bye oil drilling, hello #whales! We want a #WhaleSanctuary in the #CanaryIslands. Do you? [pand.as/1zkftNZ](http://pand.as/1zkftNZ)



RETWEETS 91 FAVORITES 44

12:51 AM - 1 Mar 2015



Happy International #PolarBearDay! RT if you can't imagine a world without polar bears. [bit.ly/PolarBearWatch](http://bit.ly/PolarBearWatch)



RETWEETS 20 FAVORITES 11

## MULTIMEDIA



### Knock out the Toxic Tonnes!

On 24th February the Environment Committee of the European Parliament voted on the Market Stability Reserve, to address the problem of a gigantic surplus of pollution permits in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS).



CAN Europe, Carbon Market Watch and WWF hosted a Climate Boxing Ring in front of the European Parliament and invited MEPs to knock out the Toxic Tonnes of the EU ETS.

Watch the [video](#) and [photos](#) of the action.

## STORIES FROM AROUND EUROPE



### Romanian transport gets greener

Future road, navigation and rail transport projects in Romania will include nature conservation proposals by WWF. Romania has rich natural habitats with large carnivores and rare species, like sturgeons. Future projects will have to consider routes that avoid negative impact on all protected areas, including Natura 2000. [Read more](#)

### Italy close to legal punishment for eco-crimes

The Italian Senate has voted in favour of a new law against eco-



crimes, welcomed by WWF. If approved, damages against nature like “environmental disaster”, “pollution”, or “illegal trade in radioactive materials” could be treated and punished as “crimes”. WWF has launched a petition signed by more than 50.000 to support stronger sanctions for crimes against wildlife.

**More on WWF's activities:**

[Climate & Energy](#) - [EU & the world](#) - [Natural Resources](#) -  
[General EU Affairs](#)



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EU Transparency Register Nr: 1414929419-24

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