



# Fact sheet 1

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## EEA: the hub of European environmental data

### What is the European Environment Agency (EEA)?

- The EEA was established by the EU in 1990 and started its activities in 1994 in Copenhagen.
- Although the EEA was founded as an EU institution, the EEA is also open to countries that are not EU members, but which share the goals of the agency in the area of environmental protection and sustainable development.
- The EEA currently has 32 members, namely the 25 EU member states, Bulgaria, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Romania, Switzerland and Turkey.

### What are the main objectives of the EEA?

The mandate of the EEA is to promote sustainable development. In addition, it should contribute to a clearly measurable improvement in the environment of Europe. It collects and analyses data and prepares information about the state of the environment, in order to:

- Provide the European Union and its member states with objective, reliable information that is comparable throughout Europe,
- Create the fundamentals, based on which the EU can take the measures necessary to protect the environment, and can evaluate their implementation,
- Inform the public about the state of the environment.

### How does the EEA achieve these objectives?

- The EEA has a network called the European Environmental Information and Observation Network (EIONET, see fact sheet 2).
- The EEA advises the European Commission on developing common legislation.
- The EEA provides a wide range of information and assessments. Every year it brings out a series of reports and briefings on certain topics. Normally these are translated into the official languages of the EEA member states.

## **The main focuses of the EEA**

In its strategy for 2004 to 2008 the EEA gave the following as its four main topics:

- Climate change
- Loss of biological diversity and changes in land use,
- Protection of human health and quality of life,
- Sustainable utilization and management of raw materials and wastes.

## **Information**

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## **Internet**

- <http://www.eea.europa.eu>