



Summer Newsletter

July 2023

EDITORIAL

As the [scorching summer](#) continues to grip the **Northern hemisphere**, Mediterranean countries are grappling with unprecedented [climate events](#) that demand urgent attention. The region has been plagued by devastating **wildfires**, leading to the closure of cherished [tourist sites](#) and wreaking havoc on local communities. The escalating environmental crisis underscores the **imperative for coordinated action on climate change** at both the national, regional and global levels.

Against this backdrop, the current [Spanish Presidency of the European Council](#) faces a pivotal moment in addressing **climate change and its far-reaching impacts**. The frequency and intensity of these [climate events](#) serve as a clarion call for governments to come together, pool resources, and devise comprehensive strategies to combat this existential threat. The Spanish Presidency's role in convening discussions and coordinating efforts among member states is crucial in **fostering a united response** that transcends national borders.

Amidst these challenges, **eco-union** has taken an active stance in organizing a series of events focused on the [climate agenda](#). This initiative demonstrates the growing public demand for concerted action and highlights [civil society's role in driving positive change](#). **eco-union's** efforts serve to amplifying the voices of activists, experts, and concerned citizens in the fight against climate change.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Barcelona Destinació Zero Emissions



eco-union, in collaboration with the [Association for the Promotion of Public Transport](#) (PTP) and the [Sustainable and Safe Mobility Foundation](#) (FMSS) has been leading the '**Barcelona Zero Emissions Destination**' project funded by the [Barcelona City Council](#). It aims to boost and promote **sustainable mobility in tourist travels to and from Barcelona**. We held an in-person event to unveil the [Climate impacts and decarbonisation pathways of tourist mobility in Barcelona](#) report. Furthermore, we hosted a series of [webinars](#) aimed at actively engaging the tourism sector, citizens, and administration.

Blue Tourism Initiative



The [Blue Tourism Initiative](#) —a 4 years global project led by [eco-union](#) and [IDDRI](#), in association with [CORDIO](#) East Africa, [IUCN-Med](#) and the [Caribbean Natural Resources Institute](#)— published its first **global flagship report: [Towards Sustainable Blue Tourism: Trends, Challenges and Policy Pathways](#)**. The publication, introduced during an [interactive global workshop](#), promotes a holistic vision of **maritime and coastal tourism** and aims to **improve the governance of blue tourism** to ensure sustainable, inclusive and resilient development, and address the associated challenges. [Read the Executive Summary](#).



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Europe On Rail



eco-union, together with other European mobility stakeholders, [called upon the EU](#) to ensure a high level of ambition for the [Multimodal Digital Mobility Service \(MDMS\) Regulation](#) and to guarantee that the interests of European rail travellers and the EU climate goals remain at the heart of the initiative.

Remobilitzem el turisme

“**Remobilitzem el turisme**” (*Remobilising Tourism*) is a research, training and advocacy project aiming to promote a **sustainable, inclusive and low-carbon tourism** while fostering the principles of **Social and Solidarity Economy** within Barcelona's tourism sector. **eco-union** organised the [Barcelona Tourism Lab](#), a workshop aimed to facilitate a constructive dialogue among diverse social actors associated with the tourism industry. Valuable insights on the **externalities of tourism**, as well as the role of the **Social and Solidarity Economy** in addressing the **environmental and social challenges** posed by tourism activity were discussed.

Tipping+



inclusive, prosperous and clean-energy regions.

The EU funded [TIPPING+](#) project has explored the critical concept of socio-economic **tipping points** of deliberate rapid decarbonisation processes in [Coal and Carbon Intensive Regions](#) (CCIRs). As the project came to an end, its [Final Conference](#) took place, in Brussels, with the publication of thematic [policy briefs](#) with tools and recommendations for the successful transformation of CCIRs into

Travel Smart



The [Travel Smart Campaign](#), led by [Transport & Environment](#) together with a coalition of global partners including **eco-union**, is a global effort aimed at **reducing business air travel emissions**. Companies are encouraged to set ambitious targets, opt for rail travel, and prioritize video conferencing as a sustainable alternative to long-haul flights. The [2023 ranking](#) reveals that only 48 out of 322 companies set ambitious targets to reduce corporate travel emissions, showing a majority are not doing enough.

Viaja en Verde



Viaja en Verde, an initiative led by **eco-union**, aims to **reduce the climate impact of tourism mobility in Spain**, focusing on medium and long-distance travels. The report on [Climate impact of main tourist travel corridors in Spain](#) describes the opportunities and barriers for a **modal shift** towards cleaner modes of transport in the tourism sector. **eco-union** also developed a [climate-friendly travel guideline](#) for public administrations and private sector to reduce their climate footprint and move towards a “net zero” organisation or destination.



eco-union NEWS

Board member of Climate Action Network Europe

Jérémie Fosse, president of **eco-union**, has been elected board-member of [CAN-Europe Climate Network](#) for the coming years. He will support the leading role of the Civil Society Organization to raise climate and environmental ambition at EU and global level.

Tourism & Mobility Eco Forum 2023

In January, **eco-union** hosted a [Tourism & Mobility Eco Forum](#) at the European Commission Office in Barcelona. This event provided a platform for reflections on the existing **patterns of tourist mobility**, delved into the environmental impacts stemming from the **current mobility model**, and identified the **potential for a modal shift** from air and road travel to train travel.

Alliance for a Climate Ambitious Spanish Presidency of the European Council

27 civil society organisations committed to the green transition in Spain and Europe, spearheaded by **eco-union** and **Conama**, have [joined efforts](#) to champion climate action during the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

EPBD Workshop: best European practices in building renovation

Coinciding with the [informal meetings of Energy and Climate/Environment Ministers](#) that took place in **Valladolid** (Spain), **eco-union** co-organised the [EPBD Workshop: European Best Practices](#) where, together with representatives of EU countries and local stakeholders, EU best practices for the renovation of buildings and the promotion of the [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive \(EPBD\)](#) were discussed.

IN OUR RADAR

Hot News, Articles & Publications (hand picked by our team)

Global scale

Global temperatures are likely to surge to record levels in the next five years, fuelled by heat-trapping greenhouse gases and a naturally occurring [El Niño](#) event, according to a [new update issued by the World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#).

The stability of our Earth and our well-being are closely connected, but this relationship is often overlooked, leading to them being treated as separate issues. To address this, [Nature](#) published the [Safe and just Earth system boundaries](#) report utilizing modeling and literature assessment to establish safe and fair Earth system boundaries (ESBs) for climate, the biosphere, water and nutrient cycles, and aerosols on both global and subglobal scales.

in Europe

[CAN Europe](#) launched the report [How to stop the never-ending nightmare: fossil fuel subsidies in the EU](#) that outlines how **fossil fuel subsidies have infiltrated all sectors** of our economy and are now pervasive, multiform and massive. The report observes how over the past years **fossil fuel subsidies have been on the rise**, especially since 2021 as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic and then to the war in Ukraine, directly **hindering the efforts to transition to 100% renewable energy**.

[Greenpeace](#)'s latest study [Ticket prices of planes vs trains. A Europe-wide analysis](#) sheds light on the **stark disparity between air and train ticket prices** in Europe, revealing the UK to have the largest difference in costs between climate-damaging flights and train travel. Following closely in second place is Spain. The study compared ticket prices on more than 100 routes between major European cities and found



that **trains were on average twice as expensive as flying**, but four times as much for routes to and from the UK or Spain.

in the Mediterranean

The [Friedrich Naumann Foundation](#) and the [European Institute of the Mediterranean](#) presented in Barcelona the report [Climate change and migration](#). Understanding factors, developing opportunities in the Sahel Zone, West Africa and the Maghreb.

En España (en español)

España ya se encuentra entre los países del mundo que más está sufriendo los impactos del cambio climático. Así lo asegura el informe de [Greenpeace](#): [Carrera climática contrarreloj: cambio climático y eventos meteorológicos extremos en España](#), a través de una revisión de las publicaciones científicas existentes hasta el momento, se detallan las **tendencias y previsiones de los impactos futuros del cambio climático y los eventos meteorológicos extremos** en España.

A Catalunya (en català)

Catalunya pateix una **sequera continuada** des del 2021, la **falta d'episodis de pluja més freqüents** i l'**increment de les temperatures** han generat una de les sequeres més intenses que s'han viscut al territori. La situació ha obligat la Generalitat de Catalunya a declarar l'[estat d'excepcionalitat per sequera](#) i a aplicar restriccions en l'ús de l'aigua en diversos sectors.

Actualment, [els embassaments es troben per sota del 30%](#) i si aquesta tendència continua, durant el mes de setembre podríem arribar a registrar xifres tan baixes com les de la sequera històrica del 2007, quan els pantans van quedar al 21% de la seva capacitat. Durant maig i juny les tempestes han sigut freqüents, però **no s'ha pogut eixugar el dèficit anual de pluja** fins al moment, i molt menys encara el d'anys anteriors.

EVENTS to follow

- [Informal ministerial meeting on transport](#): 21-22 September 2023, Barcelona
- [Climate & Energy Summit](#), 2 October 2023, Madrid

[Join us](#) to improve our impact!