

“150 Years of Ecology An Evolving Science Challenging Society & Citizenship”

Round Table | 3H1 - European Parliament, Brussels | 15:00-17:00 CEST

We, Members of the European Parliament and the European Ecological Federation (EEF) organising the Round Table of the “150 years of Ecology”, together with the participant representatives of national ecological societies, European societies of Ecological Sociology and Economics, research infrastructures and joint programming initiatives, large European projects, initiatives and research networks.

Recognising that ecology, as a modern science, has long evolved in a socio-economic context determined by the industrial revolution, which started to affect the status, organisation and existence of ecosystems;

Recognising that human population growth, natural resource exploitation and globalisation have already determined a new ecologically limiting context challenging citizens and societies and requiring global ecological sustainability of every activity we perform within ecosystems;

Aware of the importance of ecology in deepening our understanding of ecosystem functioning and responding to pressures arising from the economic activities and providing services and social benefits, as well as the need of future adaptation to climate change;

Aware also of the fact that thematic sciences cannot bring affordable solutions to the challenging problem of reinforcing economic growth and spreading well-being under the conditions of limited natural resources;

Have synthesised the following key concluding remarks from the discussions held in the Round Table;

- ⇒ Haeckel’s legacy, ‘Ecology’, is an idea whose time has come. Ecology is a deep science with the proper framework to address environmental issues relevant to present and future societies with affordable predictable scenarios and operational solutions, despite the complexity of ecosystems;
- ⇒ Reinforcing ecological knowledge and deepening understanding on ecosystems’ function are essential to preserve the biological diversity, the services and social benefits of ecosystems and the renewal of natural resources and to draw mitigation and adaptation actions or even solutions to climate change and human population dynamics’ impacts;
- ⇒ To bring the planet toward a wise and safe future, we need more than that: a new revolutionary approach to the ecological science and citizenship;
- ⇒ Ecology shall become an integrative science, merging itself with mainstream economics, law, sociological and technological science; it has to be inclusive with civil society and groups of interests practicing transdisciplinarity, and promoting citizen science and peer-community processes;
- ⇒ All citizens shall become ecological citizens, behaving locally, but thinking and wishing globally for a sustainable and justly shared biosphere, going beyond the borders of nations and ideologies;
- ⇒ Changing minds, paradigms and actions to drive the planet towards a sustainable and healthy future require multiple stewards, including society, science and politics;



- ⇒ European Ecological Federation and the sibling European ecological and environmental societies, counting thousands of members in well organized platforms, can play a major stewardship role in:
 - promoting wide range of initiatives connecting science, politics and institutions reinforcing the ecological culture in European citizens and boosting the development of an integrative 'ecological' science, merging mainstream ecology, economy, sociology, law science into a trans-disciplinary paradigm of sustainability;
 - giving support to the national, European and International initiatives, projects, research infrastructures and networks and other major actors already active on these lines and guaranteeing sustainability of project results and achievements; and,
 - involving citizens in the process as active 'ecological citizens', being informed and interested in the status of their common good, the planet and its ecosystems, demanding knowledge, critically analysing scientific answers, being part of the research process and getting ready to behavioural changes when required for a common future;

- ⇒ The development of an integrative 'ecological' science is a politically relevant issue at every scale, which requires the identification of lines and instruments of intervention in favour of the development and operation of centres of integrative ecological science and of the high level education of next generation ecologists along these lines, prioritising then their recruitment in science.