



# Welcome to Safeguard's Autumn Newsletter



## In this newsletter:

- Project Updates
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- Events



## Safe-Hub: Safeguard Knowledge Exchange Hub is now live!

In an effort to increase awareness and knowledge of wild pollinators and their societal values, Safeguard has launched the open-source platform [Safeguard Knowledge Exchange Hub – Safe-Hub](#). The hub aims to facilitate pollinator data and knowledge sharing, support recommendations, and co-design solutions for wild pollinator decline.

Shaped by the findings of Safeguard and other relevant pollinator projects, networks and initiatives, Safe-Hub navigates harmonised and standardised data on pollinator health, monitoring, distribution, and conservation, along with newly developed and existing data and tools.



[Read more](#)

[Visit Safe-Hub](#)

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## 9th Student Conference on Conservation Science: SCCS Europe

Between 10 and 14 September 2024, young conservationists, students and early career researchers gathered together at Balatonvilágos, Hungary, for the 9th Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS Europe). The Safeguard-supported event was organised by the HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research and the Regional Centre for Information and Scientific Development (RCISD). The first day of the conference was dedicated to the Safeguard project and included a plenary by partner Yann Clough (Lund University) and two workshops by

partners Costanza Geppert (University of Padua) and Deepa Senepathi (University of Reading).



[Read more](#)

## Safeguard was presented at the 8th meeting of the Working Group on Pollinators

On 26 June 2024, Safeguard was presented at the 8th meeting of the Working Group on Pollinators (WGP), a subgroup of the EU Biodiversity Platform. During the WGP meeting, project coordinator Prof. Dr. Ingolf Steffan-Dewenter (Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology (Zoology III), University of Würzburg) gave an overview of Safeguard, introducing project objectives, tasks and results.



**SAFEGUARD**

## 8th meeting of the Working Group on Pollinators



European  
Commission



[Read more](#)



## Policy corner

### A new Parliament, a new Commission

With EU Parliamentary elections in June and the reshuffling of the college of Commissioners following President Von der Leyen's reelection, summer 2024 has brought new trajectories for EU's 2024-2029 environmental policy. The EU Strategic Agenda for the new mandate will focus on three priorities: "a free and democratic Europe", "a strong and secure Europe", "a prosperous and competitive Europe". In relation to environment and agriculture, the EU institutions will strive to promote "green and digital transitions" and push for "a sustainable and resilient agricultural sector".

[See the list of Commissioners-designate](#)



## Outcomes of the Strategic Dialogue for Agriculture

On 4 September, President Von der Leyen unveiled the 100+ pages report resulting from 7 months of talks on the strategic dialogue on Agriculture. The recommendations from the report will feed into the Commission's "Vision for Agriculture and Food", promised within the first 100 days of the President's mandate. It is still unclear to what extent the recommendations will inspire the next set of EU agri-food policies. The report includes (among others) a proposal for the establishment of a Nature Restoration Fund and an Agriculture Just Transition Fund, moving CAP towards viability and income and away from area-based payments, incentivising sustainable and healthy diets, including plant-based proteins and promoting locally adapted and peasant farms including via strengthened and new short-supply chains. The report also recommends the creation of a harmonised benchmarking system for sustainability between farms, with "common objectives, principles, and criteria, and include monitoring and verification tools with common metrics and indicators".

[Read an article on this topic](#)

[Read the press release](#)

## Germany announces voluntary plan to halve its use of pesticides

In February, the Commission withdrew its proposal on the Sustainable use of pesticides. However, early September, the German agriculture minister Cem Özdemir announced the ministry's objective to halve the use of pesticides, on a voluntary basis, by 2030. The Minister said: "The aim is to support agricultural and specialty crop farms on their way to more targeted and biodiversity-friendly plant protection" [...] "Agriculture should

continue to produce safe and healthy food for everyone and be economically viable. At the same time, we want to preserve and protect the foundations of agriculture — biodiversity, healthy soil, clean air and unpolluted water — for future generations.”

The plan aims to (1) promote innovation through the use of low-pesticide cultivation methods; 2) increase cooperation between agriculture and nature conservation to protect biodiversity; and 3) provide alternatives to increase the availability of low-risk products, including biological plant protection as alternatives to chemical pesticides.

[Read more \(German\)](#)

## **The Commission facing two legal procedures in France and Germany for extended approval of glyphosate and other agricultural pesticides**

In France, lawyer Corinne Lepage filed an appeal with the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) on behalf of three NGOs, against the argument that the decision to reauthorize glyphosate violated the precautionary principle. A decision should be made in 2025. In Germany, the NGO Umwelthilfe announced on 9 September that it had filed a legal challenge with the CJEU, arguing that the renewal of approvals for the highly persistent and toxic flufenacet and the fumigant sulfuryl fluoride are illegal because they lack new impact assessments.

[Read more \(English\)](#)

[Read more \(French\)](#)

[Read more \(German\)](#)

## **The EU Ombudsman launches an inquiry for the CAP revision fast track**

Back in March 2023, the Commission amended the CAP Regulation to ease some of the environmental requirements for receiving payments, in relation to farmers' protests. The proposal, was adopted within 4 weeks, although it was submitted without an impact assessment. Therefore, there are concerns that the proposal was adopted without proper evaluation of environmental impacts and risks in relation to undermining EU's climate and environmental objectives. There are also concerns that the Commission did not appropriately consult the public on its proposal. The Commission has until 16 December to answer the questions of the Ombudsman.

[Letter from the European Ombudsman](#)

[Read the proposal](#)

[Read an article on this topic](#)



## Events

This summer, Safeguard travelled across the world to spread the word about the project's mission and achievements. On behalf of the project's communication and dissemination partner, Pensoft Publishers, Safeguard attended five major events in Europe and Asia showcasing various promotional materials.

### **World Biodiversity Forum 2024: From Science To Action**



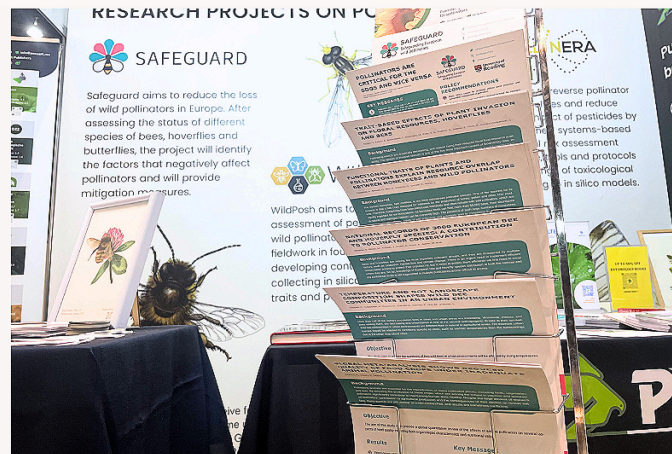
- 16 - 21 June 2024
- Davos, Switzerland



## 27th International Congress of Entomology (ICE2024)



- 25 - 30 August 2024
- Kyoto, Japan



## 53rd Annual Conference of the German Ecological Society (GfÖ24)



- 9 - 13 September 2024
- Freising, Bavaria, Germany





## 9th Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS Europe 2024)



- 10 - 14 September 2024
- Balatonvilágos, Hungary



## International conference 'Global warming's imprints on the elements of the climatic system' – a side event of the 61st session of the IPCC



- 24 - 28 September 2024
- Hisarya, Bulgaria



You can learn more about the events in the News section on the Safeguard website.

[Visit website](#)



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