



### Background

The IES has a long association with ENEP, having been a member for over ten years. Over this period the Institution has contributed financially through its membership, but also has contributed a great deal in terms of staff time to attend meetings, sit on committees and develop membership services.

In September 2017 the IES wrote to ENEP's President, with regret, to offer notice of the Institution's resignation, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. Although we continue to support the aims of ENEP, as a small membership organisation the IES governing board (the IES Council) has a responsibility to review all expenditure to ensure it delivers value for our members. The IES Council concluded that the present ENEP membership offer does not deliver this value.

As made clear in the Institution's resignation letter, the decision of the IES Council was reached independently. This decision also does not relate to the decision of the UK to withdraw from the European Union (EU). The IES Council has previously unanimously agreed that a collaborative, pan-European approach is the most effective way to tackle environmental issues, and our commitment to European and international collaboration remains strong.

### The future of ENEP

The IES would be interested in participation in a European or international network which delivered appropriate membership services at an affordable price.

The IES would be happy to contribute to a consultation led by an ENEP task force set up to consider future scenarios. The composition of this task force should be decided by the continuing ENEP members, but we recommend that it is drawn from across the membership. Views should be sought from a wide range of external stakeholders, to ensure all potential collaboration opportunities are considered. It is important that this exercise addresses the question of who ENEP is for (associations, individual members or both), and what its primary aims are.

The following points and principles should be considered as part of a broad discussion about ENEP's future:

- All ENEP member associations have a responsibility to ensure their resources, primarily derived from individual member subscriptions, are spent effectively. As such, any future membership package should be affordable and deliver appropriate return on investment.
- Robust and transparent financial and governance arrangements must be put in place to give members confidence in the sustainability of the network.
- Reform of ENEP's governance arrangements should be considered, both to give members confidence in the organisation, to facilitate useful discussion and full participation at General Assemblies, and to ensure the organisation is agile and effective. ENEP's statutes and by-laws will need reviewing as part of this process.
- General Assemblies should be the forum for members to input into the strategic direction and activity plan, but these should be engaging and avoid repetition of previous GAs to ensure high attendance. Mechanisms are needed to stop a minority of members blocking development of the organisation.
- The primary services of interest to the IES are:
  - Identification of mechanisms and opportunities for members to engage with the Commission and other European institutions and bodies is of interest to us (irrespective of Brexit).
  - The sharing of knowledge, intelligence and analysis regarding national variation in the transposition of regulations, approaches to tackling environmental challenges, and monitoring the effectiveness of these approaches.

# The future of ENEP

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- Enabling bilateral collaborations between member associations and other groups in areas of mutual interest.
- To be successful, funding arrangements must be put in place to ensure the network is sufficiently resourced. This may require a review of the current business model. This ideally would include provisions for paid administrative support and a separate individual to undertake specific and periodic influencing and engagement activities. Clear job roles will ensure that tasks are undertaken by the appropriate employee.