



EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU
Celebrating 40 years of environmental action

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EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU
TWELVE STARS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AWARD

Celebrating Environmental Excellence

WINNER 2014

To mark its 40th anniversary, the European Environmental Bureau is presenting four 'Twelve Stars for the Environment' Awards. The winners are outstanding individuals who in different ways have made an exceptional contribution to the cause of environmental sustainability in Europe.

The Awards will be presented on the occasion of the EEB 40th anniversary celebrations on 1 December 2014 at the BIP, Brussels.

The winners have been selected by the EEB Board following an open nomination process and recommendations for nominees from the EEB Twelve Star Award Committee consisting of the EEB President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary General.

Winner

Janez Potočnik

European Commissioner for the Environment 2010-2014

For his science-based approach to promoting environmental sustainability



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EEB 'TWELVE STARS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT' AWARD WINNER 2014

Janez Potočnik

As European Commissioner for the Environment in the period 2010-2014, Janez Potočnik worked with intelligence and commitment within an increasingly difficult political climate to argue the case for stronger environmental policies. He consistently pointed out that environmental protection and economic recovery must go hand-in-hand and highlighted the benefits to the economy and job creation deriving from greener policies, with reduction of Europe's resource intensity and preservation of our natural heritage being two key priorities.

As a Commissioner, Janez recognized the need to engage and convince colleagues responsible for other dossiers and invested heavily in this, not least in the successful case of resource efficiency, which underlined that environment and economy are mutually supportive rather than conflicting. On the global level, in the Post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals process, Janez sought to promote a coherent approach and warned of the environmental dimension being marginalised.

Just as important was Janez's work on his own portfolio, with the 7th Environmental Action Programme as the most central initiative. His package to combat air pollution was a legal proposal of high significance for health and the environment. These and other achievements are impressive in the light of the increasingly common anti-scientific, deregulatory ideology that characterised the Commission.

'Janez Potočnik's impressive grasp of complex science and economics combined with a genuine commitment to the environment have made him an effective advocate for environmental sustainability at a time when environmental policy has been under threat,' said EEB President Mikael Karlsson. *'He argued until the very last minute of his term for new policies, challenging the business community to invest in the circular economy.'*

Highlights of Janez's outstanding environmental achievement:

- Securing resource efficiency as a key component of the Europe 2020 strategy, highlighting its economic and social advantages on top of the environmental benefits and elaborating on it through the Resource Efficiency Roadmap, circular economy package including revised waste targets, and efforts to green the European Semester.
- Steering the adoption of the EU Biodiversity Strategy through which Member States have committed to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and of ecosystem services by 2020 and playing a key role in securing the global agreement to halt biodiversity loss in Nagoya in 2010.
- Putting out a policy package to combat air pollution and thereby improve the environment and the lives of many European citizens.