

## MAY NEWSLETTER

This month, we've explored the ways in which cultural institutions and initiatives can play a key role in raising awareness about environmental sustainability and resilience. Also, we're bringing you the latest legislative news across Europe and how these new regulations are going to shape the future of tackling issues in the domains of green and digital transitions.

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT



#### **Platform Klimaat en Erfgoed (The Climate and Heritage platform), The Netherlands**

Platform Klimaat en Erfgoed (The Climate and Heritage platform) brings together various people, projects and companies within the heritage sector. The platform is for everyone who, professionally or as an interested party in their work, deals with the consequences of climate change on heritage. Jacomine Hendrikse, apart from being a board member of this platform is also an adviser at DutchCulture, a network and knowledge organisation for international cultural cooperation.

*"There are plenty of great initiatives, but policies and funding requirements could be much stricter in favour of climate positivity. Right now, sustainable 'alternatives' often come from intrinsic motivation of cultural professionals themselves. Governments and policy makers should realise that funding is power and demand sustainable practices, with financial consequences if the criteria are not met."*

[Full interview here](#)

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## NEWS FROM ACROSS EUROPE

### The European

**Commission** introduced a comprehensive plan to enhance the sustainability and circularity of products within the EU. This initiative outlines a prioritized list of products, including textiles, electronics, and furniture, that will be subject to new ecodesign requirements and energy labelling over the next five years. The plan aims to make sustainable products the norm, reduce environmental impacts throughout product life cycles, and empower consumers with better information for eco-friendly choices. These measures are part of the broader European Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan, striving to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 and promote resource efficiency across the EU economy.

“This initiative marks a major step toward making the circular economy a reality on the ground and sustainable products the norm across the EU. By setting clear priorities, we are providing legal certainty and predictability for the concerned industries, fostering innovation, and driving investment to support the transition to a circular economy. This will help close the innovation gap, develop lead markets for sustainable products, and accelerate the decarbonisation of key value chains to reinforce the EU’s competitiveness.” - **Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy**



Palais D'Europe, Strasbourg (Photo: Council of Europe)

**The Council of Europe** has adopted the Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, marking the first international legally binding instrument dedicated to combating environmental crime. This comprehensive treaty aims to prevent and address a wide range of environmental offenses, including unlawful pollution, hazardous waste management, illegal mining, and the destruction of protected habitats. Notably, it introduces provisions for prosecuting particularly serious offenses that result in irreversible or widespread environmental damage, aligning with the concept of "ecocide." The Convention also emphasizes the protection of victims, witnesses, and whistleblowers, and mandates the development of national strategies, professional training, and international cooperation to enhance enforcement. By establishing minimum legal standards and promoting a unified approach, the Convention seeks to strengthen environmental protection and uphold human rights across Europe and beyond.

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