



Action funded by
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EU4Environment

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Regional seminar with Eastern Partnership countries on risk-based approaches to environmental compliance assurance

Summary report

25 November 2020, Zoom (13h – 16h CET)

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more information.

Action implemented by:



Meeting highlights

Environmental compliance assurance, which comprises compliance promotion, monitoring and enforcement activities, is an important factor in achieving environmental and green economy objectives. It has a variety of societal and economic benefits, such as the protection of public health and the environment, achievement of better environmental outcomes at lower overall costs, promotion of the rule of law and good governance, increase of investor confidence, stimulation of innovation and creation of new jobs, promotion of a level playing field among companies, enhancement of transparency and promotion of citizen involvement in enforcement. An increasing trend in the EU countries has been to use a risk-based approach to environmental compliance assurance at a strategic and an operational level to make compliance assurance measures more effective and to optimise the use of available resources.

The regional seminar, organised under the EU4Environment Programme funded by the European Union, provided an opportunity for the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries to present progress in strengthening their environmental compliance assurance systems. This included notably the setting up of a separate enforcement agency in Azerbaijan (the State Environmental Security Service) and in Moldova (the Environmental Protection Inspectorate); application of a risk-based approach to inspections in Armenia, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine; creation of databases used by Inspectorates in Armenia and Moldova; a draft law on environmental liability in Georgia; and a programme for interested NGOs and the public to participate in inspections in Ukraine. EaP country representatives also shared their plans and priorities, ranging from establishing electronic systems to awareness-raising campaigns, introduction of new laws (e.g. on environmental control), updating of laws on environmental payments and environmental liability, implementation of EU Directives, improvement of environmental incentives to businesses, implementation of environmental insurance, re-organisation of regional environmental inspections and a more comprehensive approach to Environmental Impact Assessment.

The EaP economies have different institutional and legislative set-ups and immediate priorities, but some common challenges are optimising the use of sometimes scarce available resources, updating existing legislation and approximating it to EU standards in cases where Association Agreements are in place.

The meeting was also an occasion to present and discuss risk-based approaches and methodologies in this field and ways to support voluntary compliance in EU countries, and tools proposed by the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL).

As an implementing partner of the EU4Environment Action, the OECD continues to support the EaP country efforts directly through analysis and capacity building, and through the facilitation of connections between EaP countries and other national representatives and experts in the OECD economies and networks such as IMPEL.

Meeting background

The Regional seminar with Eastern Partnership countries on risk-based approaches to environmental compliance assurance took place on 25 November, from 13h-16h CET, on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. It was organised as part of the EU4Environment Action funded by the European Union.¹

The meeting was attended by 47 participants, including representatives from all the Eastern Partnership countries, IMPEL and OECD member countries. Representatives of civil society organisations also took part in the event. Simultaneous translation was offered between English and Russian. Mr. Krzysztof

¹ The “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment) aims to help the six partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts. The Action is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank based on a budget of some EUR 20 million. The Action implementation period is 2019-2022. For further information contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org.

Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, facilitated the event.

This summary report in English and Russian, the agenda for the meeting, the Background Note and the presentations given are available at: <https://www.eu4environment.org/events/regional-seminar-with-eastern-partnership-countries-on-risk-based-approaches-to-environmental-compliance-assurance/>.

Summary of the discussion:

Agenda Item 1. Welcome and introductions

The meeting was opened by Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate. He welcomed the participants to the seminar and went through a few technical points. He noted that the seminar is organised within the framework of the EU4Environment Action, under subcomponent 3.2 on Environmental Compliance Assurance and Liability Regimes and provided background information on the project. He highlighted that the activities under this subcomponent will build on the significant work conducted previously by the OECD on environmental compliance assurance. He introduced the goals of today's meeting, went through the seminar agenda and introduced the speakers.

Agenda Item 2. Approaches to environmental compliance assurance

During this agenda item, Ms. Olga Olson, Policy Analyst, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, who manages the implementation of EU4Environment's component 3.2 on Environmental Compliance Assurance and Liability Regimes, provided a brief introduction to the concept of environmental compliance assurance, and its societal and economic benefits (the Background Note for the seminar is available online in [English](#) and in [Russian](#)).

She then discussed the three components of environmental compliance assurance: promotion of environmental compliance, monitoring of environmental compliance, and enforcement measures, including the purpose and the tools used for each. She also highlighted that these must be supported by a framework including appropriate legislation based on a life-cycle approach that involves regular reviews and updates, as well as robust institutions and good data.

Finally, she introduced the concept of risk-based environmental compliance assurance which can be used at a strategic and an operational level. It can help to estimate the likelihood of non-compliance and establish broad policy priorities, and provides a way to carry out inspections and other assurance measures in the most efficient manner. She pointed out that a risk-based approach also carries some challenges, such as ensuring that data is of sufficient quantity and quality to provide for an objective decision about risk and that lower risk installations have enough incentives to remain compliant with environmental regulations.

Agenda Item 3. Approaches to environmental compliance assurance in the Eastern Partnership region

During this session, representatives from each Eastern Partnership country provided an update on the latest national developments in the sphere of environmental compliance assurance and the most urgent priorities going forward. This helped to take stock of the current situation and progress on this topic in the region and provided a better understanding of capacity building needs and activities that could be considered in the framework of EU4Environment.

From **Armenia**, Mr. Vrej Galoyan, Deputy Head of the Inspectorate for Nature Protection and Mineral Resources, presented the Inspectorate, its structure, amount of staff, relevant legislation, the latest achievements and activities, and priorities for 2021. Armenia's Inspectorate for Nature Protection and Mineral Resources is a state body responsible for ensuring compliance with environmental and subsoil safety legislation including through preventive and enforcement measures. Armenia's Law on Organising and Performing Inspections from 2000 defines a system of risk-based inspections and inspection planning.

An important milestone for the Inspectorate has been the adoption of a risk methodology and criteria on 22 August 2019 which allows it to evaluate economic entities and classify them into risk groups based on their impact on the environment. As a result, the Inspectorate classifies economic entities into risk groups based on an economic entity's type of activity and each entity's individual risk. The inspection frequency is once a year for high-risk installations, once every three years for medium-risk installations, and once every five years for low-risk installations. The risk methodology document also foresees the creation of a database with information on economic sectors and the environmental impact of economic entities, which the Inspectorate maintains.

Going forward, the Inspectorate plans to put in place an electronic system of environmental control and to carry out large-scale preventive awareness-raising activities in 2021, including consulting, advertisements, TV programmes and events, and publication of an information booklet for the general public.

Mr. Ruslan Salmanov, Chief Legal Adviser of the State Environmental Security Service, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of **Azerbaijan**, provided information about the State Environmental Security Service, created in 2019 (the relevant legislation was adopted in March 2020), its mandate and activities. This Service is the main body responsible for environmental compliance and state oversight over environmental safety in Azerbaijan. It is responsible for the protection of the environment and natural resources (except for subsoil), the protection of biodiversity, flora including forestry, fauna including fish and other aquatic resources, protected areas and objects, prevention of air pollution, waste management, and environmental monitoring and enforcement of environmental regulations and international treaties that Azerbaijan is party to. It also submits policy proposals to the government in these areas and also on environmental education.

The Service conducts on-site inspections of large polluters based on a yearly plan prepared at the request of institutions such as the monitoring department of the state hydrometeorological service. In case it detects non-compliance, the State Environmental Security Service prepares environmental records for the imposition of fines. The Service also carries out inspections of compliance with legislation concerning the protection of forests and green plantations based on annual plans or following requests received from individuals, legal entities or government bodies.

Finally, the Service ensures compliance with waste management legislation, conducting on-site inspections in case of discrepancies in the statistical data on legal entities compiled at the end of each year. The State Environmental Security Service is supported in its work by 11 regional departments. As regards its immediate priorities, Azerbaijan is updating its 1993 law on payments from large pollution sources.

Mr. Valery Kurilov, Director of State Enterprise "Ecologyinvest", **Belarus**, spoke about the various components of the system of environmental compliance assurance in Belarus. It is based on the principles of presumption of good faith of economic entities, self-regulation of business and non-interference by the government. Inspectors enforce environmental legislation by carrying out various types of inspections including routine, ad hoc and preventive. Inspections for air pollution are based on the degree of risk determined using criteria such as the amount and composition of air pollution, the environmental impact of economic entities in unfavourable weather conditions, the number of stationary and of mobile source of pollution, and the impact on the residential sector.

Mr. Kurilov highlighted that environmental norms and standards are reviewed every five years, with integration of Best Available Techniques (BAT). Analytical monitoring laboratories are responsible for environmental protection monitoring at national level, while some industries also engage in self-monitoring through dedicated units at enterprises (in particular, 416 natural resource users). A system for local monitoring is also in place. Environmental fines are imposed for non-compliance, with a special methodology used to calculate harm to the environment.

Mr. Kurilov also informed participants about the existing system of rewards for economic entities that proactively reduce their environmental impact and informational measures in place such as Aarhus information centres and advice provided to companies on green technologies. Priorities for the future include improvement of environmental incentives to businesses and implementation of environmental insurance.

From **Georgia**, Mr. Tariel Iremadze, International Relations Specialist, Department of Environmental Supervision, Ministry of Environment and Agriculture, shared Georgia's ongoing reforms in environmental compliance assurance and some relevant statistics. He mentioned that the country has developed a draft law on environmental liability with the support of international experts and partners which should be

adopted in the near future. The law will establish a framework for environmental liability based on the Polluter Pays Principle in order to prevent and remedy environmental damage.

Georgia is taking steps to fulfil environmental recommendations under the Association Agreement with the EU and to harmonise its environmental legislation with EU standards. For example, this year Georgia has prepared amendments to its administrative code with the aim of establishing more reasonable penalties for air pollution. Mr. Iremadze shared statistics on inspections, administrative and criminal violations, the amount of penalties imposed and the amount of environmental damage incurred in 2020.

Mr. Igor Pșenicinîi, Head of Legal Division, Environmental Protection Inspectorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of **Moldova**, provided an update on the activities, mandate, organisational structure, staff, as well as relevant laws, of the Inspectorate of Moldova which was created in 2018. He highlighted that human resources are a challenge, as more than 100 positions out of 291 remain vacant.

The Law 131 from 2012 on state control over entrepreneurial activities established the main principles and procedures of control. Governmental resolution number 464 from 2018 on the governmental state control registry established a mechanism for record keeping of governmental control over entrepreneurial activity. It also put in place a database on planned and unplanned inspections that includes inspection plans and checklists, inspection results, and information about monitored economic entities, risk criteria and analysis. Resolution 963 from 2018 approved a methodology for risk-based enforcement activities by the Inspectorate. As a result, the Inspectorate undertakes risk-based analysis in several instances including the annual planning of inspections, when handling complaints and discovering non-compliance.

Mr. Roman Shakhmatenko, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of **Ukraine**, explained the environmental assurance system in Ukraine, the way that inspections work there, and the most recent initiatives. The state environmental inspection is the main body implementing environmental policy in the country. Yearly inspection plans are based on risk, with high-risk installations inspected once every two years, medium-risk installations every three years, and low-risk installations every five years. At the moment, Ukraine is considering adding a fourth level of the highest-risk polluters to be checked yearly. Inspections take place according to a uniformity principle and a standard list of questions for the inspectors to ask.

Inspection plans and inspection results are published. Moreover, interested NGOs and the public can take part in environmental inspections on the ground through an institute of public inspectors. In case of non-compliance, Ukraine uses written notices and then imposes administrative penalties. Currently, Ukraine is moving from a regional system of environmental inspection to an inter-regional one that would connect two-three regions endowed with similar natural resources. It is also looking into granting the inspection powers to stop illegal activity without resorting to courts, which is the only way to do so at the moment. He stated that Ukraine aims at implementing speedily the EU Association Agreement and expects the EU Industrial Emissions Directive to be implemented in 2021. Other reforms that are in process include a specialised law on environmental control; the further fine-tuning of the implementation of the EU Liability Directive; and introduction of a more comprehensive approach to Environmental Impact Assessment.

Mr. Shakhmatenko emphasised that Ukraine is interested in close cooperation with the OECD and IMPEL on environmental compliance assurance.

Ms. Ina Coseru, Chair, **National Environmental Centre**, EaP Coordinator of Working Group 3, "Environment, Climate Change and Energy Security", **Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum**, stressed the importance of implementation of environmental legislation. She listed some of the challenges for effective implementation including corruption, low institutional capacity, and unfinished institutional reforms in some countries. She pointed out that implementation is not just the work of inspectorates, but of all environmental institutions.

Ms. Coseru also underlined the necessity of providing information to target groups and ensuring capacity of local public authorities. She promoted the involvement of civil society by governments in a continuous

dialogue as NGOs have a good understanding of the challenges to environmental compliance assurance, have an important role in monitoring, and can carry out capacity building activities. As an example of concrete impact of NGO activity, she highlighted “EcoAlert”, an electronic platform designed by the National Environmental Centre in Moldova allowing alerts to the Inspectorate on possible breaches of environmental law. She also mentioned that agreements signed between the NGO and the Inspectorate had helped resolve specific environmental issues in the country. Ms. Coseru stated that she is looking forward to more events on environmental compliance within EU4Environment and suggested the creation of task forces on implementation of environmental legislation in the EaP countries as part of OECD work.

Overall, the presentations by the EaP economies showed that quite a few changes and innovations have occurred in the environmental assurance systems there over the last few years, including newly created institutions and new or revised legislation, and that additional updates are also in the pipeline. Overall, EaP economies understand and are making efforts to implement a variety of compliance assurance system components. Some of them have been applying risk-based approaches to inspections.

The session has demonstrated that the EaP countries are at different stages of their legislative and institutional set-up and the implementation of the various components of compliance assurance and risk-based approaches, and have differing contexts and immediate priorities. In addition, there is a prevailing focus on a traditional toolbox mostly consisting of inspections as compared to information-based and promotional approaches or self-monitoring. It also showed that a pyramid of enforcement measures is not fully leveraged, as the use of monetary fines is more widespread compared to other enforcement measures such as non-formal measures.

The participants agreed to continue the dialogue among the EaP economies to understand in even more detail the individual country initiatives, and to see how EU4Environment can be of most use in the countries’ ongoing reforms and priorities.

Item 4. Examples of international approaches and methodologies used for risk-based environmental compliance assurance

Three speakers from OECD economies shared methodologies for compliance assurance and risk-based compliance approaches and their experiences of working in this field. Mr. Duncan Giddens, Freelance consultant, Owner/Director, Optimus Management Solutions Ltd.; former Senior Project Manager, Environment and Business, **Environment Agency of England**, spoke about the terminology, principles and approaches to environmental compliance assurance, environmental compliance promotion approaches and risk-based tools including the Operational Risk Assessment (OPRA) methodology used by the Environmental Agency of England. Mr. Simon Bingham, International Development Manager at the **Scottish Environment Protection Agency**; Cross-Cutting Expert Team Leader & Board Member of IMPEL, shared his observations and findings over 15 years in studying and implementing risk-based compliance assurance systems. Finally, Mr. Rob Kramers, Expert, **Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management of the Netherlands; Knowledge Centre InfoMil**, delved into the “Doing the Right Things” Methodology developed by IMPEL.

Presentations included a variety of concrete methodologies/approaches to risk-based environmental compliance, used notably by the Environment Agency of England, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and by IMPEL (see Box 1).

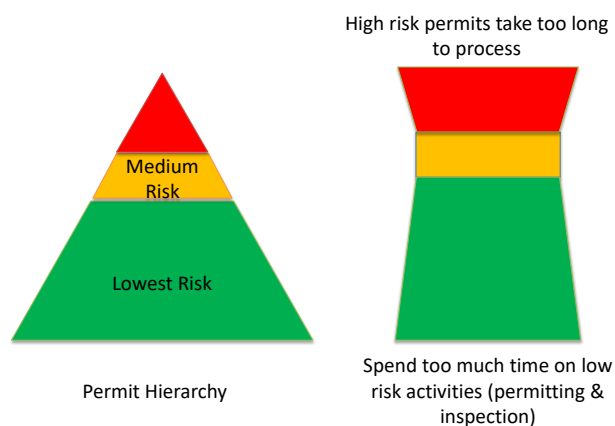
Box 1. Methodologies/approaches to risk-based environmental compliance assurance presented at the Regional seminar with Eastern Partnership countries on 25 November 2020

- The **Smart Regulation Model** used by the Environment Agency of England includes the following components: i) definition of outcomes such as the impact on health and the environment; ii) choice of instruments, with the idea to use ones that will deliver outcomes in terms of environmental impacts and risks, depending on instrument availability; iii) compliance and enforcement, where resources can be prioritised around risk, focusing on the most hazardous activities and the poorest performing operators; and iv) evaluation and information.
- The **Compliance-Enforcement Model** used by the Environment Agency of England divides compliance levels into acceptable and unacceptable, with four sub-categories overall, each necessitating a certain type of policy response. In this model, a “lighter touch” approach is used for “top performers” that go beyond compliance, and a “proactive ownership” approach is used for “generally compliant companies”, focusing on support and education. Non-compliant companies are categorised into “generally non-compliant” that require information and education, backed up by enforcement, and “criminally non-compliant” that are addressed by investigation, prosecution and possibly termination of activity.
- The **Operational Risk Appraisal Tool (OPRA)** used by the Environment Agency of England looks at two elements of risk: i) the inherent risk of an activity that is carried out and ii) the managed risk (the operator’s performance in managing risk). Both of these factors are taken into account in order to put together an annual risk rating, with the operators also using it to self-assess their level of risk. These risk ratings are also used to set environmental charges, with lower-risk installations subject to lower charges.
- The **Choosing Interventions IMPEL Model** helps to determine which interventions (e.g. direct/command and control tool such as inspections, economic instruments, information-based and intelligence tools, partnership/joint activities, self-regulation, and support and capacity building) are the best suited for a particular circumstance. A manual and a PC-based application are available on the IMPEL website, and a company that has developed this application still provides support in applying this model.
- The **Dynamic Regulatory Effort Assessment Model** used by SEPA is a holistic risk assessment model that compares risk of all the sites in various sectors. Even though difficult to establish, it reflects the fact that big is not always bad, and a small site can have a significant negative environmental impact as well. The application of this model has significantly reduced the inspection frequency in Scotland.
- The **“Doing the Right Things” methodology**, developed by IMPEL, focuses on three steps of an environmental compliance assurance process: the regulatory cycle, the permitting cycle and the inspection cycle, which are inter-related and combined with evaluation and feedback throughout. The setting priorities stage aims to create a list of inspection objects using a risk-based approach taking into account effect (Impact Criteria (IC)) and probability (Operator Performance Criteria (OPC)). Objectives and strategies are then set based on risk and include the definition of inspection targets and plans and their publication, setting out of an inspection framework defining items necessary to support inspections, and preparation of an operational inspection programme. This methodology and related factsheets are available on the IMPEL website.

The speakers also focused on the concept of environmental compliance, its success factors and challenges such as:

- Compliance assurance has several definitions, and a good approach is to focus on the achievement of intended outcomes rather than merely meeting legal requirements.
- It is not possible to achieve 100% compliance all of the time, so a good approach is to look at acceptable and non-acceptable compliance levels and their consequences.
- Risk assessment is flexible, and should be reviewed on a regular basis depending on available resources and the environment. Risk assessment is not an exact science, but is rather about assigning criteria that will allow to allocate resources.
- A risk-based approach applies to different stages of environmental compliance assurance, including the permitting stage. A well-developed risk-based permitting system should normally have a range of permission activities including permits, registration, notification and General Binding Rules (GBR) depending on the pollution risk of an entity. Each degree of risk would also have gradation.
- The observed reality of the risk-based approach application is that usually more time is spent on lower-risk activities than would be ideal, and more time is spent on permitting (“the salt-shaker” diagramme) (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Observed reality: Risk vs. regulatory effort pyramids (salt shaker)



Source: Presentation by Mr. Simon Bingham, International Development Manager at Scottish Environment Protection Agency; Cross-Cutting Expert Team Leader & Board Member of IMPEL, Regional seminar with Eastern Partnership countries on risk-based approaches to environmental compliance assurance, 25 November 2020.

- Environmental compliance assurance approaches vary and can include command-and-control interventions, NGO-led or citizen-led initiatives. The toolkit has not changed for many decades, and various components work very well in different countries, but it is difficult to get everything right in one place.
- Self-regulation by companies is important for compliance assurance. Operators might carry out internal audits and provide data to demonstrate compliance. They could do so through an Environmental Management System (EMS) or with the help of third parties.
- Compliance assurance schemes can involve the regulator or the regulated. A monitoring certification scheme (MCERTS) in England provides independent verification of monitoring systems. Companies can also carry out their own corporate and social responsibility initiatives, and there might be sector-specific environmental compliance assurance schemes such as the Chemical Industries Association (CIA) Responsible Care Scheme or the Farm Assurance Scheme in England.
- The effectiveness of enforcement is dependent on resources and capacity. This includes good-quality and clear environmental legislation, capacity of the operator, a sufficient number

of inspectors for the amount of permits issued, available data and information, inspection programmes etc.

- Focusing on the entire regulatory cycle of environmental compliance is important. Poorly constructed permits and rules will create issues downstream in the compliance assurance chain, for example, by making inspection impossible, while a bad inspection system might make permitting useless.
- The compliance assurance toolkit has to continually expand to meet new challenges (“N+1” concept). Even traditional tools such as formal enforcement, monitoring and assessment have a variety of tools that might not have been considered yet. More attention can be paid to promotion and awareness-raising, communication (e.g. naming and shaming), incentives and rewards, voluntary action, citizen regulation, partnerships, and influencing and marketing interventions.
- Possible immediate measures for countries with fewer resources include prioritising the highest-risk activities and focusing on “low-hanging fruit” based on the analysis of the state of the environment, tackling the human resource constraint such as the competencies of the inspectors, and diversifying from traditional approaches such as inspections to more public information, education, and incentives.

The next stage of work on environmental compliance assurance under EU4Environment

EU4Environment foresees several activities for its subcomponent 3.2 on Environmental Compliance Assurance and Liability Regimes with different EaP countries and at regional level, agreed upon following consultations with the countries and the EU.

The participants agreed to work towards the implementation of the activities foreseen in 2021 for the immediate future, which include:

- Continuation of consultations with country stakeholders to understand in more detail the situation with environmental compliance assurance and priorities, to gauge possible support within EU4Environment.
- Finalisation of two compliance assurance system reviews (Armenia, Moldova).
- Holding of the second regional capacity building meeting (date and topic tbd).
- Possibly holding technical online sessions on specific components of environmental compliance assurance.

It was also agreed that a short questionnaire would be sent out asking the participants to identify topics of most interest to them for any possible technical online sessions.

The meeting was concluded by Mr. Michalak who thanked the speakers for their informative presentations and all the participants for a dynamic discussion. He also invited all the participants to the next regional meeting that is planned for the fall of 2021 and signalled that more topic specific seminars may be organised in the course of 2021.

Further information

For further information, please contact Ms. Olga Olson, olga.olson@oecd.org, and visit the meeting website: <https://www.eu4environment.org/events/regional-seminar-with-eastern-partnership-countries-on-risk-based-approaches-to-environmental-compliance-assurance/>.

List of participants

First name	Last name	Title	Affiliation
Mr. Vrej	Galoyan	Deputy Head of the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body	Armenia
Mr. Fariz	Gasimov	Head of the Department of Nature Management Regulation of the State Environmental Expertise Agency, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	Azerbaijan
Mr. Ruslan	Salmanov	Chief Legal Adviser of the State Environmental Security Service, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	Azerbaijan
Ms. Marina	Kalinovik	Consultant of the Directorate for Analytical Work, Science and Information of the General Directorate for Environmental Policy, International Cooperation and Science, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection	Belarus
Mr. Valery	Kurilov	Director of State Enterprise "Ecologyinvest"	Belarus
Ms. Larissa	Lukina	Head of the International Cooperation Department – Deputy Head of the General Directorate for Environmental Policy, International Cooperation and Science, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection	Belarus
Mr. David	Hardie	Director, Liability Strategy, Alberta Energy Regulator	Canada
Mr. Duncan	Giddens	Freelance consultant, Owner/Director, Optimus Management Solutions Ltd.; former Senior Project Manager, Environment and Business, Environment Agency of England	England
Mr. Benoit	Jourdan	Le BRGM (Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières)	France
Mr. Lasha	Akhalaia	First Category Senior Specialist of Air Division, Environment and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environment and Agriculture	Georgia
Mr. Tariel	Iremadze	International Relations Specialist, Department of Environmental Supervision, Ministry of Environment and Agriculture	Georgia
Ms. Nato	Ormotsadze	Second Category Senior Specialist, Environment and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environment and Agriculture	Georgia
Mr. Gela	Sandodze	Leading Specialist, Environmental Pollution Monitoring Department, LEPL National Environmental Agency	Georgia

Mr. Ralph	Wollmann	FG I 1.2 International Sustainability Strategies, Policy and Knowledge Transfer, Project Service Point for Advisory Assistance Program, Federal Environment Agency	Germany
Ms. Gabriela	Capcelea	Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment	Moldova
Ms. Ina	Coseru	Chair, National Environmental Centre, EaP Coordinator of Working Group 3, "Environment, Climate Change and Energy Security", Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum	Moldova
Ms. Lilia	Diaconu	Main Specialist, Division on Environmental Regulations and Permits, Environment Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment	Moldova
Ms. Angela	Panciu	Senior Consultant, Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assessment Policy Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment	Moldova
Mr. Igor	Pșenicinîi	Head of Legal Division, Environmental Protection Inspectorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment	Moldova
Ms. Irina	Punga	AO EcoContact	Moldova
Mr. Sergiu	Melega	Main Specialist from the Legal Division, Environmental Protection Inspectorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment	Moldova
Mr. Rob	Kramers	Expert, Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management; Knowledge Centre InfoMil	Netherlands
Mr. Henk	Ruessink	Coordinating Special Adviser, Environment and Housing Network, External Relations and Services, Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate, the Netherlands	Netherlands
Mr. Simon	Bingham	International Development Manager at Scottish Environment Protection Agency; Cross-Cutting Expert Team Leader & Board Member of IMPEL	Scotland
Ms. Oksana	Abduloieva	Expert of the Reform Support Team at the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources	Ukraine
Ms. Natalia	Hrytsai	Head of the Sector for Interaction with the Central Executive Bodies and Local Self-Government, State Ecological Inspection	Ukraine

Ms. Viktoriia	Kovalenko	State Expert, Expert Group on Stimulating the Industry Resource Efficiency, Directorate of Industrial Policy and Stimulation of Development of Regions, Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture	Ukraine
Mr. Roman	Shakhmatenko	Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection	Ukraine
Ms. Svitlana	Sushko	Acting Director, Expert on implementation of Directive 2010/75/EU, Reform Support Team, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources	Ukraine
Mr. Ryhor	Fiodarau		Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
Ms. Rodica	Iordanov		Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
Ms. Tania	Marocchi	EaP Index and Membership Manager	Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
Ms. Olena	Pavlenko		Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
Mr. Malkhaz	Adeishvili	EU4Environment National Action Coordinator for Georgia	EU4Environment
Ms. Natalia	Chumachenko	Interpreter	EU4Environment
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Mr. Andrei	Isac	EU4Environment National Action Coordinator for Moldova	EU4Environment
Ms. Olena	Maslyukivska	EU4Environment National Action Coordinator for Ukraine	EU4Environment
Mr. Kamran	Rzayev	EU4Environment National Action Coordinator for Azerbaijan	EU4Environment
Mr. Tigran	Sekoyan	EU4Environment National Action Coordinator for Armenia	EU4Environment
Ms. Julia	Ashikbayeva	Research Assistant	OECD
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Mr. Guy	Halpern	Policy Analyst	OECD
Ms. Mari	Laike	Assistant	OECD

Mr. Krzysztof	Michalak	Senior Programme Manager	OECD
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Mr. David	Simek	Policy Analyst	OECD