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EU4Environment

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

Policies and tools for enforcement of environmental compliance – a regional seminar with Eastern Partner countries

Draft Agenda

Two-day virtual event on the Zoom platform

Wednesday 17 November 2021 | 12:00 – 15:00 (CET)

Thursday 18 November 2021 | 12:00 – 15:30 (CET)

Registration link:

https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rd-Gvqz8iHtWsM_dNiX57F92u7gf81d_z

Event web page:

<https://www.eu4environment.org/events/regional-seminar-on-policies-and-tools-for-enforcement-of-environmental-compliance/>

Please contact Olga Olson (Olga.OLSON@oecd.org) or Mari Laikre (Mari.LAIKRE@oecd.org) for more information.

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Action implemented by:



Policies and tools for enforcement of environmental compliance – a regional seminar with Eastern Partner countries

17-18 November 2021

Background

Enforcement is an integral component of the environmental compliance assurance chain. It refers to action that public authorities take to bring non-compliant entities into compliance with environmental regulations. Enforcement action can consist of administrative or criminal sanctions, or a requirement for the polluter to remedy environmental damage caused. The concept of environmental liability implies that the polluter that has caused environmental damage has financial responsibility for the damage, and is set out in the EU Environmental Liability Directive (ELD).

The six EU Eastern Partner (EaP) countries use a variety of penalties for enforcing environmental compliance. Some of them are in the process of revising their provisions for environmental liability, environmental penalties and environmental damage assessment.

The European Union for Environment (EU4Environment) Action supports their reform priorities with the goal of strengthening their environmental compliance assurance systems and liability regimes.

The first EU4Environment regional seminar on environmental compliance assurance was held virtually on 25 November 2020 and allowed participants to discuss risk-based approaches to environmental compliance assurance.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

This second regional seminar will provide its participants from EaP and OECD economies an opportunity to share and discuss findings of two environmental compliance assurance reviews of EaP countries, of Armenia and the Republic of Moldova, that the OECD carried out in 2020-2021. It will also discuss characteristics of a clear and comprehensive environmental enforcement policy, tools at the disposal of authorities to enforce compliance, and the optimal combination of penalties for non-compliance.

Participants

Participants will include representatives from EaP countries and OECD member countries as well as the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) and the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE).

The seminar is funded under the EU4Environment Action programme.

Practical information

This 2-day meeting will be held on 17-18 November 2021 via the Zoom platform. Participants can register for the meeting using the following link:

https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rd-Gvqz8iHtWsM_dNiX57F92u7gf81d_z.

Simultaneous English-Russian interpretation will be provided during the entire event.

About EU4Environment

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

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1: Discussion of environmental compliance assurance system reviews of Armenia and the Republic of Moldova

Time	Item
12h00-12h20	<p>Item 1. Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, and moderator of the event • Ms. Angela Bularga, Programme Manager, European Commission, Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)
12h20-13h30	<p>Item 2. Environmental compliance assurance systems in EaP economies: Case study of Armenia</p> <p>This session will aim to present results of the environmental compliance assurance system review of Armenia, which the OECD carried out in 2020-2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Olga Olson, Policy Analyst, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate: Presentation of the review findings • Ms. Lusine Avetisyan, Head of Strategic Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia, and Mr. Vrezh Galoyan, Deputy Head of the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body (EPMIB) of Armenia: Reaction to the review findings and presentation of Armenia's priorities and challenges in the area of environmental compliance assurance • Mr. Henk Ruessink, Co-ordinating Special Adviser, Environment and Housing Network, External Relations and Services, Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate of the Netherlands: Analytical insights on EU approaches to the legislative and institutional set-up for environmental compliance assurance <p>Open discussion</p> <p>During the remaining time in this session, participants are invited to engage in an open discussion and share relevant experiences and compliance assurance tools.</p>
13h30-13h45	<i>Coffee break</i>
13h45-14h55	<p>Item 3. Environmental compliance assurance systems in EaP economies: Case study of the Republic of Moldova</p> <p>This session will aim to present results of the environmental compliance assurance system review of the Republic of Moldova, which the OECD carried out in 2020-2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Olga Olson, Policy Analyst, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate: Presentation of the review findings • Ms Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment of Moldova: Reaction to the review findings and

presentation of Moldova's priorities and challenges in the area of environmental compliance assurance

- **Mr. Simon Bingham**, International Development Manager at the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and former Cross-Cutting Expert Team Leader and Board Member of IMPEL: Analytical insights on EU approaches to monitoring of environmental compliance

Open discussion

During the remaining time in this session, participants are invited to engage in an open discussion and share relevant experiences and compliance assurance tools.

14h55-15h00

Item 4. Summary of the day

- **Mr. Krzysztof Michalak**, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate
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DRAFT AGENDA

Day 2: Policies and tools for successful enforcement of compliance with environmental regulations: International perspectives

12h00-12h05

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- **Mr. Krzysztof Michalak**, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, and moderator of the event

12h05-13h35

Item 2. Policies and tools for successful enforcement of compliance with environmental regulations: International perspectives

This session will focus on certain aspects of enforcement policies and tools used internationally, especially within the EU, and will seek to identify good practices.

- **Mr. Eugene Mazur, Policy Analyst, OECD Environment Directorate, Division for Environmental Performance and Information:** OECD compendium of good practices in compliance assurance
- **Ms. Nancy Isarin, Environmental Expert and International Project Manager, Ambiendura environmental consultancy, Portugal:** Detection and investigation; administrative and criminal responses: type and measures; building up a case; inter-agency collaboration along the inspection and enforcement chain

Digital poll and Q+A

- **Prof. Dr. Carole M. Billiet, Head of the Environmental Law Research Unit, Law Faculty, UHasselt & Partner Equal Partners (Brussels Bar), Belgium:** Findings and recommendations of the EU LIFE+ project's Working Group on Sanctioning, Prosecution and Judicial Practice
- **Ms. Kateřina Weissová, Public Prosecutor, Deputy Department Director at the High Prosecutor's Office, Prague, Czech Republic:** Experience of the Czech Republic with environmental enforcement measures

Digital poll and Q+A

13h35-13h50

Coffee break

13h50-14h55

Item 3. Policies and tools for successful enforcement of compliance with environmental regulations: International perspectives (continued)

- **Ms. Katey Olley, Waste Shipment Specialist, Scottish Environment Protection Agency; Project Leader, IMPEL's Shipments of Waste Enforcement Actions Project (SWEAP) and current Chair of the Basel Convention's ENFORCE Network:** Results of the SWEAP project and international co-operation on inspections and enforcement
- **Mr. Ben Ryder, Exports Operations Manager, and Mr. Richard Stainton, Environmental Crime Officer, Environmental Agency of England:** Team layout, intelligence gathering and targeting, general investigations and methods used
- **Mr. Francesco Andreotti, Senior Environmental Technologist of the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) for Environmental Damage Assessment; Project manager of the EU IMPEL network project "Criteria for the Assessment of Environmental**

Damage (CAED)²⁷: ELD enforcement in Italy and outcomes of the IMPEL CAED project on ELD cases screening and assessment

Digital poll and Q+A

14h55-15h25

Item 4. Open discussion

Participants are invited to engage in an open discussion and share relevant experiences. They are also welcome to ask questions to previous speakers.

Questions for discussion:

- Has your country been using an environmental enforcement policy to promote transparency and consistency of penalties for environmental non-compliance? If so, what have been some of the achievements, challenges and lessons learnt?
- What has been your country's experience with using enforcement tools including warnings, permit revocations, environmental fines for non-compliance, environmental remediation, or criminal prosecution? Are there any good practices or challenges you would like to share?

Interventions from:

- **Mr. Nazim Mammadov, Lead Advisor-Inspector of the Regional Ecology and Natural Resources Department no. 11 of Azerbaijan**
- **Mr. Tariel Iremadze, International Relations and VMS (Vessel Monitoring System) Co-ordinator, the state Sub-Agency Department of Environmental Supervision of Georgia**
- **Mr. Roman Shakhmatenko, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine**

15h25-15h30

Item 5. Conclusions and update on environmental compliance assurance activities in the region

The OECD Secretariat will make a brief update on activities to support environmental compliance assurance in the region through the EU4Environment Action.

The moderator will sum up the outcomes of the seminar's discussions and the way forward.
