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EU4Environment

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

Bilateral meeting with the Republic of Moldova

Discussion of preliminary findings of the environmental compliance assurance
system review of the Republic of Moldova

DRAFT AGENDA

15 September 2021, 14h – 17h (Chişinău time)

Virtually through ZOOM

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information.

Action implemented by:



Discussion of preliminary findings of the environmental compliance assurance system review of the Republic of Moldova

15 September 2021, 14h – 17h Chişinău time

Background

Within the framework of EU4Environment Action, the OECD has prepared a draft review of the Republic of Moldova's environmental compliance assurance system. This review takes stock of the various components of the environmental compliance assurance chain, including the legislative and institutional framework, environmental monitoring activities, enforcement and promotion of environmental compliance, identifies gaps and provides recommendations for improvement by benchmarking the situation in the Republic of Moldova against good international practice, particularly that of the EU. The review was prepared in the period September 2020 - July 2021 based on desk research, virtual interviews with stakeholders in the Republic of Moldova, and a survey of the private sector and NGOs.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

The main objective of the meeting is to present and discuss the main findings of the review, and to discuss the next steps on the finalisation of the review as well as on strengthening the environmental compliance assurance system in the Republic of Moldova. At this meeting, the OECD Secretariat will present preliminary results of the environmental compliance assurance review of the Republic of Moldova. Moldovan stakeholders, including from the Ministry of Environment; the Environmental Agency; and the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection of the Republic of Moldova, will be invited to provide comments and additional information for the review.

Participants

Participants will include representatives from the Republic of Moldova's Ministry of Environment, the Environmental Agency, and the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection; the OECD Secretariat; and compliance assurance professionals from European countries.

The meeting is funded under the EU4Environment Action programme.

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 Outline of the Agenda

Time	Item
14h00-14h15	<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 • Mr. Gintautas Baranauskas, Deputy Head of Co-operation, EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova • Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment • Mr. Gabriel Gîlca, Acting Director of the Environmental Agency • Mr. Victor Dumneanu, Acting Head of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection
14h15-15h00	<p>Item 2. Discussion of the legislative and institutional framework for environmental compliance assurance in the Republic of Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Olga Olson, Policy Analyst, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, will present key findings and recommendations • Representative(s) of the Republic of Moldova will react to the findings and provide any additional considerations for the review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment ○ Mr. Gabriel Gîlca, Acting Director of the Environmental Agency ○ Mr. Victor Dumneanu, Acting Head of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection • Mr. Henk Ruessink, Co-ordinating Special Adviser, Environment and Housing Network, External Relations and Services, Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate of the Netherlands, will share analytical insights on EU approaches to the legislative and institutional set-up

Participants are invited to engage in an **open discussion** during the remaining time of the session.

Questions of particular interest in this session are:

- What steps has the Republic of Moldova taken to ensure that its main environmental legislation is effective and efficient in managing environmental protection, that it encourages environmental compliance, and is enforceable?
- What is the Republic of Moldova's progress in implementing environmental provisions of the EU Association Agreement that can promote environmental compliance?
- What is the reasoning behind the fragmented institutional structure of the environmental compliance assurance system of the Republic of Moldova? How does the Republic of Moldova ensure good co-ordination of these institutions, remove overlap, and prevent corruption?
- How and how often is the Inspectorate's activity evaluated, and with which criteria?

15h00-15h45 *Item 3. Discussion of monitoring of environmental compliance in the Republic of Moldova*

- **Ms. Olga Olson**, Policy Analyst, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, will present key findings and recommendations
- **Representative(s) of the Republic of Moldova** will react to the findings and provide any additional considerations for the review:
 - **Mr. Victor Dumneanu**, Acting Head of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection
 - **Mr. Gabriel Gilca**, Acting Director of the Environmental Agency
- **Mr. Simon Bingham**, International Development Manager at the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and former Cross-Cutting Expert Team Leader and Board Member of IMPEL, will share analytical insights on EU approaches to monitoring of environmental compliance

Participants are invited to engage in an **open discussion** during the remaining time of the session.

Questions of particular interest in this session are:

- How does the Republic of Moldova co-ordinate and prioritise the various requests for ad hoc inspections?
- How does the Republic of Moldova ensure a 24/7 year-round response capacity to environmental incidents?
- What has been the Republic of Moldova's progress with self-monitoring of companies, and how are these reports verified?
- How does the Republic of Moldova receive and handle alerts from the public and NGOs? What is the split of responsibilities between the Environmental Agency and the Inspectorate in this regard?

15h45-16h00 *Coffee break*

16h00-16h45 *Item 4. Discussion of enforcement and promotion of environmental compliance in the Republic of Moldova*

- **Ms. Olga Olson**, Policy Analyst, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, will present key findings and recommendations
- **Representative(s) of the Republic of Moldova** will react to the findings and provide any additional considerations for the review:
 - **Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment
 - **Mr. Victor Dumneanu**, Acting Head of Inspectorate for Environmental Protection
 - **Mr. Gabriel Gilca**, Acting Director of Environmental Agency

Participants are invited to engage in an **open discussion** during the remaining time of the session.

Questions of particular interest in this session are:

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- What has been the progress in the Republic of Moldova's revision of sanctions for non-compliance, its ongoing update of environmental fees and payments, and its plans to improve environmental damage calculation?
 - How effective is the appeals system for penalties against non-compliance?
 - What activities do the Ministry of Environment, the Environmental Agency and the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection carry out with regulated entities to enhance their understanding of regulatory compliance and enforcement e.g. training, seminars?
 - What incentives exist to encourage regulated entities to voluntarily comply with environmental regulations?

16h45-17h00 *Item 5. Conclusions*

- **Mr. Krzysztof Michalak**, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, will sum up the outcomes of the meeting's discussions and will present the next steps on the environmental compliance assurance review of the Republic of Moldova and on promoting compliance assurance in the Republic of Moldova
 - **Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment
 - **Mr. Victor Dumneanu**, Acting Head of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection
 - **Mr. Gabriel Gîlca**, Acting Director of the Environmental Agency
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