



Funded by
the European Union

EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

Environmental compliance assurance system review of Georgia

Bilateral discussion with Georgia on the preliminary findings of the review

DRAFT AGENDA

28 April 2022, 11h – 14h CET (13h – 16h Tbilisi time)

Virtually through ZOOM

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

Action implemented by:



Environmental compliance assurance system review of Georgia Bilateral discussion with Georgia on the preliminary findings of the review

28 April 2022, 11h – 14h CET (13h – 16h Tbilisi time)

Background

Within the framework of EU4Environment Action, the OECD has prepared a draft review of Georgia's environmental compliance assurance system. This review takes stock of the various components of the environmental compliance assurance chain, including the legislative and permitting set-up, the institutional framework, environmental monitoring activities, enforcement and promotion of environmental compliance. It identifies gaps and provides recommendations for improvement by benchmarking the situation in Georgia against good international practice, particularly that of the EU. The review was prepared based on desk research and virtual interviews with stakeholders in Georgia carried out in the period April 2021 - April 2022.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

The main objective of the meeting is to present and discuss the main findings of the draft review, and to discuss the next steps for the finalisation of the review as well as for strengthening the environmental compliance assurance system in Georgia. The discussions will also review Georgia's ongoing reforms to implement the environmental provisions of its Association Agreement with the EU.

Participants

Participants will include officials from Georgia's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, notably its Department of Environmental Supervision, the Legal Department and the Department of Environmental Assessment; the OECD Secretariat; and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

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, Belarus¹, 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

¹ There is currently no co-operation with Belarus.

Outline of the draft agenda

Time	Item
11h00-11h15	<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. Alexandre Darras, Attaché, Team Leader Connectivity, Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Delegation of the European Union to Georgia • Ms. Neli Korkotadze, Deputy Head, the State Sub-Agency Department of Environmental Supervision, Chief State Inspector, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
11h15-12h00	<p>Item 2. Discussion of the legislative and institutional set-up for environmental compliance assurance in Georgia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Olga Olson, Project Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, will present key findings and recommendations • Ms. Maia Beradze, Head, Environmental Assessment Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia/ Ms. Nana Totibadze, Second Category Chief Specialist, Law-Making Division, Legal Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, will react to the findings and provide additional considerations • 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 the legislative and institutional set-up <p>Participants are invited to engage in an open discussion during the remaining time of the session.</p> <p>Questions of particular interest in this session are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How effective is Georgia's environmental legislation in managing environmental protection and encouraging environmental compliance? How does Georgia keep its environmental legislation up-to-date? • What has been Georgia's progress in implementing the provisions of its Association Agreement with the European Union on environmental compliance assurance? • How does Georgia's Environmental Assessment Code promote a level playing field among enterprises? • How effective is Georgia's current institutional set-up for environmental compliance assurance? How does Georgia promote smooth inter-institutional communication among the various departments of the MEPA?
12h00-12h45	<p>Item 3. Discussion of monitoring of environmental compliance in Georgia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Olga Olson, Project Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, will present key findings and recommendations • Ms. Neli Korkotadze, Deputy Head, the State Sub-Agency Department of Environmental Supervision, Chief State Inspector, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, will react to the findings and provide additional considerations

- **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 effective is Georgia's 2019 risk assessment methodology for inspections?
- What is the process for reviewing company self-monitoring reports and using them to inform environmental policy action?
- What are the impediments to establishing a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) in Georgia?

12h45-13h00 *Coffee break*

13h00-13h45 **Item 4. Discussion of enforcement and promotion of environmental compliance in Georgia**

- **Ms. Olga Olson**, Project Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, will present key findings and recommendations
- **Ms. Neli Korkotadze**, Deputy Head, the State Sub-Agency Department of Environmental Supervision, Chief State Inspector, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia/ **Mr. Akaki Veltauri**, Head, Environmental Damage Remediation Department, LEPL National Environment Agency, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, will react to the findings and provide additional considerations
- **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 enforcement and promotion 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 Georgia ensure the consistency and transparency of the application of penalties against non-compliance with environmental regulations?
- How effective is the application of criminal penalties for environmental crimes in Georgia?
- What challenges is Georgia facing with enforcing its Law on Environmental Liability?
- How effective are Georgia's approaches to promoting voluntary compliance with environmental regulations? What are the priorities for raising awareness?

13h45-14h00 **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 for the environmental compliance assurance system review of Georgia and for promoting compliance assurance in Georgia

-
- **Ms. Neli Korkotadze**, Deputy Head, the State Sub-Agency Department of Environmental Supervision, Chief State Inspector, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
-