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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

Better environmental inspections for stronger environmental resilience

A regional seminar with Eastern Partner countries

DRAFT AGENDA

5 December 2022, 9h30 – 17h40 CET

6 December 2022, 9h30 – 15h40 CET

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Registration link:

<https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEsduusqTgiHd3n5niPmJeUt4jluVfE5KhY>

Event web page:

<https://www.eu4environment.org/events/regional-seminar-on-better-environmental-inspections-for-stronger-environmental-resilience/>

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Action implemented by:



Better environmental inspections for stronger environmental resilience

5-6 December 2022

Background

Environmental inspections is one of the traditional tools used by countries to monitor environmental compliance, and they play a key role in enforcing environmental regulations. There are many characteristics that determine the effectiveness of environmental inspections, including the soundness of risk assessment, the clarity of procedures and guidelines, the number and skills of inspectors, the sufficiency of equipment, the quality of follow-up, as well as the transparency of inspection plans and results for the general public. Achieving environmental compliance is essential for strengthening the environmental resilience of our societies and economies, with the ultimate aim of benefitting both people and the planet.

Within the European Union, the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), adopted in 2010, is the first piece of EU legislation that sets out binding legal requirements for environmental inspections. Covering some 52 000 large agro-industrial installations EU-wide, the Directive is the main EU instrument regulating pollutant emissions from industry. One of the main provisions of the IED is that the frequency of site visits for different types of installations should be based on an assessment of their environmental risk. The IED used as a reference the non-legally binding Recommendation for Minimum Criteria of Environmental Inspections (RMCEI), adopted in 2001. The European Union Network for Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) has provided support in refining the RMCEI and developing inspection guidance, such as through its “Doing the Right Things” project.

On 5 April 2022, the European Commission unveiled a proposal for revising the Directive. This revision aims to bring the IED in line with the EU's zero pollution ambition, as well as the policy goals under the European Green Deal. The main changes include expanding the scope (in terms of sectors covered and thresholds), strengthening permit requirements to authorise installations to operate, and measures to promote innovation.

Many EU's Eastern Partner countries have been recently undertaking reforms in the field of environmental inspections. Most of them adopted risk assessment methodologies for planning inspections in the last few years (Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine in 2019, and Moldova in 2018). Georgia and Moldova have developed draft laws on industrial emissions aimed at establishing integrated permitting and control. In addition, many countries plan to digitise information management processes related to inspections.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

The main objectives of this regional seminar are to 1) present and discuss findings of a draft OECD assessment report of the environmental compliance assurance system of Georgia, prepared within the EU4Environment framework; 2) facilitate an information exchange on the latest developments in environmental inspections, available guidance and tools, and lessons learnt.

Participants

Participants in this seminar are practitioners from environmental inspectorates and policy makers from Eastern Partner, EU and OECD countries; officials and experts from EU institutions and civil society representatives; the OECD Secretariat and representatives of the IMPEL network.

About EU4Environment

The “European Union for Environment” (**EU4Environment**) aims to help the Eastern partner countries 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 2019-2024.

For further information contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org

Draft Agenda: Day 1 (5 December 2022)

Time	Item
Day 1 (5 December)	
9h00-9h30	Participant registration
9h30-10h00	<p>Item 1. Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Vita (Juknevičiute) Jukne, Head of the Compliance and Better Regulations Unit, Directorate-General for the Environment, European Commission (tbc) • Ms. Michaela Hauf, Team Leader for Environmental and Climate Resilience and Connectivity, DG NEAR, European Commission • Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate
10h00-11h55	<p>Item 2. Environmental compliance assurance system of Georgia</p> <p>During 2021-2022, the OECD prepared a report assessing Georgia's environmental compliance assurance system within the EU4Environment Action. This session focuses on presenting and discussing the findings of the report.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Legislative and institutional set-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Olga Olson, Project Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate: Introduction and brief presentation of the findings ○ Representative of Georgia: Reaction to the findings and presentation of the latest developments ○ Open discussion II. Monitoring of environmental compliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Olga Olson, Project Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate: Brief presentation of the findings ○ Representative of Georgia: Reaction to the findings and the latest developments ○ Open discussion III. Enforcement and promotion of environmental compliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Olga Olson, Project Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate: Brief presentation of the findings ○ Representative of Georgia: Reaction to the findings and the latest developments ○ Open discussion IV. Conclusions and the way forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate ○ Representative of Georgia (tbc)
11h55-13h00	Lunch
13h00-15h30	Item 3. Guidance and tools for conducting environmental inspections

This session will present some of the existing guidance and tools for conducting environmental inspections in the European Union and the OECD countries, including those developed by IMPEL.

- **Representative** of the Compliance and Better Regulations Unit, Directorate-General for the Environment, European Commission: **EU framework for environmental inspections, including the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) and the Recommendation on Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections** (tbc)
- **Representative of IMPEL/another network** (tbc)
- **Mr. Rob Kramers**, Expert, Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management of the Netherlands; Knowledge Centre InfoMil: **IMPEL “Doing the Right Things” methodology** (tbc)

Open discussion

15h30-15h45

Coffee break

15h45-17h30

Item 3. Guidance and tools for conducting environmental inspections (continued)

- **Mr. Tony Liebrechts**, Audit Team Leader, IMPEL Review Initiative: **IMPEL guidance book on setting inspection targets and performance monitoring** (tbc)
- **Mr. Horst Büther**, Head of Unit for Pollution Control, Regional Government of Cologne, Germany: **IMPEL’s Integrated Risk Assessment Method (IRAM) and guidance on IED inspections** (tbc)

Open discussion

17h30-17h40

Item 4. Conclusions of the first day

- **Mr. Krzysztof Michalak**, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate: **Summary of the first day**

19h30

Dinner

Draft Agenda: Day 2 (6 December 2022)

Time	Item
Day 2 (6 December)	
9h30-9h40	<p>Item 1. Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Angela Bularga, Programme Officer, DG NEAR, European Commission
9h40-10h50	<p>Item 2. IED transposition and implementation</p> <p>This session will focus on sharing lessons learnt in establishing and carrying out inspections within the framework of the EU Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). It will include Eastern Partner initiatives in integrated permitting and control and speakers from EU Member States.</p> <p>i) Experience of IED transposition in EaP countries</p> <p>This session will be moderated by Mrs. Angela Bularga, Programme Officer, DG NEAR, European Commission (tbc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment of Moldova: Moldova's draft law on industrial emissions and the State Registry of Control (tbc) • Representative of Georgia: Georgia's draft law on industrial emissions (tbc) • Representative of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum: IED transposition and implementation in the Eastern Partnership (tbc) • Ms. Nune Harutunyan, Director, Regional Environmental Centre (REC) for the Caucasus, Armenia National Office: Reflections on introduction of IED inspections in the Eastern Partnership (tbc) <p>Open discussion (30 min)</p>
10h50-11h00	Coffee break
11h00-12h10	<p>Item 2. IED transposition and implementation (continued)</p> <p>ii) Experience of IED implementation in EU Member States</p> <p>This session will be moderated by Mr. Simon Bingham, International Development Manager at the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Simon Bingham, International Development Manager at the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA); former Cross-Cutting Expert Team Leader and Board Member of IMPEL: Experience of IED inspections within the EU • EU country speaker 1 (tbc) • EU country speaker 2 (tbc) • EU NGO speaker 3 (tbc) <p>Open discussion</p>
12h10-13h30	Lunch
13h30-15h35	<p>Item 3. Latest developments on environmental inspections</p> <p>This session will focus on additional latest developments in the Eastern Partner countries in the area of environmental inspections, such as the adoption or refinement of risk methodologies, inspection guidelines, inspector training, and development of information systems, as well as the priorities going forward.</p> <p>This session will be moderated by Mr. Florentin Blanc, Senior Policy Analyst, Regulatory Policy Division, OECD Governance Directorate (tbc).</p>

- **Representative of DG NEAR:** EU support on environmental inspections in the Eastern Partnership (tbc)
- **Mr. Ihor Zubovych**, Acting Head of State Environmental Inspectorate of Ukraine: **Ukraine's draft law On State Environmental Control and the role of the Inspectorate in recording and assessing war damages** (tbc)
- **Representative of the EPMIB of Armenia:** **Armenia's risk assessment methodology and database; plans for an inspection information management system** (tbc)
- **Representative of the State Environmental Security Service, Azerbaijan:** **Inspections by the State Environmental Security Service** (tbc)
- **Representative of the Ukrainian NGO "Office for the Environment"** (tbc)
- **Representative of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum:** **Priorities for further developing environmental inspections in the Eastern Partnership** (tbc)
- **Mr. Florentin Blanc**, Senior Policy Analyst, Regulatory Policy Division, OECD Governance Directorate: **The OECD Regulatory Enforcement and Inspections Toolkit and its application in the Eastern Partner countries** (tbc)

Open discussion

15h35-15h40

Item 4. Conclusions

- The OECD Secretariat will sum up the outcomes of the seminar's discussions and present upcoming project activities.