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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

Bilateral meeting with Azerbaijan

**Discussion of findings of the draft report
“Environmental inspections and compliance assurance in Azerbaijan”**

AGENDA

5 October 2023, 9:00 - 11:15 CET (11:00 - 13:15 Baku 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:



**Discussion of findings of the draft report
“Environmental inspections and compliance assurance in Azerbaijan”**

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Background

Since 2019, Azerbaijan has been actively participating in the EU4Environment: Green Economy Programme. This included activities on promoting compliance with environmental regulations.

As part of this work a draft report on “Environmental inspections and compliance assurance in Azerbaijan” was prepared by the OECD based on guidance from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) of Azerbaijan that selected the topic of environmental inspections as a focus of this report since inspections are an indispensable tool for identifying non-compliance and gathering evidence of non-compliance.

This draft report analyses the practice of environmental inspections in the country. It also briefly reviews other key aspects of Azerbaijan’s environmental compliance assurance, such as compliance monitoring, promotion and enforcement of compliance, and provides recommendations for further alignment of these elements with good international practice.

The report was prepared based on secondary research as well as information collected through meetings and interviews during 14 - 17 March 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

The main objective of this meeting is to present and discuss the findings of the draft report “Environmental inspections and compliance assurance in Azerbaijan” as well as the next steps for the finalisation of the report and for strengthening the environmental compliance assurance system in Azerbaijan.

At this meeting, the OECD Secretariat and participating experts will present the preliminary findings, and the experts from the MENR and other relevant government agencies from Azerbaijan will be invited to provide comments and additional information for the report.

Participants

Participants will include officials from Azerbaijan’s MENR and other relevant government institutions; 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 Eastern Partnership 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

Agenda

Time	Item
09:00-09:15	<p>Item 1. Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Acting Head of the Finance, Investment and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate (5 min) • Ms. Ramila Aslanova, Programme Manager, Delegation of the European Union to Azerbaijan (5 min) • Mr. Rafiq Verdiyev, Deputy Head of the Environmental Policy Division of the MENR (5 min)
09:15-10:10	<p>Item 2. The practice of environmental inspections in Azerbaijan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key findings and recommendations: Ms. Olga Olson, Project Manager, Environmental Compliance Assurance and Liability Regimes, OECD Environment Directorate (15 min) • Reactions to the findings and additional information: Mr. Atakhan Badalov, Head of the Legal Division of the State Environmental Security Service of the MENR (15 min) • Guidance on conducting environmental inspections based on leading international practice: Mr. Simon Bingham, International Development Manager, SEPA (10 mins) <p>Participants are invited to engage in an open discussion during the remaining time of the session. (15 min)</p>
10:10-11:05	<p>Item 3. Other aspects of environmental compliance assurance in Azerbaijan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key findings and recommendations: Ms. Olga Olson, Project Manager, Environmental Compliance Assurance and Liability Regimes, OECD Environment Directorate (15 min) • Reactions to the findings and additional information: Mr. Sanan Rasulov, Senior Expert, State Environmental Expertise Agency, MENR (15 min) • The legislative basis for enforcement of compliance: Mr. Ruslan Salmanov, Legal Expert (10 min) <p>Participants are invited to engage in an open discussion during the remaining time of the session. (15 min)</p>
11:05-11:15	<p>Item 4. Conclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Olga Olson, Project Manager, Environmental Compliance Assurance and Liability Regimes, OECD Environment Directorate (5 min) • Mr. Rafiq Verdiyev, Deputy Head of the Environmental Policy Division of the MENR (5 min)