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**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

## Applying the Polluter-Pays Principle to environmental compliance assurance in the Eastern Partnership

A regional meeting

### AGENDA

11 March 2024, 9:00 – 13:00 CET

Location: Online (Zoom)

Registration link [here](#)

Event web page [here](#)

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Chohye Shin ([chohye.shin@oecd.org](mailto:chohye.shin@oecd.org)) for more  
information.

Action implemented by:



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## Applying the Polluter-Pays Principle to environmental compliance assurance in the Eastern Partnership

11 March 2024

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### Background

The Polluter-Pays Principle, which requires polluters to bear the environmental and social cost of their actions, is a cornerstone of any environmental compliance assurance system. It is the basis for much of the European Union's environmental acquis, including the EU Environmental Liability Directive (ELD).

The principle is still not widely applied in practice in the Eastern Partnership countries, however. Most of the existing liability provisions for environmental damage require polluters to pay instead of remediating the environmental damage occurred while the administrative fine levels remain low.

That said, the principle is recognised in some of the environmental legislation of these countries, and some countries are making concerted efforts to reinforce it. Georgia has recently adopted a stand-alone Law on Environmental Liability with the purpose of approximating the EU ELD, and Armenia and Moldova are currently developing legislative proposals for the purpose of approximating the ELD. Moldova's Law on Environmental Protection and the founding document of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection of Moldova refer to it as well.

The EU4Environment: Green Economy Programme has aimed to support the application of the Polluter-Pays Principle to the environmental compliance assurance systems of the Eastern Partnership countries.

### Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

The main objectives of this regional meeting are to:

- 1) facilitate an information exchange on the latest developments in environmental compliance assurance in the Eastern Partnership;
- 2) discuss environmental liability provisions and the approximation of the EU ELD in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova;
- 3) take stock of implementation of the EU4Environment: Green Economy Programme on environmental compliance assurance and gauge interest in possible future areas of support.

### Participants

Participants in this meeting are practitioners from environmental inspectorates and policy makers from the Eastern Partnership, EU and OECD countries; officials and experts from EU institutions and civil society representatives; the OECD Secretariat and representatives of the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL).

Participants are asked to please register for the event in advance via [this link](#).

### About the EU4Environment: Green Economy Programme

The **EU4Environment: Green Economy Programme** 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.

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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](mailto:EU4Environment@oecd.org)

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## Agenda

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Time (CET)	Item
<b>09:00 - 09:15</b> (15 min)	<b><i>Item 1. Welcome and introductions</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Gérald Audaz</b>, Team Leader - Economic and Investment Plan for EU's Eastern Neighbourhood region, European Commission (7 min)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Krzysztof Michalak</b>, Senior Programme Manager, Finance, Investment and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate (7 min)</li> </ul>
<b>09:15 - 10:35</b> (1h 20 min)	<b><i>Item 2. Strengthening environmental liability provisions in the Eastern Partnership</i></b> <p>This session will discuss the progress in establishing environmental liability regimes in the Eastern Partnership region, notably Georgia's implementation of its Law on Environmental Liability and results of OECD analysis of environmental liability provisions in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Comparative analysis regarding legal environmental liability provisions in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova: Dr. Colin Mackie</b>, Associate Professor in Business Law, School of Law, University of Leeds (15 min)</li> <li>• <b>Armenia's plans on approximating the EU ELD as part of its Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with the EU (CEPA): Ms. Gayane Gabrielyan</b>, Deputy Minister of Environment of Armenia (15 min)</li> <li>• <b>Moldova's plans on developing environmental liability legislation: Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov</b>, Minister of Environment of Moldova (15 mins)</li> <li>• <b>Lessons learnt from Georgia's application of the Law on Environmental Liability and its impact on environmental compliance assurance: Mr. Grigol Pochkhidze</b>, Deputy Head of the Legal Department of the State Sub-Agency Department of Environmental Supervision, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (15 min)</li> </ul> <p><i>Open discussion (20 min)</i></p>
<b>10:35 - 10:50</b>	<b><i>Coffee break</i></b>
<b>10:50 - 12:50</b> (2h)	<b><i>Item 3. Taking stock of achievements and challenges in environmental compliance assurance in the Eastern Partnership</i></b> <p>This session will focus on taking stock of some of the latest developments in environmental compliance assurance in the Eastern Partnership, activities carried out within the EU4Environment: Green Economy Programme, remaining challenges and needs for support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Highlights on regional developments and support provided by the EU4Environment: Green Economy Programme: Ms. Olga Olson</b>, Project Manager, Environmental Compliance Assurance and Liability Regimes, OECD Environment Directorate (20 min)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Armen Movsisyan</b>, Head of the Risk Assessment and Analysis Department of the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body of Armenia (15 min)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Tariel Iremadze</b>, Deputy Head, Administrative Department, State Sub-Agency Department of Environmental Supervision, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (15 min)</li> </ul>

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- **Ms. Cristina Gheorghita**, Senior Inspector, Department of Control and Management of Water and Air Resources, Environmental Protection Inspectorate of Moldova (15 min)
  - **Mr. Dmytro Zaruba**, Deputy Head, and **Mr. Maxim Zheleznyak**, Director of the Department of State Environmental Supervision, State Environmental Inspectorate of Ukraine (15 min)
  - **Ms. Arpine Sukiasyan**, Public Awareness and Monitoring Center of Armenia, Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (10 min)
  - **Mr. Marco Falconi**, Chair of the IMPEL network (5 min)

*Digital polls and open discussion (25 min)*

**12:50 - 13:00**

(10 min)

**Item 4. Conclusions**

- **Mr. Krzysztof Michalak**, Senior Programme Manager, Finance, Investment and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate (5 min)
  - **Mrs. Angela Bularga**, Programme Officer, DG NEAR, European Commission (5 min)
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