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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

Better environmental inspections for stronger environmental resilience

A regional seminar with Eastern Partnership countries

AGENDA

5 December 2022, 9h30 – 17h00 CET

6 December 2022, 9h30 – 16h00 CET

**Location: Bedford Hotel & Congress Centre, Brussels, Belgium
“Armstrong” room**

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 are 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 Partnership 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). Moldova has adopted, and Georgia and Ukraine 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 Partnership, 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 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

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 Jukne, Head of Unit ENV.E4 - Environmental Rule of Law and Governance, European Commission • Ms. Michaela Hauf, Team Leader for Environmental and Climate Resilience and Connectivity, DG NEAR, European Commission • Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Acting Head of the 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 draft findings of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Legislative and institutional set-up II Monitoring of environmental compliance III Enforcement and promotion of environmental compliance IV Conclusions and the way forward <p>For each topic, the OECD Secretariat (Ms. Olga Olson, Project Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate) will present the draft findings.</p> <p>A representative of Georgia (Ms. Neli Korkotadze, Deputy Head of the Department of Environmental Supervision, Chief State Inspector, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia) will comment on the findings and the latest developments. An open discussion will follow.</p> <p>Conclusions and the way forward will be delivered by Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Acting Head of the Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, and Mr. Tariel Iremadze, International Relations Coordinator, Department of Environmental Supervision, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.</p>
11h55-13h00	Lunch
13h00-14h45	<p>Item 3. Guidance and tools for conducting environmental inspections</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Compliance Assurance: EU policy framework and supporting activities: Mr. Miroslav Angelov, Legal and Policy Officer, ENV.E4 - Environmental Rule of Law and Governance, European Commission • IMPEL “Doing the Right Things” methodology and guidance book on setting inspection priorities, defining targets and strategies, developing the inspection plan and monitoring performance: Mr. Rob Kramers, Expert, Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management of the Netherlands; Knowledge Centre InfoMil <p>Open discussion</p>

14h45-15h00	Coffee break
15h00-16h45	<p><i>Item 3. Guidance and tools for conducting environmental inspections (continued)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A non-routine inspection campaign at industrial landfill sites in Sardinia and the application of the IMPEL Landfill Inspection Guidance: Mr. Romano Ruggeri, Environmental Officer at the Sardinian Environmental Protection Agency, Italy• IMPEL's Integrated Risk Assessment Method (IRAM) and guidance on IED inspections: Mr. Horst Büther, Head of the Department for Environment, and Health and Safety, Regional Government Cologne, Germany <p>Open discussion</p>
16h45-17h00	<p><i>Item 4. Conclusions of the first day</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary of the first day: Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Acting Head of the Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate
19h30	Dinner

Draft Agenda: Day 2 (6 December 2022)

Time	Item
Day 2 (6 December)	
9h30-9h40	<p><i>Item 1. Welcome and introductions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Olga Olson, Project Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate
9h40-10h50	<p><i>Item 2. Transposition and implementation of the EU Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)</i></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 Partnership initiatives in integrated permitting and control and speakers from EU Member States.</p> <p><i>i) Experience of IED transposition in EaP countries</i></p> <p>This session will be moderated by Ms. Olga Olson, Project Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moldova’s law on industrial emissions and the State Registry of Control: Ms. Angela Panciuc, Main Adviser, Pollution Prevention Policy Division, and Ms. Cristina Gheorghita, Senior Inspector, Control and Management of Water Resources and Air Division, Environmental Protection Inspectorate, Ministry of Environment of Moldova • Georgia’s draft law on industrial emissions: Ms. Venera Metreveli, Acting Head of the Department of Environmental Assessment, National Environmental Agency, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia • Implementation of the EU IED in Ukraine’s energy sector: Achievements and challenges: Ms. Olga Polunina, Sustainable Development Manager, DiXi Group, Ukraine; Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum • Progress on advancement of approximation of the EU IED: The cases of Georgia and Moldova: Ms. Nune Harutunyan, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Centre (REC) for the Caucasus, Armenia National Office <p>Open discussion (30 min)</p>
10h50-11h00	Coffee break
11h00-12h10	<p><i>Item 2. IED transposition and implementation (continued)</i></p> <p><i>ii) Experience of IED implementation in EU Member States</i></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"> • Experience of IED inspections within the EU: Mr. Simon Bingham, International Development Manager at the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) • Experience of IED inspections in Estonia: Ms. Maigi Päären, Head Specialist from the IED Permitting Sector, Estonian Environmental Board, and Ms. Kristi Leemet, Supervision/Enforcement Development Department, Estonian Environmental Board (<i>online</i>) • Experience of Romania: Ms. Maria Mija, Commissioner, National Environmental Guard, Romania

- **Experience of Poland:** Mrs. Małgorzata Budzyńska, Senior Specialist, Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection of Poland
- **OECD's project on Best Available Techniques (BAT) to prevent and control industrial pollution:** Ms. Berrak Eryasa, Policy Analyst, Environment, Health and Safety Division, Environment Directorate, OECD

Open discussion

12h10-13h30

Lunch

13h30-15h50

Item 3. Additional latest developments on environmental inspections in the Eastern Partnership

This session will focus on additional latest developments in the Eastern Partnership 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.

This session will be moderated by **Ms. Giuseppa Ottimofiore**, Policy Analyst, Regulatory Policy Division, OECD Governance Directorate.

- **EU support on environmental inspections in the Eastern Partnership:** Mrs. Angela Bularga, Programme Officer, DG NEAR, European Commission
- **The process of environmental inspection by the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body of Armenia:** Mr. Vrezh Galoyan, Deputy Head of the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body of Armenia (*online*)
- **Inspections by the State Environmental Security Service of Azerbaijan:** Mr. Nazim Makhmudov, Head of the Department of the Caspian Integrated Environmental Monitoring, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan

Developments regarding environmental control in Ukraine

- **Ukraine's draft law On State Environmental Control and the role of the Inspectorate in recording and assessing war damages:** Mr. Oleksandr Stavniichuk, Deputy Head of the Department of Environmental Control and Methodologies and Head of the Environmental Control Unit, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine, and Mr. Igor Zubovych, Head of the State Environmental Inspectorate of Ukraine (*online*)
- **Practical challenges in Ukraine's environmental inspections:** Ms. Anastasiia Zagoruichyk, Board Member, Ukrainian NGO "Office for the Environment"
- **Environmental inspections of major industrial installations in Ukraine: Proposed reforms on the way to the European Union:** Ms. Yelyzaveta Aleksyeyeva, Senior Lawyer, Environment-People-Law, Ukraine
- **The OECD Regulatory Enforcement and Inspections Toolkit and its application in the Eastern Partnership countries:** Ms. Giuseppa Ottimofiore, Policy Analyst, Regulatory Policy Division, OECD Governance Directorate

Open discussion

15h50-16h00

Item 4. Conclusions

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