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HIGHLIGHTS

A LONG ROAD TO EMISSIONS TRADING SYSTEM

On April 24, 2017, Ostap Semerak, Ukrainian Minister of Environment, presented a roadmap for national emissions trading system in Ukraine.

The goals and benefits of the system presented include attracting investments, removing potential barriers on Ukraine's export (primarily to the EU), improving energy and carbon intensity of the Ukraine's economy, access to regional and world emissions trading markets, stimulating capital investments in energy saving technologies. In addition, this process fully complies with Ukraine's international commitments, in particular the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

Setting an emissions trading system will be preceded by development of the monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions system (MRV system). Related draft law will be submitted to the Parliament by the end of 2017, said Mykola Kuzio, vice minister for European integration. At this stage, information on emissions is gathered through National greenhouse gases inventory, which is annually submitted to UN Climate Change Convention secretariat.

The Concept for Implementation of the State Climate Change Policy till 2030, adopted in December 2016, links setting a national emissions trading system to the adoption of a national strategy on low carbon development.

MARINE STRATEGY: NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR UKRAINE ON ITS EURO-INTEGRATION ROAD

In April 2017 the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine presented a draft Marine Strategy and started public consultations on the annotated version of the draft. These developments stem from implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EU. According to Annex XXX of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, Ukraine's marine strategy must be developed by November 2018, and the directive to be implemented by November 2021.

The directive establishes a common approach and objectives for the prevention, protection and conservation of the marine environment against damaging human activities. It requires countries to develop strategies to achieve 'good environmental status'. The directive contains a set of 11 qualitative 'descriptors' for EU countries to consider when devising their strategies to achieve good environmental status of their waters, covering 60 indicators in total.

Implementing the directive by Ukraine poses a number of challenges. In particular, Ukraine needs to introduce a revised marine environment monitoring system to cover all good environmental status indicators, carry out monitoring of the exclusive economic zone, describe conditions relevant for Azov and Black seas.

Yet, the directive's implementation in the EU varies among the member states. This opens a way for Ukraine with new opportunities for a joint work with EU member states and paving the way for achieving good environmental status of the Black and Azov seas.

MID-TERM PRIORITY ACTION PLAN OF THE GOVERNMENT TILL 2020

Government's goal: ensuring increase in citizens wellbeing and quality of life as a result of economic development
Environmental quality of life is not reflected! Economy is not the only factor which matters!

