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## HIGHLIGHTS

### UKRAINE GETS A NEW PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING THE EU-UKRAINE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

In early October civil society learnt that Ukrainian government intends to approve a new action plan for implementing the EU-Ukraine Association agreement.\*

The new plan will replace all previous action plans, including individual implementation plans for EU directives and regulations. Ukrainian Side of the EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform (US SCP) reported the Governmental office for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration intention was to develop an action plan, which would serve as a basis for on-line system "Agreement Pulse" to demonstrate monitoring results on the basis of data linked to measures under new action plan.

US SCP criticized lack of transparency in preparation of the plan, as well as its quality. In particular, US SCP expressed to respective Vice Prime Minister its concerns related to the fact new measures are proposed while no assessment was made of previous measures implementation, lack of consultations with US SCP or general public regarding implementation of the Association Agreement, lack of implementation indicators.

The public was given just a few days to provide comments and proposals, while the intragovernmental consultations are ongoing.

*\*While this Review was under preparation, the government already adopted the plan.*

### UKRAINIAN NUCLEAR PROJECT AGAIN UNDER REVIEW IN GENEVA

Following recent session of the Implementation Committee of Espoo Convention (on transboundary environmental impact assessment), the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine [reported](#) its representative was elected as vice-chair of the committee.

Yet, there were other development relevant for Ukraine. First, Ukraine informed the committee about preparation of eight secondary legislative acts for implementing recently adopted the Law "On Environmental Impact Assessment". The Committee stressed the importance for also ensuring the compliance of the subsidiary legislation with the Convention. Second, given the persistent non-compliance with the Convention by Ukraine regarding the Danube – Black Sea Bystre canal project, the Committee decided to prepare an action plan with concrete steps to be taken by Ukraine to bring the Bystroe Canal Project into full compliance with the Convention. Third, the Committee discussed the case on nuclear reactors life time extensions at Rivne nuclear power plant. Ukraine started preliminary consultations with Austria in spring, but the Committee decided to suggest additional proposals to Ukraine, including notification of other affected parties (Belarus, Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Romania and Slovakia). Finally, the Committee re-opened an earlier closed [case regarding construction of two nuclear units at Khmelnytska nuclear power plant](#), based on information by Poland which received invitation from Ukraine to continue transboundary consultations.

In addition, the [second amendment](#) to the Convention entered into force on October 23, 2017, which among other things introduces legal basis for functioning of the Implementation Committee and review mechanism as such.

## **ENERGY COMMUNITY: UKRAINE'S ENVIRONMENTAL PORTFOLIO**

Ukraine is an active member of the Energy Community, which results in a number of international and “home” tasks in the areas of environmental protection and climate change. Some recent steps and developments we summarized below.

- On September 5, 2017, Connie Hedegaard, Chair of the Board of KR Foundation and former EU Commissioner for Climate Action, and Ostap Semerak, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, were appointed as co-chairs of the Climate Action Group. The Climate Action Group is a cooperation platform for representatives of Energy Community ministries and agencies in charge of energy, climate change and environment to facilitate the development of climate policy and the transposition of related legislation. At their [inaugural meeting](#), the group endorsed its work programme, which outlines measures to ensure the mainstreaming of climate related obligations across sectors and simplify reporting obligations on renewables, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions. The group also agreed to focus on preparations for future meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC that will convene in November 2017.
- In his turn, on September 27, 2017, Ostap Semerak, the Minister of Environment of Ukraine, [pre-sented](#) the first draft of Low Carbon Development Strategy for Ukraine till 2050. Preliminary forecasts, reflected in the draft strategy, reveal a decrease in greenhouse gases emissions by 60-75% by 2050 in Ukraine (compared to 1990 levels). In addition, the renewables share in electricity generation can increase to 35% in 2050. The share of coal power plants in electricity can drop to 25%, while nuclear power share will decrease by 28%. The draft strategy was developed under USAID project, but the text is not yet publicly available.
- On July 24, 2017, the Secretariat of the Energy Community closed the non-compliance [case regarding Ukraine](#) on environmental impact assessment directive implementation in reaction to the relevant legislation adopted by the Ukrainian parliament. This decision seems premature, since currently old framework is still in force, while secondary legislation to enable implementation of the new law is still under development.

*You may browse additional analytical information about environmental commitments by Ukraine under Energy Community and their implementation monitoring in 2014-2016, developed by Energy Reforms coalition in the framework of the project «Improving implementation of Ukraine's commitments within the Energy Community through enhancing impact of civil society», implemented by the Dixi Group NGO jointly with the Resource & Analysis Center «Society and Environment» with the assistance of the European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation.*

Energy Reforms coalition web-site: <http://enref.org/en/>

Environmental dimension of the Ukraine cooperation with Energy Community: <http://www.rac.org.ua/en/priorities/energy-community>