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HIGHLIGHTS

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY FOR UKRAINE

On Sep 12, 2017, Ostap Semerak, Ukraine's Minister of Environment, [presented](#) draft new environmental strategy for Ukraine.

New strategy till 2030 reflects key challenges regarding the state of the environment, EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and sustainable development concept. The strategy sets five objectives: (1) building society of environmental values, sustainable consumption and production, (2) ensuring sustainable development of the national resources of Ukraine, (3) ensuring integration of environmental policy into decision-making related to socio-economic development of Ukraine, (4) decreasing environmental risks for ecosystems and human health to socially acceptable level, (5) improvement and development of state environmental management system.

The strategy includes 35 indicators for assessing implementation of the new policy. Each indicator serves both a monitoring and target-setting role. In his presentation the Minister first mentioned Yale's Environmental Performance Index, a clear indication that Ukraine wishes and is ready to participate in global processes to protect the environment and achieve sustainable development.

The draft [is available](#) for public consultations at Ministry of Environment's web-page till October 4, 2017.

ENERGY STRATEGY OF UKRAINE

On Sep 7, 2017, the Government [made public](#) the text of the new Energy Strategy, approved back on August 18 this year.

"Energy Strategy of Ukraine for the Period till 2035 "Security, Energy Efficiency, Competitiveness" is a document that sets key directions for the development of fuel and energy sectors of Ukraine till 2035. The strategy aims to solve energy security problems in the conditions of urgent necessity to ensure state sovereignty against external aggression with the use of modern weapons (including information and hybrid warfare methods), as well as non-military impacts.

The strategy has a well-defined environmental component, mostly related to obligations under Energy Community and climate change issues. Each of the three implementation stages provided by the strategy includes tasks and measures related to environmental issues and increase of renewable energy sources share. In particular, final target for GHG emissions is set at 50% (to 1990 levels). A priority seems to be given to measures on development and implementation (financing) of the National Emissions Reduction Plan for large combustion plants.

Lastly, the text adopted, unlike previous drafts of the strategy, does not include references to specific projects or installations to be built. This may excuse the failure to carry out strategic environmental assessment, though SEA would certainly have contributed to the quality of the strategy.

HOW THE EU-UKRAINE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2017-2019: NEW PLANS BY CABINET OF MINISTERS OF UKRAINE

As we indicated in the previous issue of this Review, the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement is fully operative since Sep 1, 2017. There are “new” provisions in force, which now require planning and implementation. A number of other planned measures required update, so governmental action plan seemed both un-implemented and outdated.

On June 21, 2017, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved – by its decision #503-p – an updated Action Plan for Implementation of Section V “Economic and sectoral cooperation” of the Association Agreement, including implementation of Chapter 6 “Environment”. Which are the actions we shall expect in the near future for timely implementation of the environmental dimension of the Association Agreement?

In the area of convergence, the focus is on implementing implementation plans for each specific directive or regulation. Implementation indicator for this task – positive conclusions of the Association Committee.

Quite important is to see the provision on **updating annexes XXX and XXXI to Section V of the Agreement**. Implementation indicator for this task - approval of new list of annexes by the Association Committee. The Action Plan does not provide for any details regarding what should be updated in the annexes. Yet, it is clear that Annex XXX, which lists directives and regulations which should be transposed by Ukraine, can be extended to include EU acts, which were omitted during the negotiations but still relevant for Ukraine. Annex XXXI, related to climate change, should be updated taking into account recent developments in this area, in particular signature and ratification of the Paris Agreement.

In the area of civil protection, it’s worth mentioning plans for building cooperation in the framework of association partnership under ‘EU Civil Protection Mechanism’, an EU cooperation instrument in this area. Implementation indicator set for this task – signing a bilateral document with the EU regarding association partnership in the framework of this instrument.

2017 is a deadline for approving renewed **State strategy for environmental policy**, including targets and indicators. The first step in this direction was already made – the presentation of the draft new strategy by the Minister of Environment on Sep 12, 2017, and start of public consultations. Sectoral strategies are also covered: **between 2017-2018 new strategies should be developed** on air quality; water quality and water management, including marine environment; waste and resources management; nature protection; industrial pollution and accidents; chemicals.

The Action Plan also foresees introduction of **environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment mechanisms**, while emphasizing such sectoral issues as **sulfur in fuel, integrated permitting, habitats and birds protection, National Emissions Reduction Plan for large combustion plants**. Climate change related tasks include development of a **low-carbon development strategy and climate change adaption for the period till 2030**.