

Environmental POLICY AND LAW

UA REVIEW

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HIGHLIGHTS

THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE ESPOO CONVENTION

The Intersessional Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention took place in Geneva on February 5-7 2019. This special session was assembled to take decisions on compliance with the Convention by some states, including Ukraine.

At the previous Meeting of the Parties in 2017 (Minsk, Belarus), the parties were unable to adopt a key document – a decision on compliance with the Convention – due to differing positions in relation to Belarus and UK cases. According to Ukraine's proposal, the draft decision was finalized in a new format. A number of separate draft decisions were submitted to the Intersessional Meeting of the Parties in 2019 instead one decision which would address all issues and states. Two of them concern Ukraine: regarding the con-

struction of the Danube-Black Sea canal and the life time extension of the Rivne nuclear power plant units 1 and 2. All decisions were adopted, the one regarding the Channel Danube-Black Sea - with amendments by Ukraine.

The decision on Rivne NPP lifetime extension is not new: it is a continuation of the case where main decision was taken in 2014 upon the complaint by the public organization "Ecoclub" (Rivne). The decision regarding life time extension case of Rivne NPP became important in the pan-European context, and gave start to developing general recommendations for the application of the Espoo Convention to decisions on the extension of the operation lifetime of nuclear power plants.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU-UKRAINE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT IN 2018: ANY PROGRESS FOR ENVIRONMENT?

On February 19 2018, the Government Office for European Integration published the Report of implementation of EU-UA Association Agreement in 2018. According to the report, in 2018 52% of total scheduled euro-integration activities were accomplished, while 22% in the field of environment and civil protection. Comparing 2017 Report, there has been progress in gross rate of agreement implementation (41% was reported in 2017). However, implementation in field of environment is one of the lowest and has declined from 27% in 2017.

Lack of availability of methodology applied in the counting those percentages by the government is one of the key issues in analyzing this document. The report implies that

authors equate the Association Agreement with the Action Plan for its implementation. However, realization of the latter is a necessary but not sufficient condition for proper and full implementation of the Association Agreement.

In addition, the figures quoted in the report are ambiguous. For example, one of the environmental achievements in 2018 was the adoption of the Law "On Strategic Environmental Assessment". At the same time, its adoption was not recorded as an asset of the Verkhovna Rada - according to the report, the progress of the implementation of the Agreement by the Parliament is 0%.

NUMBER OF THE MONTH

241:0

Environmental strategy 2030 scored during the voting in the session hall of the Parliament on February 28, 2019

THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT AND CITIZENS OF UKRAINE: EU ROLE

We continue our series of blitz-analytics related to the public opinion in Ukraine regarding key environmental pillars of the Association Agreement. This series of analytical materials is developed on the basis of a [study](#) of the attitudes of the Ukrainian citizens towards environment, carried out by the Resource and Analysis Center "Society and Environment" in 2018.

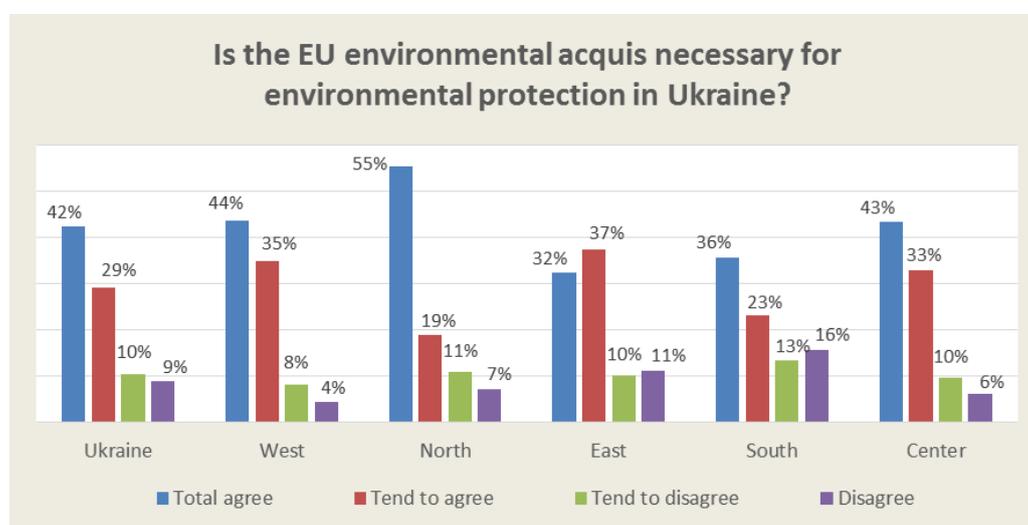
The Association Agreement foresees implementation of a number of EU environmental regulations and directives.

In general, 71% of the Ukrainians consider that EU legislation is necessary to protect the environment in Ukraine.

Trust. 13.5% of citizens trust the European Union in the context of environment (trust in Ukrainian Government - 4.6%). This is not a very high level of confidence (the greatest number of Ukrainians trust the scientists - 28.7%). In the South of Ukraine, only 6.3% trust the EU. Under the age distribution, the level of confidence in the EU is practically the same, except for the 65+ group, which demonstrates a much lower level of trust (9.6%).

Control. 68.7% of Ukrainians believe that the European Union should control how Ukraine implements European standards. 19.2% of respondents noted that environmental protection should be carried out jointly with the EU.

Assistance. 70.4% of Ukrainians consider that the EU should help Ukraine to improve its environmental standards. 52.4% of residents think that the EU does not do enough efforts to protect the environment.



RACSE, 2018.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“We can no longer justify the gaps in environmental policy by referring post-Soviet past and live by those standards. We need to move on and meet modern challenges. The parliament heard us today by supporting the new environmental policy of Ukraine. [...] The new strategy lists tasks aim at both overcoming the consequences of environmental problems in Ukraine and addressing their root cause.”

Ostap Semerak, Minister of Environment of Ukraine

EVENT OF THE MONTH

February 20 , 2019

**The Government approved
the National Waste Management Plan till 2030**