

# Environmental POLICY AND LAW

## UA REVIEW

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### HIGHLIGHTS

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR UKRAINE

**H**igh-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly (so called SDG Summit) took place in New York on September 24-25, 2019. Volodymyr Zelenskiy, the President of Ukraine, took part in the work of the summit. While Ukraine came without its homework done and no specific new commitments towards sustainable development, president's speech had important messages.

Among others, Zelenskiy spoke about two barriers on our way to sustainable development: (a) national opposition to reforms and (b) Russian aggression against Ukraine. Unfortunately, he did not mention the synergy of the three components of sustainable development.

Yet, after his return to Ukraine, the president signed a decree "[On Ukraine's sustainable development goals till 2030](#)" (No.722/2019). Such document is a good signal that Ukraine is ready to work on global sustainable development agenda, though it just reiterates well known 17 sustainable development goals. The president requested the Government of Ukraine to analyze, within two months, current programming and planning documents and to update them based on the outcomes of the analysis. It is unclear how this request can be practically implemented. Quite possibly the decree will remain a piece of paper with nice declarations of intent.

### ANY PROSPECTS FOR THE LAW ON PACKAGING WASTE?

**W**aste management system reform got its second wind. This was rather expected as parliamentary majority made many promises about waste management during presidential and parliamentary elections. During Kyiv city Municipal Waste Management Forum, Alyona Babak (Minister for development of communities and territories) [declared](#) a need to submit draft law "On packaging and packaging waste" for consideration of the Parliament. That would introduce extended producer responsibility and financial instruments to push both producers and consumers.

Adoption of new legal framework for waste management, including packaging waste, is an important part of the National Waste Management Strategy of Ukraine till 2030 ([2017](#)) and National Waste Management Plan till 2030 ([2019](#)).

Currently, there's no draft law in the Parliament of Ukraine addressing packaging waste. Apart from this, we are concerned about systemic inconsistency of such approach. Primary task is to adopt framework waste law, establishing key principles of waste management and basis for special laws on waste management.

### NUMBER OF THE MONTH



**1,6%** is share of household waste in the total amount of waste generated in Ukraine in 2018

Source: State Statistics Committee, 2019

## GONCHARUK'S GOVERNMENT WORK PROGRAM

**O**n September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Government of Ukraine approved its [Work Program](#). Now, according to the Constitution, the program needs approval by the Parliament.

Governmental Work Program is a basic political programming document, identifying goals and priorities of the government for the next 5 years. It covers a total of 118 pages and, as the prime-minister [said](#), is "citizen-oriented".

Indeed, each goal is phrased from a perspective of regular citizen's interests. The structure of the program reflects key governmental institutions: ministries, secretariat and the office of vice-prime minister for European integration.

Environmental goals, quite logically, are reflected in the section of the Ministry of energy and environmental protection. Some environmental priorities and goals are also covered by the sections for the Ministry for development of communities and territories and the Ministry of Infrastructure. The program lists 6 environmental goals (two covering wastes). Each goal has so called effectiveness indicators and description of priority actions.

Despite its structure, the program has more a visionary character and does not list clear priority measures in environmental protection. Effectiveness indicators are not specific. Some indicators are contradictory or even reached already.

The program has 7 central (general) target indicators, one of them being environmental: "Environmental pollution level will decrease by 20%". It is not clear which pollution this refers to, since no country has such an indicator as "environmental pollution level".

Goal 9.6 ("Ukrainian use natural resources more effectively and efficiently") has three target indicators but all of them relate to "revenues" (increased revenues per 1 hectare of forest land, 1 hectare of fresh water surface and from use and share of mineral extraction).

Goal 9.7 ("Ukrainians preserve natural ecosystems for future generations") has only general indicators, some of which are reached already (e.g., "adoption of river management plans").

The program foresees 50% decreases of the dumped municipal waste and, at the same time, increasing its recycling share from 3% to 15%. Discrepancy between these two target indicators probably stems from lack of communication between Ministry of Energy and Environmental Protection, one side, and Ministry for Communities and Territories Development on the other side. This also probably means there will be no transfer of municipal wastes management to the Ministry of Energy and Environmental Protection, though announced earlier.

*In sum, Government's Work Program could have been more "focused" and offer specific priorities instead of describing functional responsibilities of the central executive authorities.*

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**"Sustainable development is impossible under sounds of shots and explosions... "**

Volodymyr Zelensky, the President of Ukraine, speech during UN SDG Summit 2019

### EVENT OF THE MONTH

**Since September 18, 2019**

**forestry and fisheries have been put under authority of the Ministry of Energy and Environmental Protection of Ukraine**