

Environmental POLICY AND LAW

UA REVIEW

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HIGHLIGHTS

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT STARTS DRAFTING NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine [made public](#) draft outline of the National Action Plan for Environmental Protection for 2020-2025.

The development of the national action plan is part of the preparation process for implementing National Environmental Strategy of Ukraine till 2030. The strategy was [adopted](#) earlier this year and will come into force on January 1, 2020. Its implementation foresees two stages: 2020-2025 and

2026-2030. Its effectiveness will be assessed, including for the first period, against specific criteria set by the strategy. For example, renewable energy sources share shall increase to 12%, protected areas share should rise to 12,5% of total country area (at the moment – approximately 6,7%).

We expect the development of the national environmental action plan will be subject to strategic environmental assessment and public consultations.

AARHUS CONVENTION MAY OFFER PROTECTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS

During the 23rd meeting of the Working Group of the parties to the Aarhus Convention the participants discussed the problem with retaliation of environmental defenders.

Speakers at the special panel included Mr. Jonas Ebbesson, Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, Mr. Michel Forst, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mr. Sean Lobo, First Secretary, The Mission of Norway to the United Nations in Geneva and Mr. Andriy Andrushevych, Senior Policy Expert, Resource and Analysis Center "Society and Environment". As civil society representative, Mr. Andrushevych proposed to explore a possibility to set up a special procedure – quick response mechanism to harassment, persecution or penalization of environmental defenders. In his view general compliance mecha-

nism under the convention is not fit to fulfil this role, in particular unable to provide quick response to communications about persecution or penalization of environmental defenders.

Environmental defenders increasingly face risks and are subject to violence around the world. The retaliation may take various forms: from physical violence and murder to media attacks and legal proceedings. In 2017 alone 207 environmental defenders were murdered around the world (as reported by [Global Witness](#)).

NUMBER OF THE MONTH

11

**temperatures records
observed in Kyiv
in June 2019**

Data by Borys Sreznevskiy Central Geophysical Observatory

WHEN DOES NATIONAL EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN FOR LARGE COMBUSTIONS PLANTS BECOME A REALITY?

The Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine [made public](#) draft decision by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On amendments to annexes 1-4 to the National Emissions Reduction Plan for Large Combustion Plants". In brief, the Ministry of Energy intends to weaken the plan without having started its implementation and to delay it for indefinite period.

Accompanying explanatory note suggests the need for amendments arises due to the new model of electricity market (effective since July 1, 2019), introduced by the Law on Electricity Market. The proposal is supported by the financial arguments as well: *"Such changes are needed due to... the need for large investments by generating companies; given the uncertainty regarding sources of financing of the National Emissions Reduction plan, this will lead to losing competitive advantages under conditions of new electricity market"*.

Draft decision by the Cabinet of Ministers foresees changes in:

- Annex 3 to the National Emissions Reduction Plan inasmuch as operators are provided with option to change the emissions reduction technology;
- Annexes 1-4 of the plan regarding updating names of the companies, timelines for commissioning new plants and general installed thermal capacity as of December 31, 2012 (MWt);
- Action plan for reducing emissions from larger coal combustion plants, included into National Emissions Reduction Plan (Annex 3).

This draft decision requires strategic environmental assessment.

National Emissions Reduction Plan for Large Combustion Plants was adopted in autumn 2017. Yet, its practical implementation has not started. In 2018 the Government of Ukraine adopted plan of measures for its implementation in 2018. The plan foresaw series of actions, such as creating coordination committee for implementation, adopting plan of measures for reconstruction, modernization, technical update and decommissioning of the larger combustion plants, creating ad-hoc working group to develop implementation mechanism, etc. However, no information was made public by the Ministry of Energy regarding implementation of that plan of measures. Upon information request, the ministry only confirmed that coordination committee and ad-hoc group were established.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"There is no section in the "Environment" chapter of the Association Agreement where no progress in implementation was made [by Ukraine] "

Ostap Semerak, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, speaking at Best Environmental Practices Forum

EVENT OF THE MONTH

First time Ukraine joins Selection and Review Committee of Global Environmental Facility