

# FOREIGN POLICY DIMENSION OF THE EU AND UKRAINE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE POLICIES: review and recommendations for Ukraine

Policy paper. Summary

Resource and Analysis Center  
“Society and Environment”

December 2021



Copyright for this paper stays with the Resource and Analysis Center “Society and Environment”. Any use of the information reflecting the content of this policy paper, except for the generally accepted academic forms of quotes, is prohibited without prior written consent. For quotations: “Foreign policy dimension of the EU and Ukraine environmental and climate policies: review and recommendations for Ukraine. Andriy Andursevych, Nataliya Andrusevych, Zoryana Kozak. Policy paper summary, Resource and Analysis Center “Society and Environment” (2021)”.

This publication was produced with the support of the European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation within the framework of the EU4USociety project. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation.

*The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their knowhow, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.*

*International Renaissance Foundation is one of the largest Ukrainian charitable foundations that has been supporting the development of open society in Ukraine based on democratic values since 1990. Throughout its activities, the Foundation has supported about 20,000 projects for the amount of over USD 200 mln. The Foundation was founded by a philanthropist George Soros, and is part of an international network of Open Society Foundations.*

Site: [www.irf.ua](http://www.irf.ua)

Facebook: [www.fb.com/irf.ukraine](https://www.facebook.com/irf.ukraine)

*Resource and Analysis Center “Society and Environment” is a think-tanks non-profit organization focusing on environmental policy and law research, capacity building and implementation of innovative initiatives in Ukraine and regionally (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia).*

[www.rac.org.ua/en](http://www.rac.org.ua/en)

© Resource and Analysis Center “Society and Environment”, 2021

# SUMMARY

## Background

Recently, Ukraine has been reviving the development and implementation of the national climate policy. This is primarily due to the adoption and active implementation by the European Union of the European Green Deal (EGD) and developments under Paris Agreement.

Proclaimed in December 2019, the European Green Deal is an ambitious EU plan for decarbonisation, green transition and greening of virtually all areas of the economy and everyday life of citizens: from industrial policy to biodiversity. The main goal of the EGD is to achieve a climate-neutral Europe by 2050, so the main sectoral objectives for energy, energy efficiency, transport, agriculture, industrial policy, zero pollution, biodiversity, finance are aimed at decarbonisation and green transition.


## The EU Green Deal diplomacy

Communication on the European Green Deal offers an initial roadmap of key policies and measures needed to achieve the EGD, and also identifies the EU's ambition to be a global leader in promoting green issues through so called "green deal diplomacy". The main areas of green diplomacy are the fight against climate change (through the Paris Agreement), support for its immediate neighbors (Western Balkans, Southern Neighborhood and Eastern Partnership), biodiversity (through the Convention on Biological Diversity), trade policy, cooperation and partnership with third countries. Global climate and environmental challenges are seen as a significant threat and source of instability.

The impact of the EGD on the formation of a new phase of the Eastern Partnership policy is evident: climate and environmental sustainability are now considered as one of the priorities of the initiative, in particular through the proposed bilateral flagship initiatives for the Eastern Partnership countries.




## Ukraine's green diplomacy



Ukraine does not have a separate concept of "green", "environmental" or "climate" diplomacy. It does not have clear goals and objectives for the promotion of environmental and climate interests at the international level. Some strategic documents, such as the National Security Strategy, the Foreign Policy Strategy, the Energy Security Strategy, the Economic Security Strategy, the Environmental Policy Strategy, the Environmental Security and Climate Adaptation Strategy, and the National Economic Strategy define certain elements of the foreign policy dimension of environmental and climate policy.

Ukraine's level of activity in promoting its environmental and climate interests at the international level varies from a proactive stance and action (for example, in the field of climate change, joining the European Green Deal) to minimal steps or outright stagnation in some areas.

We note a revival of climate policy on the eve of and during the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow. Under the CoP-26, Ukraine has joined a number of important international initiatives and declarations, including the Power Past Coal Alliance; Global Methane Pledge Initiative; Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Sustainable Forestry and Land Use. Negotiations on Ukraine's accession to the international initiative "Leadership Group for Industrial Transition" were held. However, there was no mention of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the participation in or promotion of relevant biodiversity initiatives in the public discourse in Ukraine.



## Steps forward

Ukraine is the object of foreign policy efforts, climate and environmental diplomacy of other countries. Thus, the actions of the EU and other countries in the field of climate change today require coordinated action by the Ukrainian authorities within the WTO, relations with the EU, attracting investment and credit, cooperation with international financial institutions. In these circumstances, the protection of national interests and ensuring mutually beneficial international cooperation requires a systematic approach.

The policy paper offers a number of recommendations to strengthen the effectiveness of green diplomacy of Ukraine, including the concept of environmental diplomacy and its holistic vision, analyze the external environment and study the experience of other countries, including the use of EU green diplomacy tools, build effective partnerships with other countries, ensure the institutional capacity building, etc.

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion with key stakeholders, the concept of green diplomacy can be developed, defining its basic principles and directions of promoting / defending Ukraine's environmental and climate interests.

The policy paper was produced within the Resource and Analysis Center "Society and Environment" project "European Green Deal in Ukraine: from strategies to practical actions" with the support of the European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation within the framework of the EU4USociety project.