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EU⁴Environment

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Regional seminar with Eastern Partnership countries on risk-based approaches to environmental compliance assurance

Sharing experience on benefits and challenges of risk-based approaches

DRAFT AGENDA

25 November 2020, 13h – 16h Paris time

Virtually through ZOOM

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Background

Risk-based approaches to environmental compliance assurance can increase the effectiveness of assurance activities such as inspections while economising resources. The EU Industrial Emissions Directive adheres to this approach. Nevertheless, they also carry challenges such as ensuring that lower risk installations have enough incentives to be compliant with environmental regulations, making the successful promotion of voluntary compliance an important component. The six EU Eastern Partnership countries are committed to transitioning to a green economy and are at various stages of reforming their environmental compliance assurance systems. The European Union for Environment (EU4 Environment) Action aims to support their reform priorities with the goal of strengthening their environmental compliance assurance systems and liability regimes.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

This regional seminar will facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices from OECD and Eastern Partnership economies in adopting risk-based approaches to environmental compliance assurance, exploring commonly encountered challenges and methods to support mandated and voluntary compliance. In addition to a discussion of methodologies, it will also aim to take stock of the most recent developments and priorities in the field of environmental compliance assurance in Eastern Partnership countries.

Participants

Participants include representatives from Eastern Partnership countries, the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) and OECD member countries.

The workshop is funded under the EU4Environment Action programme.

About EU4Environment

The “European Union for Environment” (**EU4Environment**) aims to help the six partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

The Action is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank based on a budget of some EUR 20 million. The Action implementation period is 2019-2022.

For further information contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org

Draft Outline of the Agenda

Time	Item
13h00-13h05	<p>Item 1. Welcome and introductions</p> <p>Opening remarks from the moderator (Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate) and a brief introduction of the seminar's agenda.</p>
13h05-13h15	<p>Item 2. Approaches to environmental compliance assurance</p> <p>Introductory presentation by the Secretariat (Ms. Olga Olson, Policy Analyst, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate).</p>
13h15-13h55	<p>Item 3. Approaches to environmental compliance assurance in the Eastern Partnership region</p> <p>Participants from Eastern Partnership countries are invited to briefly present the latest developments in environmental compliance assurance in their respective countries as well as plans and priorities for the near future, especially any risk-based environmental compliance assurance initiatives.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Vrej Galoyan, Deputy Head of the Inspectorate for Nature Protection and Mineral Resources of Armenia • Mr. Ruslan Salmanov, Chief Legal Adviser of the State Environmental Security Service, Azerbaijan • Mr. Valery Kurilov, Director of State Enterprise "Ecologyinvest", Belarus • Mr. Tariel Iremadze, International Relations Specialist, Department of Environmental Supervision, Ministry of Environment and Agriculture of Georgia • Mr. Igor Pșenicinii, Head of Legal Division, Environmental Protection Inspectorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of Moldova • Mr. Roman Shakhmatenko, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine • Ms. Ina Coseru, Chair, National Environmental Centre, EaP Coordinator of Working Group 3, "Environment, Climate Change and Energy Security", Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum <p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have been the latest policy developments in the area of environmental compliance assurance in your country? What have been some of the successes and challenges? • What are the priorities in environmental compliance assurance going forward?
13h55-14h05	<i>Coffee break</i>

14h05-15h25	<p>Item 4. Examples of international approaches and methodologies used for risk-based environmental compliance assurance</p> <p>Several representatives from the IMPEL network and OECD economies will discuss approaches used in risk-based environmental compliance assurance, including successes, challenges and drawbacks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Duncan Giddens, Freelance consultant, Owner/Director, Optimus Management Solutions Ltd.; former Senior Project Manager, Environment and Business, Environment Agency of England: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction of terminology, principles and applications/methods. ○ Environmental compliance promotion approaches. ○ Risk based tools/methods including Environment Agency (England) OPRA (Operational Risk Assessment). • Mr. Simon Bingham, International Development Manager at Scottish Environment Protection Agency; Cross-Cutting Expert Team Leader & Board Member of IMPEL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lessons learnt from 15 years studying and implementing risk-based environmental compliance assurance systems. • Mr. Rob Kramers, Expert, Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management of the Netherlands; Knowledge Centre InfoMil: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Doing the Right Things” Methodology.
15h25-15h50	<p>Item 5. Open discussion</p> <p>Participants are invited to engage in an open discussion.</p>
15h50-15h55	<p>Item 6. Plans to support environmental compliance assurance in the region</p> <p>A brief presentation about plans to support environmental compliance assurance in the region through the EU4Environment Action.</p> <p>What are the areas where Eastern Partnership countries believe more support is needed?</p>
15h55-16h00	<p>Item 7. Conclusions</p> <p>The moderator will sum up the outcomes of the seminar’s discussions and the way forward.</p>