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UA REVIEW

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HIGHLIGHTS

THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT: REPORTING UNDER NEW PLAN

In early August, 2018, the Ministry of Environment made public its reports for the I and II quarters on implementation of the Association Agreement in environmental area. The format and content of the report is in line with the Plan of Measures to Implement the Association Agreement, adopted in autumn 2017 and published in spring 2018. To remind, the new plan abolished all previous plans of measures, including implementation plans for each specific directive.

Every line in the report has a new column "Progress in implementation of the measure in the reporting period". This approach to reporting has benefit of facilitating the monitoring of the work done by the Ministry of Environment during the reporting period as regards specific task. On the other hand, lack of indicators in the plan itself often does not allow to estimate where we are in the implementation process. In

particular, it is unclear whether deadlines were met or not. For this reason, it could have been useful to indicate whether a specific task was "fully completed", "at initial stage of implementation" or "at the planning stage", etc.

When comparing the reports for the 1st and 2nd quarters it becomes apparent that some information is copy-pasted. For example, the Law on SEA was adopted in March 2018, but this information is also presented in the report for the 2nd quarter. For this reason, some methodological clarifications could have been useful to guide readers which information covers specific reporting period.

Publication of such reports is not just a legal requirement, but also a good transparency policy of the Ministry of Environment. The reports serve as a good source of information for the public to monitor, raise awareness and run advocacy campaigns.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON THE DRAFT NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN TILL 2030

At its website, the Ministry of Environment started public consultations over draft National Waste Management Plan till 2030. The document is to be adopted by a regulation of the Cabinet of Minister of Ukraine.

The National Waste Management Plan was developed to implement National Waste Management Strategy till 2030, adopted last year. The draft includes a number of measures and tasks regarding main types of waste (municipal, hazardous, construction, agricultural, industrial, packaging, electronic wastes, etc.). In most cases, specific laws are to be developed to manage specific type of wastes.

In addition, the draft proposes a number of general priorities and measures. These include development of a framework law on wastes and setting up a special central governmental body for waste management and a unified center to implement international agreements in the area of waste management. They also include a separate priority for increasing citizens awareness on the issues related to waste management.

The consultations will continue till September 23, 2018.

NUMBER OF THE MONTH

66,4%

of measures were actually funded in 2017 for implementation of the State Target Program for Water Sector Development and Environmental Rehabilitation of the Dnipro River till 2021

(Information by the Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Policy)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF UKRAINE: CHANGES AHEAD

By adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on Sep 25, 2015, the UN General Assembly set 17 goals and 169 targets for sustainable development. Together they have a complex nature and provide for a balanced approach to the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. While setting these global goals, it also recommended to the UN member states to develop national programming documents (in particular, national development or national sustainable development strategies), which would set ambitious goals and cover all areas of the Agenda 2030.

On Jan 12, 2015, the President of Ukraine, approved the Sustainable Development Strategy "Ukraine - 2020", which set the goal, key directions, a road map and primary steps and indicators for defense, social-economic, institutional, political and legal framework for development of Ukraine. Yet, this document does not encompass all pillars of the sustainable development, in particular it lacks environmental dimension. Among 62 listed reforms and development programs only one relates to the environment (Program on Conservation of the Environment), while not among priorities and with no key policy indicators relating to this area.

Two events took place in August 2018 in Ukraine paving the way for development of a national strategic document on sustainable development: the Parliament of Ukraine registered two relevant draft laws. Both draft laws are justified as being developed to implement, among other, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Yet, the two drafts are different as to their structure and content:

- Draft law on Sustainable Development Strategy of Ukraine till 2030 (No.9015 of Aug 07, 2018). The document is based on 17 SDGs, but takes into account national needs and sets overall 7 strategic goals, which cover 20 operational targets. For example, the environmental pillar of the sustainable development is covered by the goal 6 "Conservation of the terrestrial and marine ecosystems and promotion of a balanced use of their resources". In turn, goal 6 includes 3 op-

erational targets. One of the strengths of this draft is clear target indicators set. Yet, the draft needs further improvement on some issues, in particular ambitious targets, as current legislative framework sets more ambitious targets than those in the draft strategy. For example, the Sustainable Development Strategy "Ukraine - 2020" provides target for energy intensity of the GDP of 0,2 tonnes/\$1,000 to be achieved by 2020, while the draft law - till 2030. Key policy (target) indicators need also some further discussion, in particular those reflecting decrease of the negative effects of environmental pollution on human health. Those could include air quality indicators, reducing mortality and diseases associated with environmental pollution;

- Draft law on the Strategy to Introduce a Model of Balanced Development of Ukraine till 2030 (No.9015-1 of Aug 20, 2018). The aim of this strategy is to introduce new socially, environmentally and economically balanced model for development of Ukraine, where Humans are the highest value and realization of creative potential of the nation is the main drive for development. To achieve this goal eight mechanisms are set to implement balanced development policy, including: introducing smart governance principle, modernization of national economy on grid principle, development of creative economy, sustainable investment security. Yet, the draft has a serious weakness of neglecting the environmental dimension of the sustainable development. Apart from a few general remarks in relation to rational use of natural resources, use of eco-friendly technologies and transfer to energy effective economy, the draft proposes no real mechanisms for developing environmental pillar.

While we welcome progress in the development of a national guiding document on sustainable development, we believe it should reflect - in addition to national needs - the criteria set by the UN 2030 Agenda: ambitious goals and comprehensive coverage of the Agenda's scope.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Local governments and self-governance bodies do not need to wait for adoption of the new legislation [on wastes], but should move in parallel right now...we need to have regional waste management plans, use the instruments for inter-municipal cooperation, prepare staff to work on waste management."

Gennadiy Zubko, the Minister of Regional Development, Building and Housing of Ukraine

EVENT OF THE MONTH

August 29, 2018

The Government approved draft law on "Ozone depleting substances and fluorinated greenhouse gases"