

# Environmental POLICY AND LAW

## UA REVIEW

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### HIGHLIGHTS

### UKRAINE AFTER COP-24

U N climate negotiations ([COP-24](#)) took place on December 2-14, 2018, in a Polish city of Katowice. The negotiations provoked many discussions assessing results from victory to treachery. We give credit to the facts: Paris Agreement rulebook was adopted; serious financial commitments made by countries and international negotiations (\$200Bn by World Bank for 5 year period, by Germany - €70M for Adaptation Fund and €1,6Bn for Green Climate Fund, 9 international banks announced their financial portfolios were aligned with Paris Agreement goals); several declarations adopted (Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration, Ministerial Declaration "Forests for Climate", Katowice Partnership for Electromobility).

Ukraine was persistent in arguing against using Crimea data by the Russian Federation in its reporting. Ukraine was proud to be ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in the Climate Change Performance Index

2019. The ranking results are defined by a country's aggregated performance regarding 14 indicators within the four categories "GHG Emissions", "Renewable Energy" and "Energy Use", as well as on "Climate Policy". Climate negotiations were also marked by persecution of Ukrainian environmental activists who came to attend negotiations in Poland, including their deportation and arrests. An important outcome for Ukraine included a statement by the Minister of Environment of Ukraine, Ostap Semerak, who announced revision of the nationally determined contribution by Ukraine. EBRD plans to support the revision process, to be carried out by Ukrainian national academy of science and experts as early as in May-June 2019.

### WOULD THE PARLIAMENT SUPPORT CIVILIZED ANIMALS TREATMENT?

O n Dec 27, 2018, the Government of Ukraine discussed and [approved](#) amendments to the animals protection legislation proposed by the Ministry of Environment. In particular, the amendments will ban use of animals in circuses (with transition period of 5 years). The transition period would be needed to develop a mechanism for animals transfer to protected areas and identifying their future habitats. Relevant draft law was already registered in the Parliament (No.9453).

Recently, cases of cruel treatment of animals have been widely reported and discussed in the media. These include circuses, dolphinarium, fur farms. The question is whether the Parliament would be ready to support such move. Just a few weeks before, the Parliament refused to approve the amendments to the laws aimed at establishing criminal responsibility for cruel treatment of homeless animals (draft No.6598).

### NUMBER OF THE MONTH

18<sup>th</sup>

is Ukraine's rank in the Climate  
Change Performance Index 2019

## THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT AND CITIZENS OF UKRAINE: CLIMATE CHANGE

We continue our series of blitz-analytics related to the public opinion in Ukraine regarding key environmental pillars of the Association Agreement. This series of analytical materials is developed on the basis of a [study](#) of the attitudes of the Ukrainian citizens towards environment, carried out by the Resource and Analysis Center "Society and Environment" in 2018.

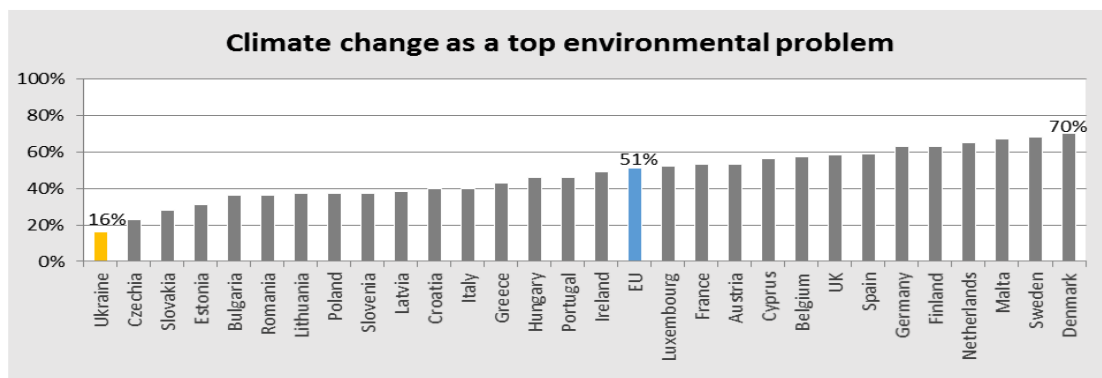
The Association Agreement foresees implementation of a number of EU environmental regulations and directives. All in all, 71% of the Ukrainians consider that EU legislation is necessary to protect the environment in Ukraine.

**A**nnex XXX to the Association Agreement includes a subsection "Climate change and ozone layer protection" listing one directive and two EU regulations in this area. In addition, Article 365 of the Association Agreement (and respective Annex XXXI) foresees development and implementation of the climate change policy in Ukraine.

The word "environment" is associated with climate change by only 5,5% of Ukrainians. Even more striking data on citizens' contradicting views about key environmental problems: climate change is seen as a big environmental problem by just 16,3% of the respondents, while frequent draughts and floods are at the top of list of environmental problems (40,3%). The actual link between these two problems is obvious, so the problem lies in citizens' lack of awareness and understanding of the causes of the environmental problem they find the most important. Climate change is, therefore, viewed as the least priority for reforms and supported by just 10,6% of the citizens.

In general, Ukrainians demonstrated similar believes and share the same values as EU citizens. Climate change is one of the few areas where there's a gap between views of the citizens of the EU and Ukraine. For example, climate change is seen as a top environmental problem by the EU citizens (51%). None of the EU countries has such low level of citizens' support to climate change efforts as Ukraine. The closest are some neighbors of Ukraine (Czech Republic - 23%, Slovakia - 28%), the highest numbers show Denmark (70%) and Sweden (68%).

Recently the Government of Ukraine has put much attention to climate change issues: a concept of state climate change policy was approved (2016), a low carbon development strategy approved (2017) and two law drafts submitted by the Government to the Parliament (on ozone depleting substances and on reporting, monitoring and verification of GHG emissions).



RACSE, 2018.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**"Adoption of the National Wastes Management Plan and, firstly, of the Framework Law on Waste Management, will allow Ukraine to develop sectoral draft laws for each waste group. After that we can talk of creating a single public authority for management, modernization and development of the waste management area."**

Ostap Semerak, Minister of Environment of Ukraine,

### EVENT OF THE MONTH

**December 6 , 2018**

**State Geology Service put for public sale via ProZorro system first special permits for subsoils use: 10 oil and gas deposits**