EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL:
SHAPING THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP FUTURE

Environmental Policy of the Eastern Partnership Countries in the Context of EGD

November 2020
This policy paper was prepared within the implementation of the project "European Green Deal: shaping the Eastern Partnership future" with the financial support of the FES Regional Office "Dialogue Eastern Europe".

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The publication was prepared with the financial support of the FES Regional Office "Dialogue Eastern Europe".

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Summary

The integration of environmental and climate priorities into the EU policies is further strengthened by the start of implementation of the European Green Deal (EGD). EGD is a program of actions of the European Commission focused on the ambitious plan to shift to a climate neutral Europe by 2050. Through the EGD diplomacy, as an important element of the EGD global dimension, the EU also addresses the development of new priorities within the framework of Eastern Partnership. Presently, non-governmental organizations have a unique opportunity to prioritize environmental issues in their respective countries, due to the EGD and the development of a new paradigm of the Eastern Partnership (EaP), thus integrating them into various policies and sectors of life.

The goal of the policy paper is to present to the civil society in the EaP countries the information on the EGD and the opportunities it creates for the environmental transformation and cooperation in the framework of a new EaP format. The paper also includes recommendations for the EaP countries’ governments, the EU, civil society, businesses, and donors on promoting the EGD objectives and empowering non-governmental organizations in this process.

Europe’s transformation into the first climate neutral continent requires from the EU a large-scale climate-oriented changes in various sectors of economy. EU efforts alone are insufficient to achieve this task. EU needs its neighbors on the continent (including the Eastern Partnership countries), as well as partners all over the world, to commit to similar transformations.

The first changes for the benefit of the EaP “green” agenda are already evident: environmental and climate change issues which used to be a part of “Stronger Connectivity” (energy, transport, environment and climate), one of the original EaP priorities, are now shaping its own priority (one of the five) – “Together towards environmental and climate resilience” with an extensive list of cooperation areas.

Despite the declared increased prioritization for environment concerns and climate change in the EaP policy for the following period, there are still no definitive grounds to assume any significant change in the cooperation formats. We would rather expect more systematic and persistent efforts on the previously launched cooperation lines in environmental, energy and climate areas, with a large increase of financial support, and the integration of the EGD aspects into other forms of cooperation (cross-border and regional cooperation, research and education, capacity building of civil society, etc.).

The EGD is going to have the highest impact on the national policies on climate change. Moreover, the
EGD will have a certain impact on policies in biodiversity protection, pollution control and sustainable use of natural resources.

There are important distinctions between the EaP countries that will define the level of the EGD impact on their national environmental policies. These include their commitments in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the available special bilateral formats and the related obligations to implement the EU environmental acquis, membership of countries in the Energy Community, the scope of the targeted funding and technical assistance from the EU, and trade relations with the EU.

The EGD will impact the trade between the EaP countries and the EU member states through toughening of environmental requirements to products, and the implementation of a carbon border adjustment mechanism in the EU. Some EaP countries are affected more, also due to the larger EU share in their foreign trade.

The cooperation of the EU and the EaP countries will mostly take place within bilateral format, depending on the level of relations with the EU and the demand of partner states. The scale and success of the EaP cooperation in the framework of the EGD on the regional level will depend on the status of the EaP and support of regional formats by the leading states. The priorities of the EU for its bilateral cooperation with the EaP countries in order to promote the priorities/objects of the EGD are still under development. The key focus areas will largely depend on the EaP countries themselves and their civil society.

More detailed targets and cooperation plans on the EGD are currently under development and are a subject matter for negotiations between the European Commission and the governments of the EaP countries. Much will depend on the ambitiousness and persistence of the latter. Therefore, at this stage it is highly important that the interested expert community actively starts public debate and identifies country priorities, as well as to mobilize the officers and diplomats in charge to start relevant communication with the EU. On the other hand, the civil society in the region shall demand a clear articulation of commitments, and set up of a mechanism for efficient control over the implementation of the EaP green objectives, which includes the participation of civil society.

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Introduction

The EaP countries have different levels of cooperation with the European Union, different degree of integration and approximation of the national legislation to the EU policy and acquis.

Recent trends in greening virtually all sectors of economy and public life in the European Union affect the EU policy towards its neighbours, including the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. The integration of environmental and climate priorities into the EU policy, the expansion/amplification of their scope, including on the global level, has strengthened largely due the implementation of the European Green Deal (EGD) in the EU.

EGD is a program of actions of the European Commission focusing on the ambitious plan to shift to a climate neutral Europe by 2050. It is the EU response to global challenges of climate change, pollution, loss of biodiversity, and also the response to the demand of European citizens for the inclusion of climate challenges into the EU political agenda.

The EDG was launched by the Communication “European Green Deal” on December, 11, 2019. On the one hand, it is based on the existing policies and the law in the fields of EGD. On the other hand, new strategies, plans, and laws will be developed, mostly in 2020-2021, for its implementation. Key EGD areas are the climate, energy, transport, industrial policy, zero pollution, trade, biodiversity, agriculture, and waste.

The pandemic and response to COVID-19 in 2020 adjusted the pace of the EGD implementation, but it remained a top priority. Moreover, the Commission has repeatedly emphasized that the economic recovery needs to aim at a more sustainable, green and digital Europe, to have the solutions that would be useful both for economy and the environment.

Through the EGD diplomacy, as an important element of the EGD global dimension, the EU also impacts the development of new priorities under Eastern Partnership. Eastern Partnership is a joint program initiative focusing on the deepening and strengthening the EU relations with the six Eastern neighbors: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

The EaP work towards achieving 20 key deliverables by 2020 is coming to an end. It is expected that a new stage of the partnership will more comprehensively reflect environmental and climate priorities and will be closely linked to the implementation of the EGD objectives in the context of EaP. The new long-term EaP targets are scheduled to be set at the EaP Summit in March, 2021.

The EaP countries have a different level of cooperation with the European Union, a different degree of integration and approximation of the national legislation to the EU policy and acquis. In any case, the EGD will impact Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine in the context of implementation of the Association Agreements, and also all the six EaP countries in terms of facilitating trade, setting and achieving climate goals. In most EaP countries, there has been
no response yet on a governmental level to challenges and opportunities of the EGD for regional cooperation and bilateral relations, which prompts the need for further analysis of the EGD and its possible impact on the countries.

Civil society has always acted as an engine of progressive change in the EaP countries, including environmental and climate issues. At the moment, non-governmental organizations have a unique opportunity to use the EGD and the time of building a new EaP agenda to prioritize environmental and climate issues for their countries, and to integrate them into all possible policies and sectors of life.

The objective of the policy paper is to present to civil society in the EaP countries the information about the EGD and about the opportunities it creates for environmental transformation and cooperation in the framework of the EaP updated format. The paper also includes recommendations for representatives of governments of the Eastern Partnership countries, the EU, civil society, businesses, and donors in terms of promoting the EGD targets and enhancing the role of non-governmental organizations in this process.

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Methodology

The subject matter of our study was the EGD impact on the environmental policy and cooperation of the EaP countries. It requires the analysis of several phenomena and their interrelations: the European Green Deal, Eastern Partnership, regional and bilateral cooperation between the EU and the EaP countries, and the countries’ environmental policy.

Therefore, for the purpose of this research, we posed the following questions:

- What are the key factors and the EGD impact mechanism?
- What areas of the EaP countries’ environmental policies are going to be largely affected by the EGD?
- What are the differences between the EaP countries and how could they impact the role of the EGD in their environmental policies?
- How will the EGD impact the foreign trade of EaP countries?
- What focus (priorities) could the EU put in cooperation with different EaP countries to achieve the EGD objectives?

In terms of the project resources supporting the analysis, a key method was a “desk study” – the expert analytical study of the available sources of information on the phenomena that are subject matter of the research. The sources included official documents, analytical materials and findings of previous research on the matters in question. All the sources used for the purpose of this analysis are publicly accessible.

The desk study was undertaken by the experts: Nataliya Andrusevych (expert group leader), Zoriana Kozak (Chapter I), Zoriana Mishchuk (Chapters II and IV), Andriy Andrusevych (Chapters III and IV).

In order to verify the obtained results, a series of consultations was conducted with experts from the respective EaP countries. We would like to hereby express our acknowledgment for consultations to Fikret Dzhafarov (Azerbaijan), Aram Gabrielen (Armenia), Irina Sukhiy (Belarus), Gia Abramia (Georgia), Andrei Isacu (Moldova), and Ina Koseru (Moldova).

In addition, we provided the opportunity to civil society representatives of the EaP countries (primarily, the Civil Society Forum of Eastern Partnership) to express their remarks and suggestions on the draft policy paper in an electronic form.
Chapter I.

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL: NEW POLICY OF EU GREEN TRANSFORMATION
1.1. WHAT IS EGD?

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL (EGD) IS AN ACTION PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO PROVIDE FOR SUSTAINABLE, CLEAN, SAFE, AND HEALTHY ECONOMY IN THE EU.

On December, 11, 2019, the European Commission approved the Communication on the European Green Deal (EGD Communication) supported by the European Parliament in January 2020. EGD is a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050, and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. It is one of the six priority areas of the Programme of Actions of the European Commission, and an integral part of this Commission’s strategy to implement the United Nation’s 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

EGD’s central idea is the ambitious plan to transform Europe into the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. EGD defines the reform of policies directly affecting its implementation. In particular, these include climate, energy, industry, construction, transport, agriculture, biodiversity, and zero pollution.

The Communication’s integral part is the Roadmap with specific measures, such as:

- to provide for no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050,
- to increase resource-efficiency by shifting to circular economy,
- to restore biodiversity and reduce pollution of natural environment.

The Communication and the Roadmap are key documents defining the content and areas of activities of the EU to shift to a climate neutral Europe. To implement the EGD, they foresee approval of specific strategies, plans, and legislation. Approval of the necessary documents is scheduled for 2020-2021.
European Green Deal

- Mobilising research and fostering innovation
- A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment
- Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity
- Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility
- Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy
- Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy
- Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way
- Increasing EU’s Climate ambition for 2030 and 2050
- From ‘Farm to Fork’: a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system
- Financing the transition
- Leave no one behind (Just Transition)
- The EU as a global leader
- A European Climate Pact

Transforming the EU’s economy for a sustainable future
1.2. OVERVIEW OF EGD KEY POLICIES

CLIMATE: INCREASING THE EU’S CLIMATE AMBITION FOR 2030 AND 2050.

The goal of the EU climate policy is to achieve climate neutrality in Europe by 2050.

The issues related to climate change and their solutions are in focus of the EGD and serve as a linking element of an ambitious set of measures for EU transformation in the coming decades. The EU actions cover both the large-scale reduction of greenhouse gases emissions, and investment into advanced research and innovation supporting Europe’s environment preservation.

The reform of the EU climate policy addresses the following three aspects:

- reduction in greenhouse gases emissions as a core objective of the EU climate policy;
- reduction in methane emissions as one of the areas to achieve the EU climate goals;
- adaptation to climate change implying adoption and implementation of comprehensive and integrated measures.

The EGD final objective is the climate neutral Europe by 2050. EGD also includes an interim goal – to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from 40% to 50-55% by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels)\(^4\). Long-term climate goals are both ambitious and measurable, but also they are well integrated into almost all areas of economy and life.

Methane emission reduction is one of the areas in achieving EU climate ambitions. It implies measures to administer more accurate measurements and reporting, as well as more efficient preventive measures.\(^5\) For more efficient mitigation measures, a targeted support is provided to accelerate the development of the biogas market from sustainable sources, better leakage detection and their elimination for all fossil gases, adoption of new and review of the current legislation, etc.

One of the key instruments of implementing EGD climate goals on the national levels is the adoption by EU member-states of the national plans on energy and climate. In 2021, the European Commission will also review all the respective policy tools to

\(^4\) The 2030 Climate Target Plan included emission reduction of greenhouse gases at least by 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.

\(^5\) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. On an EU strategy to reduce methane emissions (14.10.2020, COM(2020) 663 final).
EDG and Climate Change Initiatives

**EUROPEAN CLIMATE LAW**
a legally binding target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

**EUROPEAN CLIMATE PACT**
aims to engage citizens and communities in action for our climate and environment.

**2030 CLIMATE TARGET PLAN**
proposal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 sets Europe on a responsible path to becoming climate neutral by 2050.
provide for additional greenhouse gases reductions, and adopt a new, more ambitious EU strategy on climate change adaptation.

**ENERGY: SUPPLYING CLEAN, AFFORDABLE, AND SECURE ENERGY.**

Objective of the EU energy policy – clean energy and decarbonization of energy sector.

EGD provides for the reform of energy sector towards further decarbonization of energy system, prioritized energy efficiency, the need to develop the renewable sources sector and phasing out of coal. At the same time, the focus is on affordable and secure energy supply for consumers, in particular through the just energy transition intended to abate energy poverty, to encourage customers to use clean energy.

A strategic issue for reform in this area is the integration of the EU energy system. The transformation covers three areas:\(^6\) a more "circular" energy system, with energy efficiency at its core (including also a more efficient use of local energy sources, reusing waste heat from industrial processes, energy produced from bio-waste or in wastewater treatment plants), a greater direct electrification of end-use sectors, promoting sustainable fuels (including renewable hydrogen and sustainable biofuel and biogas) in the hard-to-electrify sectors.

In an integrated energy system, hydrogen supports the de-carbonization of economy. The European Commission envisaged the three-stage transition\(^7\) to the gradual development of the clean hydrogen economy with account for peculiarities of various industries.

**INDUSTRY: MOBILIZING INDUSTRY FOR A CLEAN AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY.**

Objective of the EU industrial policy – sustainable industry and providing for cleaner and more environment-friendly production cycles.

Achieving EU climate and environmental objectives requires a new industrial policy based on circular economy, accelerated transition of industries to a sustainable model of inclusive growth. The EGD defined a general vision for the transformation of industry in terms of de-carbonization and modernization of energy-intensive industries, sustainable products policy, providing verifiable information on

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\(^7\) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. A hydrogen strategy for a climate-neutral Europe (08.07.2020, COM(2020) 299 final).
products, ensuring the supply of sustainable raw materials, leverage the potential of digital transformation, which is key enabler for reaching the Green Deal objectives, and other issues of circular economy.

The EGD’s vision on the reform of industries focuses on three key areas: support of global competitiveness of EU industries and level playing field, both within the EU and globally, achieving climate neutrality in Europe by 2050, and shaping Europe’s digital future.

The Commission also defined the measures aimed at mitigating industries’ impact on climate. Among other things, support has been envisaged for an initiative on a zero-carbon steel production, to prevent “carbon leakage”, implementing a carbon border adjustment mechanism in 2021. Special focus is made on sustainability of goods and services throughout their life cycle, including also their sustainable consumption, waste prevention, well-functioning of the market for secondary raw materials.

CONSTRUCTION: BUILDING AND RENOVATING IN AN ENERGY AND RESOURCE EFFICIENT WAY.

Objective of the EU construction policy – a cleaner construction sector and increased energy-efficiency of buildings.

Transformation of construction policy under the EGD aims at boosting energy efficiency of public and private buildings. The renovated and improved buildings in the EU will promote the decarbonized and clean energy system.

The priorities in reforming construction sector are the following three areas: decarbonization of heating and cooling, addressing a problem of energy poverty, and the renovation of public buildings (schools, hospitals, administrative buildings, etc.). The Commission will further monitor the compliance with the rules for energy efficiency of buildings, and conduct the assessment of the national long-term renovation strategies in the EU member-states. In parallel, the EU adopted a new initiative to renovate buildings, a “Renovation Wave”, which envisages at least the double increase in renovation rates, and modernize 35 mln of inefficient buildings.

8 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. A New Industrial Strategy for Europe (10.03.2020, COM(2020) 102 final).
9 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. A new Circular Economy Action Plan – For a cleaner and more competitive Europe (11.03.2020, COM(2020) 98 final).
IN 2021, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION WILL ALSO REVIEW ALL THE RESPECTIVE POLICY TOOLS TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREENHOUSE GASES REDUCTIONS, AND ADOPT A NEW, MORE AMBITIOUS EU STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION.

The renovation wave is to use the renovations as a leverage to reduce energy poverty. The Commission suggested the recommendations\textsuperscript{11} to measure energy poverty, to identify the number of households struggling through energy poverty.

MOBILITY: ACCELERATING THE SHIFT TO SUSTAINABLE AND SMART MOBILITY.

Objective of the EU transport policy – promoting more sustainable vehicles.

A key objective of transforming mobility is to achieve a 90% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from transport. The EGD envisages several areas to reform the sector, such as:

- changing mobility flows, shifting to cleaner transport modalities;
- reconsidering pricing policy (including subsidies and exemptions) taking into account the impact of transport on the environment;
- higher requirements to standards, regulatory actions in the transport sector;
- development of transport infrastructure with account for further growth in using cleaner transport modes;
- promoting smart management in mobility and its digitalization.

To increase a share of transportation by sustainable modes of transport, 75% of inland freight carried today by road should shift onto rail and inland waterways. The measures to implement the EGD provisions for cleaner, more affordable, and healthy transport and smart mobility will be set by the Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility to be approved in 2020.

AGRICULTURE: FROM ‘FARM TO FORK’: DESIGNING A FAIR, HEALTHY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY FOOD SYSTEM.

Objective of the EU agricultural policy – providing for more sustainable food systems.

A more healthy and sustainable food system in the EU is the EGD element oriented at reduction of the EU food system impact on the environment and climate, at increasing its sustainability, and securing food safety due to climate change and loss in biodiversity, and a global transition to competitive sustainability.

Achieving a sustainable food system in the EU implies the change in the following areas:

- providing for sustainable production of food products and food safety;
- promoting sustainable practices in food processing, wholesale and retail, hotel businesses and public catering;
- support to sustainable food consumption and shift to healthy and sustainable diets;
- reduce food losses and food waste.

Specific objectives have been defined to be achieved by 2030. For example, it is planned to reduce the use of chemical pesticides by 50%, and the use of fertilizers by at least 20%, to reduce the sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and aquaculture by 50%, to reach the objective of at least 25% of the EU’s agricultural land under organic farming.

Measures to restore natural ecosystems are an important component of the EGD. The Commission planned a comprehensive system of measures, starting from the enhancement of the EU acquis on nature restoration (such as to set the legally binding objectives to restore the nature for 2021) to ensuring good environmental status of the marine and fresh water ecosystems, to expand green spaces in urban and suburban areas, to reduce pollution and to combat invasive non-indigenous species.

**BIODIVERSITY: PRESERVING AND RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY.**

**Objective of the EU biodiversity policy – implementing measures to protect a fragile EU ecosystem.**

Protection of ecosystems and biodiversity has a direct impact on the welfare of humans, the planet, climate and economy in general. The implementation of this idea under the EGD tackles the following two areas: implementing measures to protect ecosystems and biodiversity (including the maritime area, forests) and taking measures to restore them.

Ecosystems and biodiversity protective measures imply the expansion of the protected areas and the creation of a coordinated network of protected areas. Therefore, by 2030, the EU shall establish protected areas for at least 30% of land and 30% of sea. Special focus is made on the areas with high biodiversity value and capacity, including the virgin and relict forests. That is why 30% of protected areas, representing 10% of the EU land and 10% of the EU seas, shall be strictly protected. Moreover, the member states should define additional protected and specially protected areas (by including the

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12 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system (20.05.2020, COM(2020) 381 final).

13 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – Bringing nature back into our lives (20.05.2020, COM(2020) 380 final).
areas into the NATURA 2000, or into the national protected areas). In addition, it is planned to create ecological corridors for a coherent and resilient Trans-European Nature Network.

Measures to restore natural ecosystems are an important component of the EGD. The Commission planned a comprehensive system of measures, starting from the enhancement of the EU acquis on nature restoration (such as to set the legally binding objectives to restore the nature for 2021) to ensuring good environmental status of the marine and fresh water ecosystems, to expand green spaces in urban and suburban areas, to reduce pollution and to combat invasive non-indigenous species. Actions to restore biodiversity are also integrated into other EU policies. To return nature to agricultural lands, it is planned to increase organic farming and enrich biodiversity of landscapes in agricultural lands. A focus is made on the need to find win-win solutions for energy generation (including the use of potential of ocean energy, of the offshore wind, solar panel farms and sustainable bioenergy), taking into account the need to protect biodiversity and ecosystems.

**ZERO POLLUTION: AMBITION OF ZERO POLLUTION TOWARDS A TOXIC-FREE ENVIRONMENT.**

Objective of the EU zero pollution policy – fast and efficient reduction of environmental pollution.

Toxic-free environment is yet another ambitious goal of the EGD. To achieve it, certain areas have been defined that require special focus and reform, such as:

- achieving zero pollution through improving the status, monitoring, reporting, preventing and remediing of air, water, and soil pollution;
- providing sustainability of chemical substances by increasing protection of citizens and the environment from hazardous chemicals, by improving chemicals management;
- preventing industrial pollution by reviewing measures to combat pollution from industrial facilities and ensuring their compliance with the EU policies in the area of climate, energy, and circular economy.

The EGD declared the measures on zero pollution with a focus on issues such as reducing water pollution with excessive biogenic substances, with microplastics, chemicals and other new or especially
hazardous substances, overcoming a combined impact of various pollutants. In terms of clean air, it is planned to reconsider the standards for the EU air quality and their compliance with the WHO recommendations, as well as to support local authorities in conducting monitoring, in developing and adopting the plans for air quality. Specific activities are still under development.14

To improve the protection of citizens and the environment from chemicals, to motivate innovations into safe and environmentally-friendly clean chemicals, the Commission suggested15 a new hierarchy in chemicals management: the usage of safe and sustainable chemicals → to minimize and control of hazardous substances → to eliminate substances of concern and restore human health and

14 Adoption of the Action Plan “On the way to zero pollution of air, water and soil – to build a healthier planet for healthier people” is scheduled for 2021. On October, 1, 2020, the Road Map was planned for the plan of action.

A KEY OBJECTIVE OF TRANSFORMING MOBILITY IS TO ACHIEVE A 90% REDUCTION IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORT.

The Roadmap to achieve toxic-free environment introduces, among other things, a ban on the use of the most hazardous chemicals in consumer goods, phasing out the most harmful substances and use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the EU, the need to consider the combination effect in risk assessment related to chemicals, support to sustainable supply of highly important chemicals to the EU, creating a simplified process of “one assessment – one substance” for risk assessment of chemicals.

The reform in preventing industrial pollution will be implemented in the following two directions: to review the pollution-related measures from large production plants, and to improve preventive measures against industrial accidents.

The EGD declared the measures on zero pollution with a focus on issues such as reducing water pollution with excessive biogenic substances, with microplastics, chemicals and other new or especially hazardous substances, overcoming a combined impact of various pollutants.
The toxic-free hierarchy – a new hierarchy in chemicals management

Protect health and the environment
Use of safe chemicals while preventing harm to humans and the environment by avoiding substances of concern for non-essential uses
Minimise exposure of humans and environment to substances hazardous to health and the environment, through risk management measures and full information to users of chemicals
Eliminate as far as possible substances of concern in waste and secondary raw materials and restore human health and environment to a good quality status

Encourage innovation
Promote the development of safe and sustainable chemicals and materials, clean production processes and technologies, innovative tools for testing and risk assessments
Promote modern and smart production processes, safe and sustainable uses and business models, chemicals as a service, IT solutions for tracking of chemicals
Promote safe and clean recycling solution including chemical recycling, waste management technologies, decontamination solution

Protection of ecosystems and biodiversity has a direct impact on the welfare of humans, the planet, climate and economy in general
Chapter II.

IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL ON EASTERN PARTNERSHIP POLICY
2.1 GREENING THE EAP IS THE TASK FOR “GREEN DEAL DIPLOMACY”

Apart from large-scale climate-oriented transformation in various sectors of economy, transforming Europe into the first climate-neutral continent requires the EU to promote similar changes in its neighbourhood (including the EaP countries), as well as partners all over the world, using its political power and support.

To promote the EGD idea on a global scale, the Commission promised to set up a strong “green deal diplomacy” and to employ all possible formats for cooperation and channels of influence, including trade policy, development support and other EU external policies.

It shall be noted that the EU “green diplomacy” is not a novelty in the EGD. The use of the EU external policies to promote sustainable development has been mandatory in the EU before. For example, all trade agreements concluded by the EU shall include a chapter on sustainable development and trade, as it was in case of Association Agreements with Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova. Environment protection and combating climate change are also in the focus of many technical assistance projects provided by the EU within the European Neighbourhood Policy. Nevertheless, in relations with their partners, including in the EaP, environment and sustainability related issues have been previously treated as “low politics”: the partners’ failure on their commitments was not a matter of discussion in a high political dialogue, unlike anticorruption efforts or human rights, whereas the scope of technical and financial assistance was far from the full-scale greening needs of economies required for a significant approximation to climate neutrality.

The EGD stands a good chance to change the situation: the objectives set are so ambitious that the EU cannot act negligently towards their achievement, also outside its borders. The fact the environmental and climate issues have real, not formalistic, priority is supported by the EU promise (as set in the EGD Communication) to ensure that all external aid by the EU will allocate at least 25% to climate related objectives.

Special focus of the EGD diplomacy shall be made on engaging the EU Eastern and Southern neighbours to environmental and climate transformations, since the economies cumulatively generate 20% more CO₂ emission than the entire EU in general (3,690 mln ton in 2018). Moreover,
they have a large potential for fast and cost efficient positive changes, the so-called “low-hanging fruits”\textsuperscript{16}. For Western Balkans states that have approached the EU membership the closest, specific reforms for the EGD implementation and the respective EU support are defined by a separate document – “The Green Agenda for Western Balkans.” In terms of Southern Neighbourhood and within the Eastern Partnership, the Communication on the EGD is envisaging “a number of strong environmental, energy and climate partnerships,”\textsuperscript{17} leaving the interpretation of the partnerships’ scope for the future policy processes.

Integration of the EGD objectives into bilateral and multilateral processes of EU cooperation follows the logic and the timelines of the processes. For example, the abovementioned “Green Agenda for Western Balkans” was developed and presented by the Commission together with the package of the 9 bln Economic and Investment Plan for Western Balkans,\textsuperscript{18} whereas the endorsement took place in the summit of Western Balkans leaders in November, 2020.

Including EGD objectives into the cooperation under EaP is aligned with setting long-term EaP objectives for the future program period. The launch of EGD coincided with the end date of the document setting the framework for cooperation till 2020 (the “20 Deliverables for 2020”)\textsuperscript{19} and with the start of preparation of the new framework document. It enables the integration of the EGD priorities into the EaP future policy on a systemic level, rather than by the fragmentary adjustment “along the way.”

A detailed vision for the implementation of EGD objectives in the EaP format, coordinated with the partner-states, shall be expected close to the EaP Summit scheduled for March, 2021, when the EaP new long-term objectives are adopted. An overview of the cooperation priorities suggested by the European side (that are conducive to the achievement of the EGD objectives) can be found in the Joint Communication of the European Commission and the High

\textsuperscript{17} Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The European Green Deal. COM/2019/640 final
\textsuperscript{18} Commission Communication on an Economic and Investment Plan for Western Balkans
Since the EGD objectives are intersectoral, opportunities for green cooperation are also mentioned in the Joint Communication beyond the priority “Together towards environmental and climate resilience”. Other focus areas include the exchange of best practices and the coordination of efforts in sustainable investments, such as eco-taxonomy, disclosure of environmental and climate related information, as well as standards and labeling for green financial products.

2.2. PRIORITIES FOR FURTHER COOPERATION IN THE EGD IMPLEMENTATION UNDER EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: A VIEW FROM THE EU SIDE

The first changes for the benefit of the EaP “green” agenda are already evident: environmental and climate change issues which used to be a part of “Stronger Connectivity” (energy, transport, environment and climate), one of the original EaP priorities, are now shaping its own priority (one of the five) – “Together towards environmental and climate resilience” with an extensive list of cooperation areas.

Following the videoconference of the EaP leaders on June, 18, 2020, where they discussed the priorities for the EaP future policy, the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen stated: “It is only natural that the green transition is at the center also of the new Eastern Partnership framework as it is at the center of the political agenda in the European Union.”


Highlighting the fact that the EaP countries have multiple times declared their support to engage in the reforms under the EGD, in the Joint Communication the Commission promises its support to help “to transform the region into fair and prosperous societies, with modern, resource-efficient, clean, circular and competitive economies, while increasing their environmental and climate resilience, including through more sustainable use of natural resources”\textsuperscript{22}, which fully reflects provisions of the Communication on the EGD.

The reinforcement of the green component in the EaP, envisaged in the Joint Communication, is in line with the conclusions of the earlier held structured consultations on the EaP policy beyond 2020\textsuperscript{23} and with the proposals by the civil society from the region.\textsuperscript{24} In addition, it is fully confirmed in the conclusions (final provisions) of the Council of the European Union on the EaP Policy beyond 2020 dated May, 11, 2020. According to the conclusions, “the EU supports an intensification of the efforts by Easter partner countries and notes their support for the Commission’s initiative “The European Green Deal”.\textsuperscript{25}

While the main focus of EU green cooperation with the EaP countries is to fulfil national commitments under the Paris Agreement and the decarbonization of economies, the EU support will also include many other issues related to environmental protection. All issues within the “Together towards environmental and climate resilience” section in the Joint Communication are grouped into 6 sub-sections discussed below.

Within the sub-section “Benefits for People’s Health and Wellbeing,” they support actions aiming at preventing and reducing air, water and soil pollution, as well as toxic chemicals, taking into account EDG ambition for zero pollution; enhancing energy efficiency with a focus on energy efficiency of buildings, and the development of renewable energy sources, notably as a way to accelerate the reduction of coal use.

\textsuperscript{22} Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “Eastern Partnership Policy Beyond 2020: Reinforcing Resilience - An Eastern Partnership That Delivers For All”. Brussels, 18 March 2020.

\textsuperscript{23} Joint Staff Working Document “Structured Consultation on the future of the Eastern Partnership” Accompanying the document Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020”


The sub-section “Circular Economy” envisages the EU help to the EaP countries in transition to resource-efficient and circular economies, starting with the reducing wasteful production. The cooperation will promote sustainable product policies, eco-innovation, extended producer responsibility, waste management, green public procurement, and better consumer information. The priority sectors for reform are plastics, textiles, and construction. Efforts will be made to create opportunities for green jobs.

In the sub-section on “Economies’ Natural Assets Base,” the Commission highlights efforts to halt loss of biodiversity. This includes tackling deforestation and desertification, introducing measures to protect specific species, and extending and effectively managing protected areas; and control and surveillance for fishing activities to tackle overexploitation. No less important for the parties are the issues of water quality and accessibility, as well as river basin management. The cooperation will continue also in improving sustainable forest management, including long-term carbon-storage, the use of forestry products as fossil substitutes, as well as in reducing illegal logging and making timber traceable. The support will also be aimed at sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and food safety.

A separate sub-section includes “Policies and Governance in Support of Greener Growth.” It covers the reform in environmental governance, the sound planning of policies and investments, administrative capacity to implement and enforce legislation, enhanced public access to information, awareness, and participation in decision-making, and more adapted and effective financing mechanisms. In this respect, the Commission emphasizes the importance of a strong dialogue between stakeholders, awareness raising, and teaming up with civil society. The sub-section also includes the implementation of The Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea26 as a regional governance framework.

Since some EaP countries may choose nuclear as a low-carbon energy source, in view of achieving their respective climate targets, a separate sub-section for cooperation has been planned – on “Strengthening energy security and nuclear safety.” It includes the measures such as nuclear stress test peer reviews and decommissioning the nuclear power stations, radioactive waste management and radioactive safety. The partici-

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26 The EU initiated document adopted by the Black Sea Region states on May, 21, 2019, contributes to active but also sustainable development of marine economy in the Black Sea region (Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine).
The final sub-section on "Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility" covers the cooperation on promotion of green transport solutions, such as the development of urban mobility plans.

Since the EGD objectives are intersectoral, opportunities for green cooperation are also mentioned in the Joint Communication beyond the priority "Together towards environmental and climate resilience". Other focus areas include the exchange of best practices and the coordination of efforts in sustainable investments, such as eco-taxonomy, disclosure of environmental and climate related information, as well as standards and labeling for green financial products. The EGD is also mentioned in the context of cooperation on research and innovation: partner states are encouraged to define their priorities in this area related to mitigating climate change and adaptation thereto, and to build new innovative and sustainable value chains. The EU will facilitate mutual commitments to promote the priority tasks, and to define the strategy to provide for a fast access to the respective scientific and innovative solutions.

27 EURDEP is a radioactivity monitoring system, ECURIE is an early warning system for urgent radiological information exchange (in case of a radiation or nuclear accident) joined by EU member-states and some other countries.
2.3. COOPERATION FOR EGD TARGETS WITHIN EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: POSSIBLE FORMATS AND MODALITIES

Despite the declared increase in priorities for environment and climate change issues in the EaP policies for the future period, there are still no grounds to assume any significant modification in cooperation formats. We shall rather expect more systematic and focused efforts on the previously launched cooperation lines in environmental, energy, and climate fields, with the significant increase of financial support, as well as the integration of EGD issues into other areas of cooperation (cross-border and regional cooperation, science and education, development of civil society, and others).

The Joint Communication implies that, as before, a large part of EU efforts within a bilateral EaP format will focus on supporting the partners to develop and implement the respective national law and policies. On a multilateral level, the steps will be supported by the exchange of experience on reform, both the European reform in implementing their EGD targets, and the EaP countries experience among themselves. In addition to sectoral regional meetings on certain thematic priorities that bring together the responsible officials from the region’s countries, we may expect more events targeting other audiences. In particular, the Joint Communication emphasizes the importance of networking between businesses from the EaP and EU states, as well as experience sharing on circular economy.

The activities will be implemented within technical assistance projects – both country-based, and regional. For example, working plans of currently active EU4Environment, EU4Climate, ESP, EU4Energy Governance, EU Water Initiative+ (see Annex 3) projects have been adjusted to reflect the EGD objectives.

A special interest in the region will be attracted by further work on development of accessible financial assistance instruments for green innovation, taking into account the fact that difficulties in attracting the required large scope of investments are mentioned as a key cause for slow environmental modernization in the region’s economies. The Joint Communication mentions the intro-
CHAPTER II. IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL ON EASTERN PARTNERSHIP POLICY

European Green Deal: shaping the Eastern Partnership future

The EGD aspects are also integrated into priorities to support civil society, such as within the call for applications open by the EC in June, 2020 to welcome projects supporting civil society in Ukraine (Ukraine Civil Society Facility). There is a 3 mln euro lot on "Promoting sustainable development and better environmental governance in Ukraine in light of the European Green Deal." A separate call "Facilitating Ukraine's Engagement in the European Green Deal" is offered within the EU4Society project (budget – about EUR 100,000).

It has not been made clear yet whether any general coordination of regional cooperation on EGD is going to run within the EaP panel on environment and climate change (see Annex 3) or whether the EaP institutional framework will change, and the panel will be “promoted” to a higher level of a thematic platform. Moreover, a different mechanism might be created to account for the cross-cutting nature of the EGD and the need to coordinate the efforts with many other sectors. In any case, the cross-sectoral nature of the EGD calls for special attention to the coordination and govern-

Awareness-raising campaigns on environmental responsibility of citizens are going to be yet another frequently engaged format of activities. It is highly important that the campaigns outreach the local level and are practice-oriented. In terms of recent trends, one good format could include the online courses for different audiences – from public officials to small business owners.

Exchange of knowledge and innovations in line with EGD, is also of interest for the EaP countries. It shall be noted that the cooperation has already started. The nearest opportunities are offered by the Horizon 2020 program, open for the EaP countries. The program has already integrated the EGD objectives into the priorities of their calls for applications.
AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY OF CITIZENS ARE GOING TO BE YET ANOTHER FREQUENTLY ENGAGED FORMAT OF ACTIVITIES. IT IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT THE CAMPAIGNS OUTREACH THE LOCAL LEVEL AND ARE PRACTICE-ORIENTED. IN TERMS OF RECENT TRENDS, ONE GOOD FORMAT COULD INCLUDE THE ONLINE COURSES FOR DIFFERENT AUDIENCES – FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS.

The sub-section “Circular Economy” envisages the EU help to the EaP countries in transition to resource-efficient and circular economies, starting with the reducing wasteful production.

ance aspects, and requires fixing the responsibility for the general implementation on the highest possible level. In fact, it is the pattern in the EU when they set up a position of a Vice President of the European Commission on EGD and active engagement of the Commission’s President into the EGD policy. Therefore, this approach would be most advantageous also for the EaP countries and the regional mechanisms.
Chapter III.

THE EGD CONSEQUENCES FOR THE EAP COUNTRIES’ ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES
Framework (regional) priorities of the EaP will have an impact on the bilateral relations of EaP countries with the EU. Future bilateral instruments (regardless of the form or name) will reflect the EU priorities under the EGD. The impact will directly depend on the depth of bilateral relations in general, and on the readiness of the countries to facilitate the achievement of the EGD objectives. For example, the recent Ukraine-EU Summit in 2020 concluded with a joint statement that not only shows the EGD priorities but includes a direct reference thereto29.

3.1. THE EGD IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES IN THE EAP COUNTRIES

The EGD will have the largest impact on national policies in the area of climate change. In addition, the EGD will have certain impact on policies in biodiversity preservation, pollution control and sustainable use of natural resources.

The EGD has several priorities which implementation will directly depend on the EaP environmental policy: climate change, industrial strategy for circular economy, zero pollution, biodiversity preservation.

On the list, climate change is the EGD’s most important priority, as it is a central theme of the entire European Green Deal. The EGD key objective is the climate neutral Europe by 2050. Therefore, the most affected area in the national environmental policy of Eastern partners will be on combating climate change and adapting to climate change.

Most notably, the priority will affect climate policy of the countries with a significant contribution into climate change (such as Ukraine and Belarus). Specifically, the EU will make every effort to support countries’ actions to increase their commitments for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within the cycle of developing and approving the second national determined contributions (NDCs).

Despite the fact that Belarus and Ukraine have largely reduced their greenhouse gas emissions (by 40.82% and 61.28% respectively30), undertaking direct commitments to achieve the reduction levels of 50-55% (as it was fixed in the EGD as a 2030 target) is problematic for the countries, in economic terms. Therefore, the EGD impact on climate policy of the countries shall be considered in political terms that

29 See the Joint Statement Following the 22nd Ukraine-EU Summit of October, 6, 2020.

30 The 2018 emissions as compared to 1990, source: UN FCCC Secretariat.
affects many other areas (energy and industry, in the first place).

At the same time, due to the high priority of climate change in the EGD, it may be assumed that the issue will be included on the agenda for bilateral relations of all EaP countries on the highest levels, regardless of the share of certain countries in global greenhouse gas emissions.

Industrial strategy for circular economy and zero pollution, as EGD priorities, will have an impact on such environmental policies as pollution control and sustainable use of natural resources. The Communication on EGD directly states that the circular economy concept will be promoted within the EaP (priorities – electronics, batteries, plastics, packaging, textiles, construction materials31). For countries that are actively implementing the EU environmental legislation (Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, partially Armenia), the impact on such areas of environmental policy is going to be substantial.

Biodiversity conservation is one of the EGD priorities. At the same time, the EGD is only part of the “puzzle” of the EU biodiversity policy32. In the EaP context, more EU efforts shall be expected to engage the EaP countries to support its global initiatives on biodiversity conservation (in particular under the UN Convention on Biodiversity). In addition, within this priority, the EU declared the zero-tolerance policy to illegal, unregulated, and non-transparent fishery, which may impact the relevant policies in Ukraine and Georgia. Within the EaP, the priority will be actively developing to enhance the cooperation on protection of specific species, on reducing illegal logging, and making timber traceable. Thus, the EGD will have certain impact on environmental protection policy in the EaP countries.

The important differences among the Eastern partners that affect the EGD impact on their national environmental policies include their commitments on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, any available special bilateral formats and the related commitments on implementing environmental requirements of the EU acquis, country’s membership in the Energy Community, the scope of financial and technical assistance from the EU and trade relations with the EU.

In the context of various formats of the EGD impact on the bilateral relations between the EU and the Eastern partners, it is important to consider how the EaP format defines the modalities and priorities in the bilateral relations, and what the role of other processes is. For the purpose of this paper,
we summarized the key indicators of the processes in Table 1 “Participation of the EaP countries in selected international and bilateral processes with the EU.”

First of all, it shall be noted that Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine are less dependent on the EaP regional dimension in their relations with the EU, since their cooperation is based on the Association Agreements covering a broad range of issues. To a certain respect, it may be applied to bilateral relations of the EU with Armenia where the new framework agreement is provisionally applied. For Azerbaijan and Belarus, unlike other Eastern partners, the priority channels for cooperation are the EaP tools. It means that political and other factors of the EGD impact through EaP are more relevant for the two countries.

On the other hand, Association Agreements, where they are in place, make the EGD impact through the EaP different, and more effective for such countries. It is related to the fact that the Association Agreements may be used by the EU as processes (platforms) to promote the EGD targets, and the EaP objectives, especially when the agreements are viewed as part of the EU EaP policy. To this effect, all conditions are provided in the association agreements (commitments therein), and by the institutional cooperation mechanisms they established.

Membership in the Energy Community implies that climate and other environmental issues related to energy can be raised predominantly within this process. Therefore, for the non-member states of the Energy Community (Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Belarus), the EaP role is growing, as it is virtually the only (at least the most important) foreign policy platform for the EU cooperation with these countries.

As mentioned above, the major expected impact from the EGD will be produced on climate policy of the EaP countries. One of the obvious related factors is the EaP countries’ contribution into the global climate change. At the same time, the priority of the issue for the EU within the EGD requires a closer look at the current situation in EaP countries. One of the most important indicators of the climate policies in countries, in our view, is their readiness for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. On a practical level, it is manifested in the commitments undertaken under the Paris Agreement.

The countries’ national contributions have significant differences. As a benchmark, we may use the current EU commitment under the first NDC (40% reduction from the 1990 level) and set the next target 2030, which minimum is determined in the EGD – the 50-55% emission reduction since 1990. The EU will try to synchronize reduction targets of the EaP countries with its own GHG emissions targets.
Table 1. “Participation of the EaP countries in selected international and bilateral processes with the EU”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Azerbaijan</th>
<th>Armenia</th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Georgia</th>
<th>Moldova</th>
<th>Ukraine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership in the Energy Community</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First NDC(^1) on Paris Agreement, reduction compared to 1990</td>
<td>35%(^2) (2030)</td>
<td>(\approx78)%(^3) (2050)</td>
<td>28%(^4) (2030)</td>
<td>41%(^5) (2030)</td>
<td>70%(^6) (2030)</td>
<td>40%(^7) (2030)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitments to approximate to the EU environmental acquis</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes(^8)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes(^9)</td>
<td>Yes(^10)</td>
<td>Yes(^11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of financial support under the SSF(^12), mln EUR/year</td>
<td>2.1-2.9(^13)</td>
<td>5.3-6.6(^14)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>14.0-16.0(^15)</td>
<td>17.8-21.8(^16)</td>
<td>21.7-26.51(^17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU share in the country’s foreign trade(^18)</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Nationally determined contributions (NDCs).
\(^2\) First NDC of Azerbaijan (09/01/2017).
\(^3\) “Ecosystem neutral by 2050, 2.07t/person,” with conditions, first NDC of Armenia (23/03/2017).
\(^4\) First NDC of Belarus (21/09/2016).
\(^5\) 55% = unconditional reduction, 61% = with conditions, first NDC of Georgia (08/05/2017).
\(^6\) Updated NDC of Moldova (04/03/2020).
\(^7\) First NDC of Ukraine (19/09/2016).
\(^8\) Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Armenia, of the other part (signed on 24/11/2017, preliminary applied since 1/06/2018).
\(^9\) The Association Agreement between the EU and Georgia (2014).
\(^10\) The Association Agreement between the EU and Moldova (2014).
\(^11\) The Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine (2014).
\(^12\) Sector “Transportation, energy efficiency, environment and climate change.”
\(^18\) Exports and imports as of 2018-2019, data of DG Trade.
The current reduction targets for Azerbaijan (35%) and Belarus (28%) not nearly meet the current EU goal. While the targets for Ukraine (40%) and Georgia (32% for unconditional and 41% for conditional reduction) meet the current EU goal, they are not sufficient in view of the EU future goal (50%-55%). Armenia and Moldova are in the “safest” zone, due to the high level of the current national commitments (it shall be noted that some of them are subject to certain conditions under the first NDCs). It gives grounds to conclude that the EGD will have a higher impact on the climate policy of Ukraine, Belarus and Azerbaijan (in order of importance for the EU on the basis of the total emissions), and of Georgia. For Armenia and Moldova, the EGD impact will most likely be reflected in the policy on climate change adaptation, since the emission reduction targets and the total emissions in these countries are generally compliant with the EGD objectives in this area.

The EU share in foreign trade of Eastern partners shows the economic importance of their relations with the EU. Integrally, it defines the importance of cooperation in other areas, too. In this respect, we may identify two groups of countries: on the one hand, there is Armenia, Georgia and Belarus, where the average EU share is appr. 20%; on the other hand, there are Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Ukraine, with over 30% of the EU share in their foreign trade (for Moldova, it is over 50%). Presumably, the environmental policy of the second group of countries will experience more EGD impact trying to keep up the high level of trade relations. The role of trade relations is significant, that is why we separately consider this issue below.
3.2. THE EGD IMPACT ON FOREIGN TRADE IN THE EAP COUNTRIES

The EGD will have an impact on trade of Eastern partners with the EU due to the tightening of environmental requirements to products and introduction of the carbon border adjustment mechanism in the EU. Some EaP countries are more vulnerable to the impact, also due to a larger EU share in their foreign trade.

Over the last ten years, the volume of trade between the EaP countries and the EU have doubled. The EU role in the exports of Eastern partners is generally large and amounts from 19% (Belarus) to 64% (Moldova) in the export of goods from these countries. For the four countries, the EU is a key trade partner (and the second biggest partner in the foreign trade of the other two states).

The EGD may have a large impact on the trade relations of the EaP countries with the EU member states. Two key factors may be associated with the impact. First, the expected toughening of environmental requirements to the goods and to the production processes, which may restrict access of such goods to the EU markets. Another factor is the introduction of a carbon border adjustment mechanism in the EU, due in 2021.

Generally, the EGD implementation will have a different impact on the EaP countries’ foreign trade with the EU, which is most notably related to the trade volume, the EU share in the export of goods produced in the EaP countries, and the structure of the export of goods of these countries (see the Diagram 1 “The EU Role in the Exports of the Eastern Partnership Countries (2019)”).

The low total price of goods exported by Armenia and Georgia in the EU, the same as their share in the total export of goods of these countries, leads to a conclusion that the EGD has a small impact on their export prospects.

At the same time, a rather large cost of the export of Belarus goods to the EU, even at a relatively low share of the EU member-states in their total export of goods, may lead to rather substantive consequences for exporters in Belarus (also propelled by the structure of Belarus export to the EU with pre-
Diagram 1. The EU role in exports of EaP countries. Source: DG Trade (2020).
vailing timber and wood processing products, mineral products, metals and chemicals\textsuperscript{37}).

The most tangible EGD impact may be produced on the trade with Ukraine (36% – food products, 16% – metallurgy, 12% – ores and minerals\textsuperscript{38}) and Azerbaijan (98% of export – mineral products\textsuperscript{39}), since the two countries show high volumes, and a large share of the EU in the export of goods.

Moldova may find itself in a special position\textsuperscript{40}. Although their export of goods to the EU is not large in monetary terms (EUR 1.8 bln), as compared to some Eastern partners, but the EU share in the export of goods is the largest among other EaP countries – 64%. A large share of agricultural products (20.2%) and textiles (12%) suggests that the EGD may heavily impact the trade with the EU.

At the moment, the EU does not have any clear vision on the form and scope of applicability of the future carbon border adjustment mechanism. The Commission is working on that matter which shall be completed in the first half of 2021 with a formal proposal. The mechanism’s objective has been defined, though. It aims at preventing the “leakage” of greenhouse gas emissions abroad (i.e. the increase in emissions in the countries importing the goods to the EU), which is closely related to the raising of EU goals on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to assuring the competitiveness of its producers. The preliminary consultations on that matter suggest various options for the implementation (from customs duties to the expansion of the European system of emission trading to the import goods). Under all circumstances, one of the key prerequisites for the introduction is to conform with the WTO requirements.

In terms of export structure for goods, Ukraine and Belarus presumably fall under the largest risk of negative consequences from the implementation of the carbon border adjustment mechanism (due to a large share of goods with highly carbon intensive productions). At another point, restrictions in the EU market may entail either modernization of the respective production facilities, or the reorientation to other markets, or their closure. In that respect, Ukraine has certain advantages, because it started the implementation of the relevant EU environmental standards (also within the Energy Community and the Association Agreement).

At all accounts, the countries running the risks to be affected by carbon border adjustment mechanism, shall closely follow the developments.
Membership in the Energy Community implies that climate and other environmental issues related to energy can be raised predominantly within this process. Therefore, for the non-member states of the Energy Community (Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Belarus), the EaP role is growing, as it is virtually the only (at least the most important) foreign policy platform for the EU cooperation with these countries.
Chapter IV.

CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR REGIONAL AND BILATERAL COOPERATION WITHIN EASTERN PARTNERSHIP IN THE CONTEXT OF EGD
EU cooperation with the Eastern neighbors will take place mostly within bilateral format, depending on the level of relations with the EU, and demand from the specific partner-states. The scale and success of the EaP cooperation under the EGD on a regional level will be conditional on the EaP status and on the support of regional formats by the leading states.

When drawing conclusions following the first decade EU and the partners talked about the multiple achievements of this regional initiative and the importance of keeping the multi-country format to combat a series of common challenges. Nevertheless, it is going to be difficult to build further long-term regional policy: the interests and ambitions of the partner countries have changed tremendously over the last 10 years.

On the one hand, there is Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova that signed the Association Agreements with the EU and are engaged into large-scale reforms committed to implement 70% of the EU acquis within 10 years. Unlike the three associated countries that have repeatedly declared the EU membership aspirations, three other EaP states, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Belarus, are aiming at the cooperation rather than the integration into the EU. However, Armenia holds a special position. Rejecting the association prospects, in 2017, they signed with the EU the Agreement on the deep and comprehensive partnership which also envisages major policy reforms in line with the EU standards but without any Euro-integration ambitions.

In formal terms, the EaP provides for multilateral and bilateral formats, thus differentiating the cooperation depending on the countries’ interests and needs.

In any case, the EU relations with the associated states under the Association Agreements are de facto individual tracks having highest priority for the relevant countries. Therefore, in terms of prospects of the EaP policy in general, a regional format is implied in the first place. Further, it is based on the principle of the lowest common denominator, and thus, less interesting to leaders in the context of a bigger development gap and different ambitions. Therefore, in the consultations about the future EaP policy, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova insisted on creating additional formats for regional cooperation, as a separate “3+1” track (associated countries and the EU)41. However, this idea has not received any support from Brussels so far. According to the Commission, more focus shall be made on the reinforcement of the existing formats.

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41 Joint Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on the Future of Eastern Partnership. Bratislava, 5 December 2019
Interestingly, Ukraine’s current activities in the EGD context (discussing its participation in the EGD in a format of a high dialogue Ukraine-EU, creating a respective interagency group chaired by the Prime Minister, development of a position document, etc.) reflect Kyiv’s desire to pro-actively build special relations with the EU, rather than being the EU regional policy object, in response to the Commission’s suggested vision to develop the cooperation. By all means, the prospects of engaging a large-scale financing to modernize the economy and to increase its competitiveness is certainly a priority incentive for Ukrainian government. However, Ukraine also sees the EGD as an opportunity to change Brussels’s perception. Ukraine wants to be seen as a reliable and equal partner tackling the shared challenges shoulder to shoulder with the EU in real time, rather than a state struggling to catch up with the EU development levels and having difficulties implementing the EU acquis. In that respect, participation in the EGD may become for Ukraine (and also for Georgia, and possibly for Moldova) a stepping stone to revise its relations with the EU and receive the long-awaited membership prospects.
UKRAINE’S PROACTIVE POSITION ON THE EGD

Ukraine was super quick in responding to the adoption of the European Green Deal by the Commission on December, 19, 2019.

Firstly, on the following day (December, 20, 2019) a Deputy Prime Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba stated in a telephone conversation with the EU head of diplomatic service Josep Borrell that Ukraine was interested to actively participate in the EGD implementation, particularly to join the EU efforts to achieve climate neutral economy. In addition, Ukraine declared it would make specific proposals for the EU in that area.

Secondly, as initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, on January, 24, 2020, Ukraine’s Government established a special Interagency Working Group on coordinating the counteraction for climate change consequences within the “European Green Deal” initiative. The group tasks included, among other things, the reinforcement of the institutional interaction between Ukraine and the Commission in order to implement the EGD. The Group is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine.

As soon as in August, 2020, they developed, agreed, and submitted to the Commission a position paper (non-paper) with specific proposals from Ukraine to cooperate with the EU on each EGD element. In particular, Ukraine is interested to develop a road map and suggested a structured high-level dialogue with the EU on that matter.

Parallel to the specific processes, the issue of the EGD impact on Ukraine and its engagement was a subject for multiple discussions and meetings, both on the highest level between Ukraine and the EU, and on a national level: in a parliament, in a business community, and in civil society. In particular, the findings of the research “European Green Deal: Opportunities and Threats for Ukraine” led to a series of discussions among stakeholders about the EGD role as an external factor for Ukraine, about opportunities and threats entailed for each sector in Ukraine according to the EGD elements.
In addition to the gap in the level of cooperation between the associated countries and Belarus, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, the prospects of Eastern Partnership are compromised by the current severe crises experienced by the latter three countries (in fact, the crisis situations generate doubts about the possible prioritization of environmental aspects on their agendas). For example, due to a political crisis in Belarus (the Presidential elections with many violations and further severe suppression of peaceful protests by Lukashenko's regime), the relations of Belarus and the EU have been frozen. The EU does not have anyone to have a dialogue on the EGD on the governmental level. Besides, the Belarus civil society, including the traditionally strong ecologists and climatologists, have other things to worry about rather than greening; they are concerned about survival. The aggravation of situation due to conflict in Nagorny Karabakh and military actions between the two EaP countries Armenia and Azerbaijan have also diminished the priority of environmental concerns for the countries, at least for some time.

Although it is difficult to make any forecasts for further scenarios, it may be assumed that in relation to the EaP countries, also in the EGD context, the EU would offer different participation formats, so that the implementation of environmental and climate goals is not depended on the abovementioned crises, and to motivate the most interested partner countries to undertake the ambitious commitments.

It has become clear that the EU is going to build a separate format of EGD engagement with Ukraine, also within the framework of revising the Association Agreement. Other associated countries have not shown similar level of eagerness but Georgia might well expectedly join the EGD under the auspices of the Association Agreement and as part of the Energy Community. As far as Moldova is concerned, although with the change of government Chisinau is now more moderate in their public EU aspirations, they are unlikely to reject the new growth opportunities42.

Whether Georgia or Moldova are going to be the proactive co-creators of their EGD participation formats or follow Ukraine's lead, will depend on how fast the governments mobilize themselves. It may be a task for Georgian and Moldovan civil societies, as well as for Ukrainian diplomats, if they continue their interest in creating the EU +3 format or anything similar to the European economic area, as previously declared by Kyiv. In that case, a separate EGD track might be contemplated within Eastern Partnership, linked to the Association Agreement.

42 This paper was finalized before the latest presidential elections in Moldova.
At the same time, one could speak of establishing programs involving all EaP countries, where relevant.

The priorities of the EU for its bilateral cooperation with the EaP countries in order to promote the priorities/objectives of the EGD are still under development. The key focus areas will largely depend on the EaP countries themselves and their civil society.

Since the EGD is an external factor for the EaP countries, a logical question arises: “What could be the EU priorities for the EaP individual states?”.

The answer to the question is complicated by two factors. Firstly, the EGD is still evolving and thus, the EU future priorities for individual states stemming from the EGD specific elements (sectoral and thematic policies, strategies, plans) are yet hard to be identified. Secondly, the future of the Eastern Partnership has not been finalized. New EaP objectives will be determined at the sixth EaP Summit in 2021. It complicates the search for the EU country priorities within the EaP. Neither the Joint Communication of the European Parliament and the Council and the Commission, nor the Conclusions of the European Council on EaP policy after 2020 highlight any thematic priorities in relation to individual countries. It is unlikely to have them in the regional documents in the future, either.

Judging from the fact that the process of shaping the EaP new objectives is open for the EaP countries it may be assumed that the future EaP priorities will significantly depend on the position of the EaP countries themselves and on their civil societies.

As mentioned above, Ukraine has assumed a proactive position (including business community), and actively participates in multiple discussions on the matter, even in formal consultations with the EU. It is particularly noteworthy to note a special interagency group established by Ukraine’s Government as soon as on January, 24, 2020, i.e. virtually a month following the EGD presentation. In this respect, the model of Ukraine’s proactive position presents a special interest for other EaP countries.
**Recommendations**

EGD will have an impact on regional and bilateral dimensions of the EaP, and on the environmental policy of the EaP countries as the EGD objectives go beyond the EU internal policy and refer to the entire Europe. Therefore, it is impossible to fulfil the EGD tasks, especially in the context of climate change issues, without involving the EaP countries and without actions by the EaP countries.

More detailed targets and cooperation objectives on the EGD are currently under development and are subject of consultations between the Commission and the EaP governments. Much will depend on ambitiousness and persistence of the latter. Therefore, at this stage it is of utmost importance to vitalize expert community, to hold national discussions and formulate country priorities, and mobilize the responsible officials and diplomats for the respective communication with the EU. The region’s civil society, from their end, shall demand for clear formulation of commitments, and for the creation of an efficient control mechanism over the implementation of the EaP green objectives, which implies the participation of civil society.

The creation of new EaP frameworks in the EGD context requires the engagement of all stakeholders. That is why the recommendations made on the basis of conclusions of this policy paper equally address the EaP member-countries, the EU side, civil society, and business.
Recommendations to governments of the Eastern Partnership countries

✓ To run the analysis, discussion and debates of potential country benefits and risks due to the EGD, engaging a wide range of stakeholders.

✓ To formulate specific priorities and proposals to be tackled by the country jointly with the EU to achieve the EGD objectives.

✓ To establish a cross-sectoral working group with a high status of government officials, involving business community, civil society and local authorities to define the country interests within the EGD and to formulate a country’s general vision (position) on the EGD.

✓ To track the process of EGD further development, with account for its dynamics.

✓ For countries having the Association Agreements, to start consultations on coordination of their actions in terms of the EGD.

✓ To integrate the EGD tasks and objectives into the Association Agreements (especially in the process of their revision) or into other bilateral documents stipulating the cooperation or integration with the EU.

✓ Duly comply with the previously undertaken commitments (under the Association Agreements, international treaties) to synchronize the country’s environmental and climate policies with the EU acquis, in line with the efficient use of the EGD instruments, including financial, in the future.
European Green Deal: shaping the Eastern Partnership future

Recommendations to civil society of the Eastern Partnership countries

- To initiate public discussion engaging various stakeholders to define national interests for participation in the EGD, to push governments to build an active position in negotiations, to offer the expert support.

- To account for the EGD priorities in the activities of the Civil Society Forum of Eastern Partnership, including a focus on the EGD objectives not only in the context of environment and climate but also in other priority areas, such as energy, industrial policy, trade, agriculture, transport, and experience exchange on the practical use of the EGD initiatives in the EU and in the EaP countries.

- To develop a programme for public monitoring and progress assessment of EGD implementation in EaP, on national and regional levels (with a comparative analysis of reform in the partner countries).

- To continue active work to enhance an environmental awareness of citizens in order to build public support for environmental reforms on national and local levels.
Recommendations to the European side

To promote the EGD issues to a high political level – to make it an important part on the agenda for the next EaP Summit.

Greening the Eastern Partnership is a positive trend, since environmental and climate issues have not been previously prioritized in the EU relations with third countries; however, the focus shall be made both on policy making and on specific steps and initiatives.

In terms of EGD implementation, the problem areas for EaP countries (such as the carbon border adjustment mechanism), shall be reflected in the EaP final documents and in other regional and bilateral documents, in order to avoid climate issues obstructing the relations, but rather to enable green transformation in the EaP countries.

To facilitate/promote the EGD integration into different areas and forms of support for partners (cooperation of parliaments, local authorities, development of civil society, academia, cross-border cooperation, etc.) (environmental and climate mainstreaming).

To integrate the EGD priorities into technical assistance projects, both environmental and from other areas (e.g., infrastructure-related), since such projects are an important tool to impact the environmental and climate policies of the EaP countries.

The implementation of commitments under the EaP by the partners shall entail the usage of efficient control mechanisms, also through the engagement of civil society organizations.

To provide for transparency in support and the adequate communication on the activities of projects implementing the EGD.

To engage the EaP countries into discussions on the EGD in the EU to build the co-ownership of the process.

To provide for broad awareness campaigns in the partner states to raise awareness of citizens on environment protection and climate change, and to develop responsible behaviors (issues of personal responsibility, development of practical skills of eco-friendly practices, information about best practices, etc.).

To provide a possibility for the EaP countries to join some European initiatives, such as the European Climate Pact, to synchronize the actions of the EU and EaP communities and learn about best practices.

To pay more attention to support for the transition to green practices on local level (through further development of a Covenant of Mayors initiative, offering financial assistance for environmental transformations on the local level, and other instruments), with account for its critical importance for the EGD overall success.
European Green Deal: shaping the Eastern Partnership future

Recommendations to donors

- To integrate the EGD priorities into the available projects and initiatives, also on the regional level (such as the projects EU4Environment, EU4Climate), into technical assistance projects, and to avoid financing the contradicting projects (e.g., planning to use unsustainable practices); at the same time, other environmental and climate tasks shall be kept in focus, whenever they are important for the EaP countries but outside the EGD.

- To continue support of efforts on strengthening the environmental governance in the EaP countries.

Recommendations to businesses

- To take into account the EGD objectives in the process of strategic planning, especially in the EaP prioritized areas (electronics, batteries, plastics, packaging, textiles, construction materials).

- To take due account of the fact that the access to the EU market in the near future will largely depend on the compliance of goods and services with the EU climate and environmental requirements.

- To actively participate in a dialogue with governments of your countries and the EU side in terms of the EGD problem areas, such as a carbon border adjustment mechanism.
Annex 1.

DOCUMENTS ADOPTED FOR THE EGD IMPLEMENTATION
## European Green Deal

**The European Green Deal**

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. 11.12.2019, COM/2019/640 final.

**Европейский зеленый курс.**


**Roadmap – Key actions**


**Дорожная карта – Основные действия.**


## CLIMATE

**On an EU strategy to reduce methane emissions.**


**О Стратегии ЕС по сокращению выбросов метана.**


**Stepping up Europe’s 2030 climate ambition – Investing in a climate-neutral future for the benefit of our people // The 2030 Climate target plan.**

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. 17.09.2020, COM(2020) 562 final.

**Усиление климатических амбиций Европы к 2030 году – Инвестирование в климатически нейтральное будущее на благо нашего народа // Климатический целевой план на период до 2030 года.**


**European Climate Law.**


**Европейский климатический закон.**

## ENERGY

**Powering a climate-neutral economy: An EU Strategy for Energy System Integration.**
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. 08.07.2020, COM(2020) 299 final.

**Усиление климатически нейтральной экономики: Стратегия ЕС для интеграции энергетической системы.**
Коммюнике Комиссии Европейскому Парламенту, Совету, Европейскому экономическому и социальному комитету и Комитету регионов. 08.07.2020, COM(2020) 299 final.

**A hydrogen strategy for a climate-neutral Europe.**
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. 08.07.2020, COM(2020) 299 final.

**Водородная стратегия для климатически нейтральной Европы.**
Коммюнике Комиссии Европейскому Парламенту, Совету, Европейскому экономическому и социальному комитету и Комитету регионов. 08.07.2020, COM(2020) 299 final.

## INDUSTRY

**A New Industrial Strategy for Europe.**
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. 10.03.2020, COM(2020) 102 final.

**Новая промышленная стратегия для Европы.**
Коммюнике Комиссии Европейскому Парламенту, Европейскому Совету, Совету, Европейскому экономическому и социальному комитету и Комитету регионов. 10.03.2020, COM(2020) 102 final.

**A new Circular Economy Action Plan – For a cleaner and more competitive Europe.**
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. 11.03.2020, COM(2020) 98 final.

**Новый план действий по циркулярной экономики – Для более чистой и конкурентной Европы.**
Коммюнике Комиссии Европейскому Парламенту, Европейскому Совету, Совету, Европейскому экономическому и социальному комитету и Комитету регионов. 11.03.2020, COM(2020) 98 final.

**Shaping Europe’s digital future.**
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. 19.02.2020, COM(2020) 67 final.

**Формируя цифровое будущее Европы.**

**An SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe.**
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. 10.03.2020, COM(2020) 103 final.

**Стратегия МСП для устойчивой и цифровой Европы.**
Коммюнике Комиссии Европейскому Парламенту, Совету, Европейскому экономическому и социальному комитету и Комитету регионов. 10.03.2020, COM(2020) 103 final.
### CONSTRUCTION

**A Renovation Wave for Europe – greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives.**


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**On energy poverty.**


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### MOBILITY

**On a European Year of Rail (2021).**


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### AGRICULTURE

**A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system.**

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. 20.05.2020, COM(2020) 381 final.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIODIVERSITY</th>
<th>ZERO POLLUTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – Bringing nature back into our lives.</td>
<td>Стратегия ЕС по биоразнообразию на 2030 год – Возвращение природы в нашу жизнь.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. 20.05.2020, COM(2020) 380 final.</td>
<td>Коммюнике Комиссии Европейскому Парламенту, Совету, Европейскому экономическому и социальному комитету и Комитету регионов. 20.05.2020, COM(2020) 380 final.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZER0 POLLUTION</td>
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<tr>
<td>Action plan.</td>
<td>План действий.</td>
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Annex 2.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: BRIEF INFORMATION
### Eastern Partnership: Brief Information

**Eastern Partnership** (EaP) is a joint program initiative, launched in 2009 and aimed at deepening and strengthening the relationship of the EU and its Member States with the EU’s Eastern neighbors – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The EaP includes bilateral and multilateral cooperation formats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bilateral Format</th>
<th>Multilateral Format</th>
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<tr>
<td>This is a priority format in terms of the amount of support provided and the opportunities to transform the policies of the partners. It is based on the principles of differentiation and conditionality.</td>
<td>This format complements the bilateral one and provides a platform for exchanging reform experience, searching for solutions to common challenges, forming joint positions and implementing activities common to all countries in the region.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key documents:</td>
<td>Key documents:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- <strong>Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine</strong>: Association Agreements (providing for political association and economic integration)</td>
<td>- Joint Staff Working Document of the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy “Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020: Focusing on Key Priorities and Tangible Results”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Armenia</strong></td>
<td>- Joint Communication of the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “Eastern Partnership Policy Beyond 2020: Reinforcing Resilience – An Eastern Partnership That Delivers For All”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia-EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Cooperation Agreement (providing for reforming many policies taking into account EU norms, yet without political association and economic integration)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Azerbaijan</strong></td>
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<td>1999 Azerbaijan-EU Partnership and Cooperation Agreement; a new document is being negotiated</td>
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<td><strong>Belarus</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>There is no bilateral strategic document in force</td>
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</table>
INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL:

**Political level** – EaP Summits (meetings of the EaP and EU Heads of State) every two years, annual meetings of foreign affairs ministers

**Technical/sectoral level** – meetings of high and medium level officials twice a year to discuss harmonization of legislation, institutional development, development of joint projects, etc. within the 4 thematic platforms of the Eastern Partnership:

- **Platform 1.** Strengthening institutions and good governance
- **Platform 2.** Economic development and market opportunities
- **Platform 3.** Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change
- **Platform 4.** Mobility and people-to-people contacts.

Regional interaction in specific thematic areas (for example, environment and climate, transport, etc.) takes place in the format of the Eastern Partnership Panels.

Platforms and panels prepare programs of their activities.

**Parliamentary level** – Parliamentary Assembly EURONEST, consisting of 60 representatives of the European Parliament and 10 representatives of the parliaments of each EaP country (plenary sessions once a year, four permanent committees meeting twice a year).

**Subnational level** – Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP), consisting of 18 representatives of the European Committee of the Regions and 3 representatives from each EaP country (annual meetings).

**Civil Society** – Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (5 thematic working groups operating at the regional level, national platforms in each partner country, Forum Assembly every two years)

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1 The information provided here and below is actual as of the time of the publication (December 2020). The institutional framework at the sectoral level may change due to the revision of the EaP priorities and the approval of new long-term EaP goals in 2021, including taking into account the prioritization of environmental and climate change issues.
FINANCING/SUPPORT PROGRAMMES:

In 2014-2020, bilateral and regional EaP cooperation programs were financed in the framework of the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI), an EU financial and technical support instrument aimed at strengthening EU relationships with the countries covered by the European Neighborhood Policy. The total amount of ENI is 15.4 billion euros for 2014-2020 (this amount includes both the EaP and the Southern Neighborhood countries), of which about 5 billion were allocated to the EaP. In the next budget period (2021-2027), ENI will be replaced with a new instrument – the Neighborhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, which will not have a narrow regional focus (its preliminary budget is estimated at 86 billion EUR in 2018 prices).

EU support includes:

- **Bilateral** cooperation programmes;
- **Multilateral** cooperation programmes aiming at solving problems common to a number of partners, as well as regional and sub-regional cooperation between two and more partners;
- **Transboundary cooperation programmes** between EU Member States and partner countries that are implemented along the common part of the EU external border.

**EaP Flagship Initiatives** are umbrella programmes in priority areas (there has been 6 flagship initiatives – on integrated border management, SME support, energy, sustainable urban development, good environmental governance and climate change, as well as on prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters).

EaP countries are also eligible to benefit from the general programmes of European Neighbourhood: Erasmus+, TAIEX, Twining, SIGMA and Neighbourhood Investment Instrument. EaP Countries can also participate in Horizon 2020.

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Annex 3.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE ISSUES IN EAP REGIONAL COOPERATION
# ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE ISSUES IN EAP REGIONAL COOPERATION

**INSTITUTIONS:**

- Government (sectoral level) – Environment and Climate Change Panel (within Platform 3 «Connectivity, Energy Efficiency, Environment and Climate Change»


**DOCUMENTS:**

- Joint Staff Working Document of the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy "Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020: Focusing on Key Priorities and Tangible Results" – deliverable 16

- Declaration on Cooperation on Environment and Climate Change in the Eastern Partnership (Luxemburg, 18 October 2016)

- Work Programme for Platform 3 of the Eastern Partnership for 2018-2020

**PROJECTS:**

**Ongoing:**


**Completed:**


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1 Sub-regional project – out of all EaP countries only Georgia and Ukraine are project beneficiaries

2 The Project covers Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, as well as Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Turkmenistan

3 Beside the EaP countries, the Project covers, the Central Asian countries

4 Multilateral donor fund (there are other country donors in addition to EU)

5 Investment fund the activities of which extends, beside the EaP countries (with Belarus being excluded), to Turkey and Southern Neighbourhood countries
European Green Deal: shaping the Eastern Partnership future