



EU INTEGRATION & COMMON SECURITY: MAKING IT HAPPEN
The 6th annual meeting of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
20-21 November 2014, Batumi, Georgia

**EaP CSF Working group 3 Statement
on Environmental Governance in the EaP region**
EaP Civil Society Forum-2014 (Batumi, November 20-21, 2014)

Working group 3, having assessed the environmental governance progress in Eastern Partnership countries along the main priorities of the EaP Good Governance Flagship initiative for the second time¹,

While recognizing certain progress achieved in European integration in many of the countries and some positive developments in the environmental governance sphere, but at the same time expressing concern with the poor compliance with the Aarhus and Espoo convention in some countries, weak environmental policy integration, inadequate EIA procedures and weak institutional mechanisms, as well as inter-agency cooperation on environmental matters,

Calls the Governments of all 6 EaP countries:

- focus on ensuring good environmental governance as the main task of the environmental reform within the EU-EaP cooperation,
- pay particular attention to fulfilling provisions of the Aarhus and Espoo Conventions and the Protocols thereto,
- legally provide for the environmental policy integration, ensuring effective interagency mechanisms of coordination and developing comprehensive sustainable consumption and production/green economy policies, and
- strengthen the rule of law in the environmental sphere.

For countries implementing the Association Agreements, action should concentrate on:

- the implementation of those provisions of the AA Environmental chapters where the time-bound schedule for transposing provisions of horizontal and sectoral directives covers periods of 2 to 4 years;
- providing for institutional and organizational mechanisms for the implementation of these provisions;
- awareness-raising and capacity building to enable Governments, public, NGOs, business, academia and all other stakeholders to understand and cooperate on implementation of the AA Environmental chapters.

EaP countries should develop modern environmental policy strategies and national action plans thereto, incorporating measurable targets and objectives, clear implementation schedules, mechanisms of monitoring and efficiency assessment, as well as indicators. Those should be developed in an open manner with the widest involvement of all stakeholders and CSOs.

The implementation of ENPI-SEIS project should get more attention from the Governments and NGOs in terms of monitoring the project outcomes at the national level and involvement into setting up of national systems of environmental data collection and information provision based on the unified and approved environmental indicators to supply and develop SEIS coordinated by the EEA.

EaP environmental NGOs should build up solid support for environmental governance reforms through developing stronger networks and finding effective modalities of their work under the EaP CSF and the countries' bilateral Civil Society Platforms – new bodies to be established under Association Agreements.

¹ Towards Good Environmental Governance in the Eastern Partnership Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia Moldova and Ukraine. The Second Assessment Report. Kyiv, 2013.