



STATEMENT OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

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Stockholm, Sweden

In 2011-2012, WG3 of EaP CSF has conducted two assessments of environmental performance in 6 EaP countries. These are:

- Towards Good Environmental Governance in the Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine
- European Integration Index in Environment and Sustainable Development.

Main findings reflected the following trends similar for all countries while the grade could vary:

- Strategic planning (and reporting) was improved in advanced Association Agenda negotiating countries (SBS indicators)
- The latest public administration reforms weaken administrative structures and procedures of environmental governance
- Environmental policy integration is generally not backed up with legislation (for example, since 2003 only Armenia has ratified SEA Protocol), what hamper greening the economy efforts
- Deregulation leads to elimination of EIA procedure
- Mechanisms and procedures for PP are largely absent in the legislative base
- SEIS potential for improving the quality of information for EDM could be used better
- Deregulation leads to elimination of EIA procedure

The latter is especially alarming during current period of significant growth of building construction activities in all countries. Shale gas exploration and mining operations, involving hydraulic fracturing is another extremely dangerous for environment activity, where proper EIA should apply. However, legislative gaps allow to skip it or shrink and not to involve public into assessment of environmental consequences, even local communities. There are two more alarming situations in a state of environment in 6 EaP countries identified by EII: level of soil erosion is very high and exceed the EU-27 average up to 3 times and the Nature reserves areas are too small for biodiversity protection ranging from 2/3 to 1/4 of EU average in % from whole territory.

We welcome EaP Roadmap as the framework to facilitate the dialogue on setting and achieving concrete objectives of reforms. The Environmental Governance reform is one of the most important among them taking into account deteriorating State of Environment.

We agree that the convergence of the environmental legislation and improving the environmental data collection and processing are main priorities to show more effective environmental performance (the progress) till autumn 2013 EaP Summit. Therefore, we propose the following activities and targets:

What	Time	Means	Indicator
High-level dialogue on environmental governance (incl. climate change)	At the EaP Summit 2013	EU External Ministers Council to adopt the agenda for multilateral	
Tree-partite dialogue on environmental governance		Bilaterally agreed between actors	At least one is taken
Adoption of amendment to main legal acts fixing environmental policy integration as legally binding to comply			
Adoption of legislation for Access to environmental information and Public Participation via cor. Dir. Transposition/ adoption	Showing progress till autumn 2013		
Adoption of legislation on EIA, SEA via cor. Dir. Transposition/ adoption	Showing progress till autumn 2013		
Conduct EaP report on state of soil to identify problems and plan actions			
Increase Nature reserve areas		AA/ SBS	