



Third Meeting of the EaP GREEN Steering Committee

Wednesday, 8 October 2014, Minsk, Belarus

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

The “Greening Economies in the European Union’s Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP GREEN) programme aims to support the six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries to move towards green economy by decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and resource depletion. The EaP countries are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

More specifically, the EaP GREEN aims to:

- Mainstream sustainable consumption and production (SCP) into national development plans, legislation and regulatory framework with a view to provide a sound legal basis for future policy development, in line with the regional and international agreements and processes and consistently with existing EU *acquis* in the relevant policy areas;
- Promote the use of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as essential planning tools for an environmentally sustainable economic development; and
- Achieve a shift to green economy through the adaptation and adoption of sustainable consumption and production practices and techniques in selected economic sectors (manufacturing, agriculture, food production and processing, construction).

Accordingly, the EaP GREEN is structured around three components: (1) Governance and financing tools; (2) SEA and EIA: accompanying SCP policy implementation; and (3) Demonstration Projects.

The programme is supported by the European Commission and other donors, and involves joint implementation by four international organisations – OECD, UNECE, UNEP, and UNIDO. The total EaP GREEN budget for a period of implementation of 48 months is 12.5 million Euros.

Annual Steering Committee Meetings bring together the National Focal Points from the EaP countries, representatives of the civil society and relevant Regional Environmental Centres, and the four EaP GREEN partners (OECD, UNECE, UNEP, and UNIDO). Their key objective is to discuss progress with programme implementation and plans for the following year. In addition, each meeting features a thematic discussion.

The 2014 meeting will focus on Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment as tools for mainstreaming environment into economic development at a national and local level. A brief overview of measures relevant for economy SEA as a tool for green economy promotion in the European Union will also be presented. The participants will be invited to raise any other questions and agree on the dates and venue of their next meeting.

9:00 – 9:30	Registration of participants
PUBLICLY OPEN SEGMENT OF THE MEETING	
9:30 – 9:45	Item 1. Opening remarks and approval of the Draft Agenda
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High officials representing the host government (tbc) • Nicola Di Pietroantonio, Programme Manager, European Commission
9:45 – 12:30	Item 2. Benefit of Strategic Environmental Assessment and its practical application in the EaP GREEN countries
<u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Martin Smutny, Integra Consulting	
<p><i>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) effectively promotes sustainable development and greening economy by mainstreaming environment, social and health considerations into economic development at a national, regional and local level. The SEA is a well-established, practical and efficient planning and environmental governance tool/system set out in the UNECE Protocol on SEA to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context. In the European Union the procedures are regulated by the Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment [2001/42/EC].</i></p> <p><i>The SEA ensures that development plans in key sectors such as energy, water and waste management with likely significant adverse environmental impacts are developed in a way that takes into account environmental (and health) considerations. The SEA, in particular, allows to identify the most sustainable and cost-effective strategic development alternatives for achieving national green economy targets and attracting new investments and improving environment. The SEA also helps strengthen the country's environmental governance through fostering transparency and consultation with relevant stakeholders and the public prior to the approval of plans and programmes. The SEA in a transboundary context also greatly facilitates regional cooperation on environmental matters.</i></p> <p><i>Despite its benefits, the SEA is still a rarely used tool in the EaP GREEN countries. The participants will discuss the main achievements and lessons learned with regard to the development of the national legislative frameworks and practical application of the Protocol on SEA in different countries. The role of the international financial institutions will also be addressed. The discussion will aim to identify remaining challenges and possible ways to address them in their own countries in the context of the EaP GREEN Programme and beyond.</i></p>	
<u>Opening remarks:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Aphrodite Smagadi, Secretary of the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. 	
<u>Panel interventions:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belarus: Challenges in application of SEA in Belarus and ways to address them under EaP GREEN Programme, Mr. Alexander Andreev. • Estonia: Strategic environmental assessment of Estonia's energy sector development programme for 2020, Ms. Ljubov Gornaja, Expert in environmental reporting and environmental economics • Czech Republic: SEA in spatial planning, Mr. Martin Smutny, Integra Consulting • Poland: Experiences in application of the SEA in the transboundary context for spatial development planning, Ms. Paulina Filipiak, General Directorate for Environmental Protection • Ukraine: SEA of Sustainable Development Strategy for Bakhchisaraysky District & experience of EBRD in carrying out strategic environmental review of the Ukraine sustainable energy lending facility, Ms. Olena Borysova, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development • Moldova: Development of the SEA legislative framework and its pilot application to the Orhei Town Master Plan. Ms. Maria Nagorny, Ministry of Environment. 	
<u>Background documents:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-outs of the presentations; • Simplified Resource Manual on Application of the Strategic Environmental Assessment. 	
<u>Action required:</u> for discussion.	

12:30 – 13:00	Item 3. Relevant developments in the European Union
<u>Chair:</u> Mr. Nicola Di Pietrantonio, European Commission	
<u>Speakers:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Andrzej Januszewski, DG Environment, European Commission. 	
<u>Background documents:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-outs of the presentation. 	
<u>Action required:</u> for discussion.	
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
MEETING SEGMENT OPEN ONLY FOR STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
14:00 – 14:15	Item 4. Approval of the Agenda of the Third Steering Committee meeting of EaP GREEN and Draft Summary Record of the Second Steering Committee Meeting
<u>Chair:</u> Mr. Nicola Di Pietrantonio, European Commission	
<p><i>The OECD Secretariat will present the draft Agenda and meeting materials. A draft summary record was circulated immediately after the Second SC meeting. Following NFP decision, such records shall be approved during the subsequent meeting.</i></p>	
<u>Speakers:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Brendan Gillespie, OECD Secretariat. 	
<u>Background documents:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Agenda of the Meeting; • Draft Summary Record of the Second Steering Committee (Tbilisi, 16-17 September 2013). 	
<u>Action required:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and adoption of the Agenda; • Discussion and adoption of the Summary Record. 	
14:15 – 16:00	Item 5. Report on progress in 2013-14, results achieved and work plan proposal for 2015
<u>Chair:</u> Host country official (tbc)	
<p><i>The draft progress report will provide an overview of activities carried out regionally and nationally in the period September 2013 - September 2014. Work plans for the remainder of 2014 and for 2015 will be presented.</i></p>	
<u>Speakers:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, OECD Secretariat; • Ms. Elena Santer, UNECE Secretariat; • Ms. Rie Tsutsumi, UNEP Secretariat; • Mr. René van Berkel, UNIDO Secretariat. 	
<u>Background documents:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Report on Progress in the Implementation of the EaP GREEN Programme [ENV/EPOC/EAP(2014)2]; • Draft Plan of Work of the EaP GREEN Programme for 2014-2015 [ENV/EPOC/EAP(2014)3]. 	
<u>Action required:</u> for discussion.	
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break

16:30 – 17:00 Item 6. EaP GREEN Communication Strategy

Chair: Mr. Nicola Di Pietrantonio, European Commission

The OECD is responsible for the implementation of EaP GREEN Communication Strategy and will present a progress report on progress to date and future plans.

Speakers:

- Ms. Reka Mazur, OECD Secretariat.

Background documents:

- Communications Strategy;
- EaP GREEN Brochure;
- Country-specific leaflets;
- Other materials.

Action required: for discussion.

17:00 – 17:30 Item 7. Other business, next meeting and closing remarks

Chair: Nicola Di Pietrantonio, European Commission

The participants will be asked to raise any other points and agree on the dates and the venue of the next meeting.

A representative of the host country will make the closing remarks.