

EaP CSF WG3 Report

Brussels, 10-11 April 2019

Environment
Future Transport Green
EaP Climate People
Forest Ecology Energy EU
Sustainable Impact Legislation

Summary

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum's Working Group 3 "Environment, Climate Change and Energy Security" took place on 10-11 April, 2019 in Brussels, gathering together representatives from over 25 CSOs from all 6 EaP countries and several EU member states.

This summary provides you with an overview of the recommendations emerged from the Working Group 3 meeting and brief assessment of the state of play in the environment, transport and energy fields in each EaP country.



Recommendations on Environment and Climate Change



Introduce more environmental education workshops for government officials in order to increase their environmental awareness.



Strengthen control over oil pollution (especially in Caspian Sea) and **air pollution**.



Drastically improve water management, currently resulting in the catastrophic drying of lakes and the irregular water supply to places where fish breed and wintering grounds for birds. **Urgent actions** from governmental level and support from international organisations is needed **to avoid further damage**.



Carry out more civic investigations of cases of violation of environmental legislation (e.g. illegal hunting, fishing and overgrazing) and **make them public**.

Recommendations on Energy Sector



Develop a new vision for sustainable development that would include energy efficient buildings and industry or the development of renewable energy sources.



Strengthen public control and transparency in the sphere of energy, **de-monopolise** energy supply.



Increase budget for renewable energy and **introduce related legislation changes**.

Recommendations on Transport



Liquidate Azerbaijani road police as unit and transfer their functions to common police.



Improve transportation systems by **reconstructing public transport operators** and **creating of competition** between them.



Work in partnership with transport NGOs to improve road safety.

Civil Society reports



During the Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting, a platform has been created for non-state actors who are ready to commit themselves to the implementation of the main provision of the Agreement. Armenia is the only country from the EaP region that joined the global “Under 2 Coalition”.



In September 2018, a workshop was organized in Yerevan on improving the practices for stakeholder consultations and inter-agency coordination. The idea of creating an e-platform where drafts of laws and potential amendments could be discussed by civil society was discussed thoroughly. However, civil society representatives fear that the e-platform might create an illusion of public participation that does not lead to any substantial change or tangible results.



The construction and development of small hydropower projects in Armenia is problematic as it damages the river ecosystem in the country.



There have been improvements in the development of tourism in National Parks. However, the team leading this is composed only of people from the Ecological Department of the State Oil Company.



Civil society doesn't have in general a structured dialogue with the Ministry of Environment.



The climate change adaptation strategy is currently missing. No sustainable urban mobility plan and road safety is poor, especially on secondary roads. A law on EIA and SEA was adopted, but it is not implemented.



The energy sector is vexed by limited transparency (energy trading, energy prices), strong vested interests, corruption and the capture of institutions. There is no vision for sustainable development that would include energy efficient buildings and industry or the development of renewable energy sources.



35 cities (1/3 of the total number) joined the Earth Hour initiative, launched by CSOs working on environmental issues in Belarus.



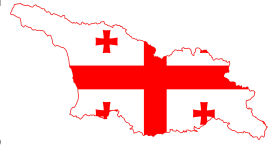
Protection of the environment remains problematic because of the lack of specialized experts, many of whom have left the country.



EaP CSF WG3 is following E40 waterway project and how to clean the Dnieper from radioactive components.



The Georgian Parliament has adopted the legislation on EIA, a law and an action plan on waste management until 2020.



However the implementation of European standards remains challenging, especially in the domain of work safety.

The legislation on water management has been delayed, and companies building water plants do not comply with regulations. CSOs are very worried about the implementation of the sea strategies because not all the parameters are compliant with EU standards.



A draft of the Law on Industrial Emissions should be ready.



Rural areas have poor transport conditions. Local road safety councils are missing.



CSOs are pushing for the agency to deal with the pollution of all small rivers in Moldova and with the drought and desertification that affects the country and impacts small rivers.



Ukraine has adopted the Law on State Environmental Policy for the period up to 2030 and new laws on SEA and EEA.



Emerald Network sites has been officially adopted and a European-like water monitoring system was launched in January 2019.



A National Strategy for Waste Management has been adopted already in 2017 and the National Waste Management Plan up to 2030 was approved in February 2019 establishing the ground for development of circular economy.



The moratorium on inspections of business companies, which was introduced by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2016 and continued through 2017, badly weakened the significance of the environmental control and influence of the State Ecological Inspection.

A main concern for the implementation of 2020 targets is the lack of systematic measures in halting illegal logging – and consequently illegal timber export.
