

EU Progress Reports about Environment in Kosovo 2006-2011

Main topic	Subtopics	Years	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Environment	Horizontal legislation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendments to the Law on Environmental Protection in order to align it with EU standards are expected to be adopted in October 2006. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assembly approved the law on environmental impact assessment (EIA) in August 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some progress can be reported in the area of horizontal legislation. Following the adoption of provisions on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) through the Law on Environmental Protection, implementation is beginning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and the Law on Strategic Impact Assessment were adopted in March 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been substantial progress in the area of horizontal legislation, with Laws on environmental impact assessment and on Strategic Environmental Assessment adopted in September, as well as implementing rules on public participation in environmental impact assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An administrative instruction on participation and information of public stakeholders in the Environmental Impact Assessment procedures was adopted in July. Other implementing rules on Environmental Impact assessment and on Strategic Environmental Assessment were also adopted. The implementation of the law on environmental impact assessment has begun, but the quality of reports requires improvement. The Environmental Crime Directive was partially transposed. Cooperation between NGOs and the Ministry needs to be strengthened. Civil Society organisations are not sufficiently involved and consulted in policy-making. Public debate on environmental matters has to be further developed. 10 capital projects were implemented from the Environmental Action Plan; another 11 are in the process of being carried out.
	Air quality		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No particular progress can be reported regarding air quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress can be reported in the area of air quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant legislation is still lacking, and Kosovo still has no air quality monitoring network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning has procured equipment for mobile air quality monitoring control stations. However, there is still no air quality strategy and no clear division of responsibilities as regards management of the air quality monitoring network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The air quality strategy remains to be adopted. One of four planned air quality monitoring stations came into operation. The air polluters' inventory remains to be compiled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative instructions determining (inter alia) norms of air quality, monitoring points and number and frequency of measurements were adopted in 2010, another administrative instruction on norms of air quality was adopted in July. Three first stations of the air quality monitoring network came online, others are expected during 2011. The agglomerations and zones have not yet been identified and the air polluters' inventory also remains to be compiled. Inter-institutional cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Energy has improved.
	Waste management		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good progress in legal approximation has been made in waste management with the adoption of the Waste Law in May 2006. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current arrangements for management of the waste sector are in need of improvement. On average only about one third of consumers pay their bills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little progress has been made in the area of waste management. Three municipal dumpsites, in Đakovica/Gjakovë, Kačanik/Kaçanik and Prizren, have been rehabilitated. The low level of waste bill collection remains a problem for the waste utilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress can be reported in the waste management sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Law on waste providing for decentralisation of powers in this area and for further alignment with EU standards remains to be adopted. Additional implementing legislation has been adopted. Establishment of an integrated waste management system has not begun. The 'polluter pays principle' is still insufficiently applied and the bill collection rate by waste utilities remains low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Law on waste has not yet been adopted. Waste recycling and separation are still not tackled. The rate of waste bill EN 45 EN collection slightly increased in 2010, but it remains low. Local Environmental Action Plans drafted by Municipalities include also a waste management component.
	Water quality		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No particular progress can be reported regarding water quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The law on hydro-meteorological activity has been promulgated Between October 2006 and May 2007, 78 water permits were issued and seven other applications were being processed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One water permit was issued An administrative instruction on criteria for defining protected drinking water zones and water resources was adopted. The low level of collection of water rates remains a problem for water utilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Law on Publicly Owned Enterprises defines responsibilities for the operation and maintenance of publicly owned enterprises and assets in the water sector. Only 70% of the population are connected to drinking water networks and only a third is connected to sewage systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Law on water which should regulate the ownership of water resources and the responsibilities of municipalities for water management and establish river basins and a Kosovo water institute has still not been adopted. A feasibility report on the quality of drinking water was completed, recommending establishing a drinking water quality department within the National Institute for Public Health. There is a clear lack of human resources in this field and insufficient investment in infrastructure: there is only one waste water treatment plant in Kosovo. Bill collection rates for the water utilities decreased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The law on water has not yet been adopted. Kosovo currently has two waste water treatment plants; one more is in the process of being completed. Vulnerable zones and protected areas have not yet been designated and there is still no water quality monitoring programme. The drinking water supply system remains poorly developed and a significant part of the population is still not connected. Investments in this sector have been insufficient. The rate of water bill collection slightly increased in 2010, but in general, it still remains low.
	Nature protection	N/A		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parts of the Wild Birds Directive and Habitats Directive have been included in the law on nature conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transposition of the Wild Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive is still pending. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transposition of the Birds and Habitat Directives has been held back by delays in adopting the Nature Protection Law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law on nature protection was adopted in September. Some activities have been carried out to identify important bird areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several administrative instructions related to last year's law on nature protection were adopted. The strategy and action plan on biodiversity were adopted in July. Institutional and administrative capacity in this field remains very weak.
	Industrial Pollution controls	N/A		N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some progress can be noted in the area of industrial pollution control, with the adoption in March of the Law on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some progress was made in the area of industrial pollution control and risk management with the adoption of a Law on integrated pollution prevention and control. Implementing legislation remains to be adopted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative instructions on the forms and content of an application for integrated permit, and on procedures for the development and approval of Best Available Techniques reference documents, as well as for the prevention of major accidents were adopted.
	Chemical and GMOs	N/A		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The law on chemicals has been adopted by the assembly, but has not yet been promulgated by the SRSG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The law on chemicals has been promulgated. 	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the area of chemicals, there has been little progress, with the adoption of an administrative instruction on risk assessment

Climate Change	N/A	N/A			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kosovo is not a party to either the UN Framework convention on climate change or to the Kyoto Protocol. Kosovo has no climate change strategy and has not established a greenhouse gas inventory. It continues to have a lack of resources and staff shortages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kosovo is not a Party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Kosovo has no climate change strategy, but is beginning to compile its inventory of greenhouse gases. Kosovo participated actively in the climate work under the Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA). Kosovo needs to take concrete steps towards transposing and implementing the EU climate acquis, particularly the Monitoring Mechanism Decision.
Noise	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A law on the protection against noise entered into force in March 2008. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative instructions to implement the Law on Protection against Noise have been adopted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some administrative instructions were adopted to implement the Law on noise protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transposition part is underway, but implementation at an early stage
Civil Protection	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some efforts have been made to increase public awareness and civil society participation in environmental matters. 		N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council of Ministers is responsible for planning and response measures There has been established an Inter-Ministerial Committee for Civil Emergencies Ministry of Interior responsible for preparing and implementing National Civil Emergency Plan - several laws are in place - international cooperation has been established In 2010, the government used the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) operated by the EC to respond the severe flooding in the North of The country Regional Cooperation on respond to forest fire is established, enhancing further national capacity for fire-fighting
Administrative capacities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New chief executive officer of the Kosovo environmental protection agency was appointed in June. Due to a lack of funding, the implementation of the environmental action plan has not yet begun. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MESP human and financial resources and the administrative capacity of the MESP and related institutions are limited and insufficient to properly address the environmental challenges that Kosovo is facing. There is a lack of qualified staff and confusion of competencies between the various institutions in the field of environment. There is a need for closer cooperation and coordinated action between MESP and the Ministries for energy and mining and transport, as well as local authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Environmental Protection Agency is now fully staffed and operational. However, the human and financial resources of the MESP and related institutions (both at national and at local level) are still far from sufficient to address Kosovo's environmental challenges. The Environmental Protection Advisory Board is not yet established. Both vertical and horizontal coordination between all institutions involved in environmental issues need to be significantly improved. Investments in environmental infrastructure will need to be substantially increased, in particular through support from international donors. The responsibility of the municipalities is currently limited due to lack of capacity in both personnel and funding. Overall, there is limited progress to report in the field of environment, in particular as regards horizontal legislation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efforts have been made to improve coordination between ministries and bodies with environmental responsibilities. The administrative instruction bringing the Hydro-Meteorological Institute under the remit of the Environmental Protection Agency has not been signed. The administrative departments responsible for the environment continue to experience an acute lack of resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further efforts are required to improve the institutional arrangements to ensure coordination and cooperation among the institutions involved in the environment sectors. Efforts need to be made to separate political from operational functions in the Ministry. In September, the administrative instruction related to the organisation and structure of the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA) was signed, incorporating the hydrometeorological institute under KEPA. The Strategic Development Plan for the Ministry of Environment has not yet been adopted. ☹

