



The report Chapter 27: “No-Progress Report”

Coalition 27 presented its fifth annual Report, following the publication of the annual report of the European Commission. The No-Progress Report deals with topics from the period November 2016 to February 2018, taking into account new developments recorded recently.

In the report, the establishment of the Ministry of Environmental Protection is rated as positive towards better understanding of environmental issues by other sectors, but even some progress has been seen. The general impression is that concrete results are missing and additional efforts should be made. In the report, members of Coalition 27 looked back on the EU Enlargement Strategy recently adopted for the Western Balkans, where Chapter 27 has not been mentioned, while the environment has been briefly mentioned in several places. This can be a good opportunity for the civil society organisations to make additional efforts in order to list this topic as one of the main priorities due to its importance.

Coalition 27 thinks that progress was slowed down during 2016-2018, due to the interruption of the work of the National Assembly for the campaign for the presidential elections and the reconfiguration of the Government following this election. There was no significant legislative activities in the National Assembly compared to the period covered in the previous report, and a similar situation could be faced in the next period due to this new configuration of the Government, in March 2018.

The report covers ten thematic areas: horizontal legislation, air quality, waste management,

water quality, environmental protection, industrial pollution and risk management, chemical management, noise and climate change. An overview of the state of forestry is given in the report, having in mind that forestry has a significant impact on a lot of areas in the environment (nature protection, climate change, etc.). In each thematic area, the development of policy and legislation, the implementation of regulations, financing, have been considered. A special highlight was given to the financing in the areas of environment and climate change.

More news from Serbia:

ENV.net activity: Lecture on Circular Economy at the University of Belgrade and the University of Novi Sad.

Prof. Dr. Andjelka Mihajlov, expert and honourably president of EASD, with the support of Prof. Dr. Mirjana Drenovak Ivanovic, Faculty of Law,

University of Belgrade and Prof. Dr. Goran Vujic, Faculty of Technical Sciences University of Belgrade, delivered a lecture related to Circular Economy on both Universities. Prof. Mihajlov explained to the students of Law and students of Technical Sciences the concept and importance of circular economy, including the evident shortcomings, as well as problems in the implementation of this concept faced in the previous period, pointing out that circular economy is a concept and a process, but still not “full circle”. During discussions, students tried to define circular economy as known term, and evident understanding after the lecture was recorded, compared to their opinions at the beginning. Some of the important highlights from the lecture will be involved in the ordinary test that will serve to check the knowledge gained.



Source: EASD, Serbia (2018)



Source: Save the Blue heart of Europe

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The European Parliament has adopted new laws to prevent waste and boost recycling.

Albania

The Strategy of Integrated Water Resources Management (SIWRM) for Albania was approved in April 2018. The strategy affirms access to safe water for all users to the quantity and quality required, generating maximum financial and economic benefits. It also guarantees the preservation of water ecosystems and the natural function of water resources for a sustainable development in the future, based on the European environmental legislation and the principles of integrated water resource management.

The strategic objectives that require particular attention are: ensuring sustainable use of water resources, ensuring good water resources quality, sustainable management in order to reduce drought and flood hazards, securing models and data accessible by public, and securing a sustainable and comprehensive management of water resources.

The main challenges to the successful implementation of the strategy are related to the time duration required to create the necessary framework for water management and the ability to provide adequate funding for the period 2018-2027.

Belgium

EU air quality limits, breached on a 'continental scale', six countries sent to the European Court of Justice.

Germany, the UK, France, Italy, Romania and Hungary have been sent to Europe's top court for their consistent failure to tackle toxic air pollution. The six governments will face judges in Luxembourg after the Commission finally lost patience after years of air quality breaches.

EEB Air Quality Policy Officer Margherita Tolotto welcomed the news:

"European air quality laws are being broken on a continental scale. Everyone in Europe has the same right to clean air, and when national governments fail to deliver EU protections, it's right that the European Commission steps in to protect us from the air we breathe. Today's announcement should surprise no one, the countries being sent to court have had too many final warnings.

"We now need to understand why some governments but not others have been sent to court today. Citizens deserve to know what is being done to protect them from polluted air. The process behind these infringement actions should

be far more transparent."

Read more:

Commission PR: Air quality: Commission takes action to protect citizens from air pollution

EEB Press Release: National air pollution plans 'too little too late' to avoid court.

Commission failing as nature's last line of defense

Nature protection efforts are being undermined by the European Commission's failure to consistently challenge Member States on illegal nature destruction, warn four nature NGOs in a new publication today.

The European Commission is 'nature's last line of defence', as the body responsible for enforcing EU nature laws and challenging violations. However, cases of violations are regularly delayed, neglected or undermined by the Commission's inaction, say Birdlife Europe, European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Friends of the Earth Europe, and WWF.

The new publication features case studies* of damage to protected areas and species across seven countries, where complaints have not resulted in compliance or overall improvement for nature – including:

- failure to address dredging and excessive water abstraction in Doñana's national park in Spain,
- failure to preserve breeding habitats for meadow birds in the Netherlands, as well as species-rich grasslands in Germany,
- failure to assess hydropower projects in Romania in compliance with nature and water legislation.

The NGOs say the European Commission needs a 'step change' in action to enforce the nature laws and fulfil its obligation to halt biodiversity loss by 2020. Only the recent prosecution of Poland's government to halt illegal deforestation in Białowieża stands out as a shining exception.

MEPs and European Commission officials will discuss the cases with NGOs in the European Parliament on May 17, 2018, a year after a Commission 'Action Plan' to better protect nature, and 18 months following the successful #NatureAlert campaign to save the EU's nature laws.

Sergiy Moroz, Senior Policy Officer for EEB said:

"When protected nature is in trouble – whether from illegal logging, damaging projects, or intensive agriculture – the European Commission is often nature's last line of defence. With many EU governments systematically failing to apply EU nature laws, the European Commission must

act as a reliable back-stop and take prompt infringement action to conserve Europe's precious natural habitats."

Adrian Bebb, Food Agriculture and Biodiversity Coordinator for Friends of the Earth Europe said:

"EU citizens have a right to vibrant nature, which is vital to health and wellbeing. Unfortunately, we are seeing that rare nature that should have the highest levels of EU protection is severely threatened. The EU is often the last line of defence for our nature and wildlife, but that only works if the European Commission is proactive in challenging illegal destruction."

Ariel Brunner, Senior Head of Policy for BirdLife Europe & Central Asia said:

"In public, the European Commission stresses the importance of the role the rule of law plays as a fundamental value of the EU. But when it comes to enforcing the environmental acquis, there is a clear lack of action. That not only concerns prominent cases like 'Dieselgate', but many other cases relating to the non-implementation of EU's nature directives. Here the European Commission is gambling with the future of Europe and contributing to citizens' lack of trust in the institutions."

Sabien Leemans, Senior Biodiversity Policy Officer for WWF European Policy Office said:

"The European Commission's dealing with illegal logging in Białowieża was best practice and deserved the term 'guardian of the treaties' – not only did the infringement procedure against Poland start quickly after the NGO complaint, but during the ECJ case, interim measures were introduced to avoid irreversible damage to the forest. Unfortunately, such pro-active enforcement is an exception, and nature is paying the price, for example in Doñana, one of Europe's most precious wetlands, which is drying out due to illegal agricultural activities while the Commission is dragging its feet. This lack of decisive enforcement is unacceptable."

**)The seven cases of concern are: Doñana in southern Spain, protection of grasslands in Germany, meadow bird breeding habitats in the Netherlands, nature protections in Italy and Austria, hydropower in Romania, and turtle nesting in Cyprus.*

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Release of waste waters directly into the rivers, has become a growing environmental concern in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Such phenomenon has particularly affected the rivers of the City of Tuzla, where waste water from industries such as the Sisecam soda Lukavac, from landfills, and from emissions from "Jezero II" of thermal power plant "Tuzla".

Another environmental concern is gravel extraction, particularly in the rivers Velika and Mala Usora in the Municipality of Teslić, where the local community of CSOs are struggling against the powerful construction companies.

Kosovo

Kosovo Assembly Environment Committee reviews and recommends to the Assembly the Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2020

The Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2020 is a document by which MESP plans the Actions to be undertaken in order to achieve the strategic objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy. Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020 has been approved by the Kosovo Assembly on 7.10.2011.

With this Strategy, its deadline was for 10 (ten) years, the Action Plan for the first five years (2011-2015) was approved. In order for the Strategy 2011-2010 to be applicable, the ministry has seen it necessary to prepare an Action Plan for the remaining five years of the Strategy, ie 2016-2020. The Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2020 was approved on 29.3.2018 by QRKS.

During the drafting of the Action Plan 2016-2020 in the Inter-ministerial Working Group, officials of the Office for Strategic Planning, Ministry of European Integration and Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural

Development participated, among others.

Given the fact that the Law no. 03 / L / 233 specifically does not say that the Action Plan should be approved by the Assembly (as there is an approved Strategy 2011-2020), it have been addressed for approval to the Government. During the work of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group there were also proposals for the Action Plan to be three years since the Mid-Term Expenditure Framework is three years old.

National Conference on Sustainable Development The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, in cooperation with the Special Representative of the European Union in Kosovo / European Union Office, the German Development Agency (GIZ) and the Kosovo Consortium of Civil Society for Sustainable Development (KOSID), on May 30 June is organizing the Kosovo Sustainable Development Week (KSDW) conference.

KSDW is a high-level conference that will address key environmental challenges in the country such as energy, solid waste, water and climate change. The event will be held during the European Week of Sustainable Development 2018, from 30 May to 5 June 2018 at Hotel Emerald (Pristina, Kosovo). Ulrike Lunacek, former vice-president of the European Parliament and former Kosovo Rapporteur, will take part and will talk about Environmental Challenges in the 21st Century.

Macedonia

The Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the new Law on Energy.

Following a 9-month process, the Parliament of Macedonia adopted the new Law on Energy on May 21, 2018. The provisions of newly approved law, are harmonised with the second package of energy directives and regulations of the European Union (EU), although a set of by-laws will need to

be adopted for the harmonisation to be complete. Based on the obligations deriving from the Republic of Macedonia as a signatory state to the Treaty establishing the Energy Community, such adoption/harmonisation should have happened in 2015.

The new law is viewed as a positive development in solving a number of issues and challenges, such as:

- Because of lack of status, consumers do not have the right to choose a supplier of electricity;
- Households and small consumers cannot be supplied by a supplier who is obliged to provide universal service, at regulated prices approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission,
- The producer of electricity with the largest installed capacity in the Republic of Macedonia (AD ELEM) is regulated and is not sufficiently adapted to operate in accordance with the market conditions,
- The management of the legal entity that performs electricity generation activity (AD ELEM) and the legal entity that performs electricity transmission (AD MEPSO) is performed by the same entity (the Government of the Republic of Macedonia), therefore there is no effective independence, for discriminatory behaviour on the market,
- The share of renewable energy in the total gross electricity consumption has increased in recent years, but the lack of additional financial support measures and encouragement of production can lead to a standstill in the further breakthrough of renewable energy sources.

More news from Macedonia:

Open Government Conference

On 8-9 May, 2018 in Skopje, the conference "Open Government Partnership - Dialogue with Civil Society Organizations" for preparation of the National Action Plan 2018-2020 was held. The Republic of Macedonia is part of this global initiative since 2011, and according to the obligations for all countries that are part of this initiative, the Government has so far adopted three National Action Plans (NAP1 2012-2014, NAP2 2014-2016, NAP3 2016-2018).

Conference "Open Government Partnership - Dialogue with Civil Society Organizations", 8th – 9th May, 2018

Meeting of the Sector Working Group on Environment and Climate Action

On May 8, 2018, a meeting of the Sectoral Working Group on Environment and Climate Action took place in Skopje. The event was organized by the Ministry of Environment and



Source: 4x4 Balkan Bridges, Macedonia, 2018



Source: Green Home, Montenegro, 2018

Physical Planning. At the meeting participants discussed about the undertaken activities in the water sector related to tariffs regulation, costs assessment, infrastructure planning and sludge management, financial situation and modalities for subsidizing the bills for delivered water services to low-income households.

Presentation of the National Waste Management Plan (2018-2024) and Generation Waste Prevention Plan

On 17th May, 2018, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and the Chamber of Commerce of Macedonia organised a presentation and debate on the National Waste Management Plan (2018-2024) and the First Plan of the Republic of Macedonia for Prevention of Waste Generation. At the event attended representatives from the business sector, non-governmental organisations, and other interested parties.

The novelties expected to contribute to a positive change in waste management are the establishment of the regulatory body for determining the level of fees and the establishment of an Environmental Agency. With the exception of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia is the only country in Southeast Europe that still does not have an Environmental Agency. In the Republic of Macedonia, for the first time, a Waste Prevention Plan has been adopted.

Montenegro

Law on industrial emission – Regulation (EU) No 2010/75

The control of industrial pollution in Montenegro is governed by the Law on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control, the Law on Environment and a number of implementing regulations adopted on the basis of the laws, which resulted in partial transposition of the EU acquis on the control of industrial pollution. The transposition

of the requirements (recast) summarized by Directive 2010/75/EC on Industrial Emissions (IED) is at a moderate stage and requirements have been transposed in the Law on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control, Law on Waste Management, Rulebook on Waste Incineration, and the Decree on Limit Values of Emissions from Stationary Sources. Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism plans to fully transpose the Directive on Industrial Emissions by enacting a separate Law on Industrial Emissions which is prepared in the draft form. Public debates on this law are scheduled on May 21, 2018.

More developments from Montenegro:

Law on Invasive species - Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014

According to the NEAS (National Strategy for Transposition and Implementation and Enforcement of EU Legal Framework in the field of Environment and Climate Change) Montenegro

has the obligation to adopt a Law on invasive species in order to transpose Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species. Now, the law is in draft phase and according to the NEAS full adaptation of the law will be by the end of the year. Public debates on this law are scheduled on June 7, 2018.

Draft of Spatial Plan for Spatial Propose of National Park Prokletije has been adopted .

National Park Prokletije has been proclaimed in 2009. According to the law, for NP has to be adopted Spatial Plan for Spatial Propose. The Government has adopted the draft of the Spatial Plan for spatial propose of National Park Prokletije. Draft of the Spatial Plan for Spatial Propose for the Coastal Zone has been adopted.

The Spatial Plan of Special Purpose for the Coastal Region of Montenegro (PPPNOP), to be completed by mid-July, which covers the territory of six



Source: Green Home, Montenegro, 2018

coastal municipalities, as well as the territorial sea and inland sea waters, except for the space that it is covered by the border of the National Park "Skadar Lake" in the municipality of Bar and the National Park "Lovćen" in the municipality of Budva.

Drin day – Montenegro

The celebration of the Drin Day aims to increase the understanding of the value of this natural resource that is of great importance to humans and the ecosystem. Namely, in the expanded Basin of the River Drin, there are about 1.5 million people who rely on water resources for drinking water, agriculture, fisheries, industry, electricity production and tourist services. Celebration of Drin day is organized also in Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania as well as Montenegro. For Montenegro, the organiser of this event was the NGO Green Home. Apart of that, for students and volunteers organized a camp on Skadar lake as a celebration to this day.

Turkey

Plans for Pınarça Thermal Power Plant threatens the agricultural production in Turkey.

The Thrace region is one of Turkey's most important agricultural centres. 12 percent of the country's wheat, 46 percent of the sunflower and 46 percent of rice is produced in this region. The thermal power plant in Çerkezköy, Tekirdağ, is planned to be built on a 500-hectare oak forest surrounded by large productive plains. About 250 thousand trees are expected to be cut in order to accommodate the power plant. In addition, the open pit coal mine will cover an agricultural and forest area of around 6,750 hectares within the borders of Istanbul and Tekirdağ provinces.

As a matter of fact, the coal fired plant planned in Çerkezkör is one of the many planned power plants threatening agricultural land in Turkey. With the decisions of the Council of Ministers published in the Official Gazette in 2017 and 2018, 243 plains covering a total of 6.8 million hectares (an area of 9 million football fields) were declared as "Great Plains Conservation Area", including the plains in the Thrace area. However, there are many coal mines and coal-fired power plants that are planned to be built on these pristine lands. TEMA Foundation works across the country to draw attention to the harmful effects of coal-fired thermal power plants and coal mining on agricultural land.

Coal-fired power plants and coal mining will cause irreversible damages to all natural assets particularly to land and water. Moreover, air



Source: Tema, Turkey, 2018

pollution and water consumption caused by thermal power plants threaten agriculture, farming and public health. In addition to Thrace, Eskisehir Alpu Plain, Konya and Karaman plains are also under the threat of thermal power plants. TEMA Foundation, made a call to the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock in order to prevent the coal mine and coal-fired thermal power plant projects and it managed to gather more than 30 thousand signatures across Turkey and deliver the protest to the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture.

More news from Turkey:

Shura raporu

On May 9, 2018, SHURA Energy Transition Centre, a newly established energy transition think tank in Turkey, presented its first report entitled "Increasing the Share of Renewables in Turkey's Power System: Options for Transmission Expansion and Flexibility". The first of its kind, this report for Turkey shows that the currently installed capacity of wind and solar energy can be increased to 40 GW by 2026 without any requirement for additional transmission infrastructure investment than that currently planned. The SHURA Energy Transition Centre was founded by a partnership of the European Climate Foundation (ECF), Germany's well-known think tank Agora Energiewende and the Istanbul Policy Centre (IPC) within Sabanci University. The newly established think tank aims to support Turkey's transition to a low-carbon power system by conducting data-driven, impartial and independent analysis. It addresses the need for a sustainable and broadly recognised platform for discussion on the technological, economic and policy aspects of Turkey's energy sector.

The Centre's comprehensive report reveals that Turkey can double its estimated increase from 20 GW to 40 GW of wind and solar energy by 2026,

without any additional cost to the Transmission System Operator's (TSO) investment projections. In other words, doubling Turkey's solar and wind capacity would have no major impact on system planning and operation. That also means that 20% of total electricity production would be generated from solar and wind and that Turkey's current transmission system would be able to handle this expansion.

TEMA Foundation presented its Eco-Politics Declaration to political parties in Turkey in the wake of upcoming general elections

Since its establishment, TEMA Foundation has always conveyed ecosystem-focused messages to political parties in Turkey and it prepared Eco-Politics declarations offering suggestions for solutions to environmental problems to the politicians, prior to five parliamentary elections and three municipal elections. The main objective of Eco-Politics is to protect nature and the environment, and the priority focus is sustainable life.

Similar to the previous elections, TEMA has prepared the 2018 Eco-Politics Declaration before the upcoming elections on June 24, about why and how to protect the ecosystem and handed this declaration to the representatives of the political parties in Ankara, with the hope that they will adopt the suggestions in this declaration in their political program.

The principal aim of the Eco-Politics is to guide Turkish politicians on how to implement effective governance for protecting the ecosystem and to inform the electorate on sustainable life principles. For that purpose, TEMA Foundation calls for policies that focus on the well being of people, on protecting the land and rights

to clean air and water of the current and future generations.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The European Union Office in Kosovo/Civil Society Facility & Media Programme for Western Balkans and Turkey 2016-2017 Support to CSO Partnerships and Networks has launched a new call for proposal on Support to CSO Partnerships and Networks. Deadline for submission of concept notes is 18/06/2018 at 12:00 (Brussels date and time).

The specific objective of this call for proposals is to improve CSOs capacities and representativeness as effective and reliable partners in the EU integration process by promoting CSOs partnerships, networks and cooperation with public Authorities.

The call has regional component: applicants must act in partnership with at least 3 co-applicant organizations of which at least 2 established in Kosovo and at least 1 from a Member State of the European Union or in a country covered by Annex

I of the IPA II regulation other than Kosovo. The aim of this requirement is to improve the overall quality and effectiveness of the proposed work plan with good practices and technical capacities imported by at least one experienced partner organization.

In order to achieve this objective, this Call for Proposals will award grants in support of CSOs partnership and networks operating in the following thematic sectors which are underpinning the priorities of ICSP, SAA and ERA:

- Rule of Law and fight against corruption
- Gender equality/ political participation of women (notably from vulnerable groups)
- Social services decentralisation
- Quality, accountability and efficiency standards in Education
- Environment protection, waste management, energy efficiency
- Labour law (equality, anti-discrimination, health and safety) and protection of workers
- Consumer and health protection (food safety, quality and accountability of inspections)

- Governance and public administration reforms
- Sustainable economic development/ public finance management
- Volunteering/ Non-formal education
- Reconciliation and promotion of cultural diversity
- Social economy/ social enterprises

Spotlight on a particular grass-root initiative different for every issue

“Save the Blue Heart of Europe”, campaign launched by the NGOs ‘EuroNatur’ and ‘RiverWatch’ in cooperation with local partners and aimed at saving Balkans Rivers as paramount heritage in Europe, is now organising the first European river summit. It will be held in Sarajevo on 27-28 September 2018. Goal of the meeting is to bring together river lovers and initiatives from all over Europe in order to exchange experience, develop ideas and network. Save the date! To know more, please visit the website.



Source: TEMA, Turkey, 2018

HYDROPOWER PLANTS IN MONTENEGRO

Montenegro began with the development of hydropower in 1937. Process of a new cycle of HPPs development started by adoption of the Strategy of small hydropower plants in 2006. In the period from 2008 until today, 68 projects for construction of small hydropower plants in Montenegro were approved. Of the approved projects, there are currently 12 HPPs in the exploitation stage (power 23.27 MW and production 85.62GWh), on 7 watercourses.

The process of implementation of HPP projects is roughly divided into four phases: planning, approving, construction and exploitation. Approval of projects on exploitation of water resources, through concession, for construction of HPPs in Montenegro is performed in two steps: approval of concession and approval of construction.

Concession is approved by using two procedures: public tender and energy permit. Since 2008, six public tenders were organized by the State

of Montenegro, in accordance with the Law on concession. Based on the available information, this procedure has so far approved 38 projects for the construction of HPPs with installed capacity greater than 1MW.

It is important to emphasize that, in accordance with the Law on Concessions, which defines the procedure for awarding concessions, they are awarded on the basis of the annual Plan adopted by the Government or the Municipality no later than the expiration of the current year for the



In the period from 2008 until today, 68 projects for construction of small hydropower plants in Montenegro

next year. The procedure for granting concessions shall be initiated by the competent authority, the Ministry of Economy, by drafting a concession act in accordance with the aforementioned Plan. This Plan for the use of watercourses for the construction of small hydropower plants in Montenegro was not completely finalized until 2015/16, which was an obligation under the Law on Concessions.

Procedure of energy permit, introduced as possibility for projects of HPPs with installed capacity under 1MW on watercourses of local importance is defined by the Law on Energy in 2010. Since 2010 until today, 30 projects for construction of HPPs were approved by procedure of energy permit.

However, the process of planning and approving HPPs projects in Montenegro contains important

deficiencies and shortcomings that led to an unsustainable planning process for these facilities.

Namely, during the period of issuance of concessions (2008-2016), a number of important strategic and expert documents that were supposed to serve as a basis for awarding concessions were lacking. These documents include: Water Management Strategy, Water Management Plans, Water Cadastre with Environmental Substances (which should contain data on characterization and watercourse typology, hydrological data, biodiversity data and data on water use) and Water Information System. The basis for the award of concessions was the Water Management Basis of Montenegro, adopted in 2001 for a period of 10 years (expired in 2011). It was replaced by the Strategy for Water

Management of Montenegro adopted in 2017, so that in the period from 2011 to 2017, Montenegro saw the highest number of concessions awarded with no single reference document as the basis for planning and awarding concessions.

Local communities have shown high resistance towards building small hydropower plants. Namely, local communities around Bukovica River create Ecological movement called "Donja Bukovica" and they are trying to mobilise people in order to save the river, also local communities that are located near river Komorača have established an NGO called "Ne damo Rijeke".

On their web site (<http://nedamorijeke.me>) they share informations about protest and other activities that they have been conducting.

