



“No more ‘small steps poorly implemented’!”

Belgium - No more ‘small steps poorly implemented’, green groups tell incoming EU presidencies

The practice of ‘small steps poorly implemented’ is clearly now insufficient and inappropriate to protect Europe from harmful chemicals, polluted air, climate change and plastic pollution. This is the warning of Europe’s largest network of environmental NGOs in a paper published for the governments of Romania, Finland and Croatia – the next three countries to hold the EU’s rotating presidency. In ‘The EEB’s Priorities for the European Union’, addressed to Romania, Finland and Croatia, the EEB calls on the Presidency Trio to press for better implementation of environmental laws and the development of an 8th Environment Action Programme to set a firm basis for environmental policy up to 2030. The document, prepared in cooperation with Seas at Risk, was adopted by the EEB Board which has representatives from more than 30 countries and several European networks. While the paper is directly addressed to the Presidencies, we recognise that progress depends upon the cooperation of the European Commission, the European Parliament and other Member States, as well as the Council President. However, Presidencies can often make a difference if they invest their political and technical capacities in the right issues and if there is sufficient political will.

It’s OFFICIAL: EU agrees unprecedented cuts to single-use plastics

After months of intense negotiations, the EU has agreed much-anticipated laws to slash single-use plastics in the EU. The agreed text is a significant step forward in tackling plastic pollution, but does not fully address the urgency of the plastics crisis, according to Rethink Plastic and Break Free From Plastic.

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is a member of Rethink Plastic, an alliance of leading NGOs working to ensure a future that is free from plastic pollution.

The final measures adopted [1] include:

- Bans on several single-use plastic items including plates, cutlery and expanded polystyrene food containers and beverage cups
- Ensuring manufacturers pay for waste management and clean-up of several single-use plastic items, including cigarette butts and fishing gear
- Ensuring all beverage bottles are produced from



25% recycled content by 2025

However, the agreement falls short of what is needed to fully tackle the plastics crisis in key areas including:

- No binding EU-wide target to reduce the consumption of food containers and cups, and no obligation for EU countries to adopt targets
- A delay of four years on ensuring 90% of plastic bottles are collected separately – from 2025 to 2029

“The new laws are a significant first blow to the plastic pollution monster” said Delphine Lévi Alvarès, European Coordinator of the Break Free From Plastic movement. “However, their impact depends on the implementation by our national governments who must immediately adopt ambitious targets to cut single-use plastics, and ensure producers pay for their pollution. The public call to stop plastic pollution is loud and strong, it is unacceptable to ignore it.”

December 20, national Environment Ministers signed off on the agreed Directive. Member States will have two years to transpose it into national laws, which should come into force at the beginning of 2021 at the latest.

The measures adopted include:

What’s good:

- A EU-wide ban of single-use plastic cotton buds, straws, plates, cutlery, beverage stirrers, balloon sticks, oxo-degradable plastics, and expanded polystyrene food containers and beverage cups
- Extended Producer Responsibility schemes meaning manufacturers (including big tobacco companies and top polluters from the packaging industry like Coca Cola, Pepsico and Nestle) pay for the costs of waste management, clean up and awareness-raising measures for certain single-use plastics including plastic cigarette filters – the most littered item in Europe
- A possibility for EU countries to adopt market restrictions for food containers and cups for beverages
- An obligation for EU countries to reduce post-consumption waste from tobacco product filters containing plastic
- For fishing gear, an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme and a requirement for Member States to monitor collection rates and set national collection targets
- Ensure all beverage bottles are produced from 25% recycled content by 2025
- Labelling on the presence of plastics in a product



and resulting environmental impacts of littering, and on the appropriate waste disposal options for that product

What's not so good:

- No binding EU-wide target to reduce the consumption of food containers and cups, and no obligation for EU countries to adopt targets either; instead, countries must "significantly reduce" their consumption, leaving it vague and open
- A delay of 4 years in achieving the 90% collection target of beverage containers, from 2025 to 2029, with an intermediary target of 77% by 2025
- Allowing for EU countries to choose to achieve consumption reduction and certain EPR measures through voluntary agreements between industry and authorities
- A 3 year delay to make sure plastic drinks containers have their caps/lids attached to the containers – from 2021 to 2024

These measures apply to all single-use plastics listed in the Directive's Annexes including bio-based and biodegradable plastics.

EU governments support first set of laws for more repairable products

EU governments have supported first-ever reparability measures for fridges despite opposition from manufacturers and hesitation from the European Commission. The same progressive approach

may now also be applied to other popular products, NGOs understand.

On December 10, the EU's 28 Member States agreed on a new set of manufacturing laws to make fridges and freezers more easily repairable and longer-lasting. The vote was the first of its kind for Europe.

Most notably, the agreed text foresees that repairers should be able to disassemble some critical parts without damaging the product and with the use of commonly available tools. Components of products are very often glued together or welded, which makes the replacement of failing parts very difficult.

Governments also suggested applying a similar approach to other products such as washing machines and dishwashers, according to several national representatives consulted by ECOS and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB).

However, the NGOs also called for the rules to be extended to lighting and displays, which will be discussed next week, and to all products in the future.

The decision comes after the two NGOs denounced strong pressure from industry lobby groups, which prompted the European Commission to water down the proposals on reparability in favour of recyclability. EU governments are gathering TODAY to vote on a first set of requirements that

could make electronics more easily repairable and longer-lasting.

Here's all you need to know: <https://eeb.org/eu-to-deny-citizens-longer-lasting-and-repairable-popular-consumer-products-media-brief/> ... #RightToRepair #CircularEconomy #Ecodesign
Alongside the ease of disassembly, EU governments agreed to make spare parts such as door gaskets for fridges available to all for a number of years. Only certain spare parts will be made available exclusively to professional repairers who must meet several criteria defined at national level. While welcoming the decision, the NGOs called on regulators to make as many spare parts and repair information as possible available to all, i.e. consumers, community repairers, repair cafés and others. Limiting the availability of spare parts and information is equivalent to limiting the availability of repair services, they said.

They also insisted that lighting and displays shall not be exempted from similar rules. Many lamps sold in Europe come with individual light bulbs that cannot be replaced. This means that when one light bulb stops working, consumers are forced to replace the whole lamp, therefore generating more waste. Display repairs are also nearly impossible today due to glued and welded components, while no spare parts and replacement information is made available

HOLTA Canyon is at risk!

Take the car in the city of Gramsh and head towards Bardhani village, and further to Kabash village (14 to 18 km) to reach the Holta Canyon, which is evidenced as a tourist itinerary by various tourist agencies. Along the way you can see wonderful views. The most beautiful is the canyon itself, located on the river with same name, Holtë. The river erosion and the limestone karst phenomena of the Kabash-Bardhaj ridge have formed this canyon, which hides craggy slopes and karst caves in his cubicles.

The canyon is deep up to 150m, 1.5-3m wide and up to 3km long, which is given the status of the monument of nature due to its scientific, geological, geomorphological, hydrological, biological, aesthetic, didactic, ecological and tourist value. Regardless of all these values that this canyon has, the National Territorial Council with the decision of 27.04.2018 has approved the issuance of construction permit for the HPP in the stream of Holtë and Seltës.

The process of giving the construction and environmental permit has been done without conducting public hearings and in the face of the fact



Source: Co-PLAN, 2018

that the construction of the HPP would damage the natural resources and values that bear this natural monument. Faced with this problem, the

citizens of the area have been able to raise their voices and broadcast it, but so far no political reaction has taken place. Holta is being built!

Bosnia-Herzegovina - The 3rd Environmental Performance Review of Bosnia and Herzegovina was published in November, 2018, and presents the progress of BiH and its environment management. The Review covers issues of legislation framework, green economy, air protection, water and waste management, biodiversity and forestry, protected areas and protection of the Adriatic Sea. The publication is prepared for officials and experts working for public authorities responsible for environmental legislations, representatives of CSOs, the business community, academia and the media.

II – Ministry representatives of BiH participated to the 15th Economy forum in Vienna, and confirmed that the country is and will be dedicated to the EU Digital agenda for the Western Balkan. The representative of the Council of Ministries, stated that the results of the research showed that the digital index increased for 10%, and that it has positive effect for the economy of the country for the GDP increase of 0,63%. In BiH there are many small companies that are providing IT services to the global companies (such as Google, Airbus, Facebook, etc.)

III – The Government of the Federation of BiH, will finance the development of the Study “Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Program for Regional Geological Exploration of Oil, Condensate and Natural Gas in the FBiH Area”. The decision was made based on the earlier studies, researches and recommendations, in order to predefine the measures for area protection, for concessionaire conditions, rehabilitation of exploration areas and exploitation fields, and in accordance with regulations in the FBiH regulating the issues of oil exploration and environmental protection.

IV – The project “Clean river Bosna” is implemented by relevant municipalities Iliđža, Centar Sarajevo, Ilijaš, Visoko, Kakanj, Zenica, Žepče, Zavidovići, Maglaj, Doboju Jug, Doboju, Modriča i Šamac and by Institute for health and food safety.

Montenegro - Montenegro has opened the Chapter 27

Montenegro has opened negotiations in Chapter 27 - Environment and Climate Change at the Intergovernmental Conference in Brussels. Costs for this chapter will amount 1,6 billion EUR. Since now, Montenegro has opened 32 chapters, of which three are temporarily closed. A decade after the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement, Montenegro has managed to transpose a significant number of European regulations, while on the other hand their implementation is seriously lagging behind, especially in the area of nature protection, waste management, water quality, air emissions.



Source: Guest lectures on Biotechnical faculty ©Green Home

ENV-NET initiatives

Guest lectures – The impact of the the building small hydro-power plants on environment. NGO Green Home has organized the lectures on Biotechnical faculty, University of Montenegro. The lecture has lectured by the professor Vladimir Pešić and the topic was: The impact of the the building small hydro-power plants on environment. Lectures has been attended by the students of biology, environmental protection, NGOs and media. Academic community, civil society and students have a big role in environmental protection. So the main aim of these lectures was to improve student’s knowledge about the main problems in environment and to push up them in proactive participation in environmental protection.

Initiative of local communities and NGOs – together for free rivers without small hydropower plants

NGO Green Home in collaboration with the local communities have organized protest and lunched the petition against the unsustainable building of small hydropower plants. Protest has been organized in the municipality of Berane and it has been attended by the 200 citizens as well as media. Citizens have sent the clear message: “We want free rivers, we depend on rivers”.

In the following months, NGO Green Home will continue to support and work with local communities as well as to gathered signatures for the petition. Petition will be sent to the Parliament of Montenegro.



Source: Green Home NGO, 2019

Republic of Macedonia “Climate Change - Reality or Illusion”

On December 7, 2018, in the premises of the Museum of Illusions, a meeting was held between the representatives of relevant civil society organisations and the representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MANU), with an interesting working title “Climate Change Reality or Illusion”. The event was organized on the occasion of the Global Conference on Climate Change in Poland (COP24, Katowice, December 2-14, 2018).

Emphasising that there is a strong link between climate change and other areas of the environment, including air pollution, Deputy Minister of Environment and Physical Planning Jani Makraduli said that this is an area where Macedonia has been exceptionally good and according to the world criteria it is recognised as one of the 16 climate change most ambitious states. Namely, Macedonia is one of the few countries where the preparation of the Fourth National Report and the Third Biennial Climate Change Report have already started, being far ahead even of some EU member states. The success in this area, as pointed by Mr. Makraduli, is a result of the exceptionally good cooperation with the academic community, above all with MANU, with the UNDP project unit that focuses on climate change issues and, of course, with the non-governmental sector. The conclusions of the last Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, where it was discussed how only a half degree celsius increase in temperature would affect the climate and the planet Earth in general, was presented by Dr. Nataša Markovska from MANU, who pointed out that, urgent action is needed to limit further temperature increase.

Pavlina Zdraveva from UNDP, presented the activities and research of the Second Biennial Report on Climate Change and explained the tools for visualising the results. She also announced the upcoming activities.

However, the main objective of the event was to provide public participation and easier access to climate change decision-making information as a key factor for effective climate action. The focus was on the cooperation of state institutions and civil society and its role in the planning and implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures, which contributes to higher national ambitions and more effective implementation of policies. In order not to allow climate change



Source: <http://www.moepp.gov.mk>

to be interpreted individually and in their own perspective, but to be considered on facts based on scientific research, it is necessary to develop proper communication and data sharing with all stakeholders and the adequate level. For this purpose, a Communication Strategy and an Action Communication Plan have been developed, the implementation of which is the responsibility of the MoEPP's Public Relations Office. These documents foresee how the analysis of national climate change reports can be translated into easily understandable actions, while best practices and experiences are shared in order to see climate change as reality, not as an illusion.

The representatives of the NGO sector were presented with internet tools, which they can very easily share, but also get the information from the national official web page which should become a national platform for climate action.



Source: <http://www.moepp.gov.mk>

“Linear vs. Circular Economy”

Circular economy constitutes a new, unexplored topic for Macedonia, although it could be instrumental for achieving the sustainable development goals, especially considering that the current linear economic model is by large pointed as the cause of a number of climate change and environmental issues.

In the recent years, there have been a number of initiatives and actions, national and local, which promote the concept of circularity of resources (materials, goods, and services) in the economy cycle, even though many were not explicitly



named as “circular economy” activities.

As a term, “Circular economy” is yet to explicitly enter in the national legal framework through the new Law on Waste Management and the Draft Industrial Strategy with a focus on Manufacturing.

As a practice, it does exist, specifically concerning the re-use of secondary raw materials (iron, steel, paper, and lately, also plastic),

In line with the ambition to strengthen the ENV.net role as an actor in the environmental and circular economy policy-making scene and processes, the ENV.net team from Macedonia, in cooperation with the University American College Skopje (UACS), on 21st December 2018 organised lecturing for their students, with aim to inform and initiate a discussion on the concept, challenges (legal, economic, social) and potentials of circular economy in Macedonia.

The lecture was delivered by Mr. Filip Ivanovski,



Source: <http://www.moepp.gov.mk>

Managing Director, Pakomak doo Skopje, and Associate Professor at UACS in Sales Management and Operations Management, in cooperation with Mr. Zoran Shapuric, former Macedonian Minister of Environment and Urban Planning and current Minister without portfolio in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, in charge of regulation for improving the investment climate for domestic enterprises, also Associate Professor at UACS in EU Law.

As pointed by Mr. Ivanovski, Circular Economy is not a goal per se, but rather a mean or instrument to achieve sustainable materials management.

The hierarchy, starting from the top to bottom (prevention, re-use, recycling, recovery, and disposal) consists of means to achieve goals like protection of human health and the environment and resource conservation. Further, it was noted that ways to go for Macedonia should include better organised and much improved system for primary and secondary waste selection. Out of average 700.000 tones per year generated waste, only 40-50.000 tones or max.7% at national level are collected for recycling. Mr. Ivanovski pointed that proper waste management requires serious and long-term investments (estimates go to cca. 500 mil. EUR). Or simply put, it doesn't come for

Synergy

On December 6, 2018 in the EU InfoCentre in Skopje a presentation titled "Green Economy" was held. The event was part of the activities of the project "Green economy for development of the region", funded by the European Union. The project is implemented by 6 partnering organisations from Montenegro, Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Croatia.

At the presentation, led by Mrs. Sonja Vukovic (president of SLAP, the partnering organisation from Croatia), interesting examples of "green economy in practice" from Europe and Croatia were shown. The representative of the ENV.net



Source: 4x4x4 Balkan Bridges

free! Investments must be done in Regional Waste Transfer Plants and Landfills (in all 8 planning regions, for above 70.000 t/y recyclables, Incineration plant (one on a country level, for cca. 350-400.000 t/y), as well as facilities (5-7) for Composting and Gas production (for cca. 70.000 t/y). The ENV.net team used this opportunity to present the ENV.net project and to invite the students to proactively engage with their peers from the Western Balkan and Turkey in networks and initiatives related to environment, climate change and circular economy, as they are the key actors for meaningful change, and sustainable development of our wider region as part of the EU.

Flash news

Second site visit with CSOs

On 20th December, 2018 ENV.net team Macedonia organised the second site visit, with CSOs from Strumica. The topic was Circular Economy. The even, at which participated around 15 CSO activists, was a good opportunity to present the findings from the First country report on CE, as well as the discussions and video materials from the ENV.net Regional Conference held in Belgrade in November, 2018.

team from Macedonia took this opportunity to present the ENV.net project and to point out the need for greater synergy among the initiatives from the region, which have the environment and climate change as a focus of interest, but also the green and circular economy.



Source: Source: 4x4x4 Balkan Bridges

Serbia

Consultations for the preparation of a negotiating position for Chapter 27

The Consultative Meeting on the Preparation of the Negotiating Position for Chapter 27 with Civil Society Organizations was held in the City Assembly of Belgrade. The meeting was attended by the Head of the Negotiating Group 27, as well as the Assistant Minister in the Environmental Management Sector. It is expected that by the end of 2019 the negotiation process will end and then the conditions for the opening of Chapter 27 will be met.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection has conducted a series of consultations with civil society organizations, faculties, institutes, business sector, and local self-governments in order to prepare better for the negotiating position. It was expected that a quality document will be produced regarding the needs and what should be done, what are the deadlines, how much funds are needed, and what are the sources of funding. The main goal is not to enter the European Union itself, but to increase the safety of Serbia's citizens in the environment and improve their health.

It is not yet precisely defined how much the adjustment will be needed to be done in Chapter 27, but it is estimated that it will be between 11.5 and 15 billion euros, with the remark that it is one of the most demanding and expensive negotiating chapters. Transitional periods will be proposed to allow Serbia to have enough time to adjust, after entering the EU, by directives in the field of water management, industrial pollution, air protection and waste management. The most demanding areas will be wastewater treatment and water quality, waste management and recycling, and 60% of the expected funds will be required for the regulation of these areas.

During the consultative meeting, the status of Negotiating Position - Implementation of the Industrial Emissions Directive in Serbia was presented. In the area of waste management, specific implementation plans for the Landfill Directive, the main aspects of the DSIP for the Landfill Directive, as well as the status of implementation of the Directive, cost estimates and financing of regional infrastructure have been presented.

In the field of nature protection, a technical adaptation of document related to the Habitat and Bird Directives was presented.



Source:

A consultative meeting between NGOs and the Ministry of Environmental Protection

The Ministry of Environmental Protection held a consultative meeting with representatives of non-governmental organizations regarding the participation of our country in the upcoming important international events dedicated to the protection of biodiversity and the fight against climate changes (UN CBD COP14, to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, and UNFCCC COP 24, to be held in Katowice, Poland). Both Conferences have world-wide significance where will be agreed strengthen efforts and new measures globally to stop the loss of biodiversity, protect ecosystems that provide food, water and health for billions of people, and mitigate the consequences of climate changes.

On this occasion, NGOs around Serbia have been invited to present their ideas, initiatives, projects, as well as a vision for improving the state of the environment in Serbia.

During the meeting with NGOs, Minister of Environmental Protection Mr. Goran Trivan expressed his satisfaction with opportunity to talk with civil society organizations in order to exchange views and to harmonize positions and attitudes for the participation of our country in these meetings.

- We will participate in the work of both conferences, where we will present our views on these issues, supporting international initiatives to protect biodiversity that are disappearing. According to experts reports, over 60 percent of vertebrates on our planet are lost and plant species disappear every day; climate changes are present and interrupt our ordinary activities - this was the hottest October in the last 30 years.

He pointed out that there is no successful work of

the Ministry without fundamental cooperation with the civil sector, which will result in continuing support of their work and dialogue development. On average, the Ministry met once a month with NGOs to discuss various current issues in the field of environmental protection.

In her welcoming remarks, the UNDP Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Program, Stelian Neder, highlighted the importance of the dialogue between state institutions with the civil sector and invited all stakeholders to contribute by their knowledge, ideas and action in order to increase efforts to stop biodiversity loss and reduce the effects of climate change.

Assistant Minister for Environmental Protection, Mrs. Jasmina Jovic and Head of the Department for Biodiversity of the Ministry, Mrs. Jelena Ducic, mentioned in their introductory remarks, that for the purpose of the forthcoming international conferences the results of the world's efforts to stop or mitigate the threat of a living planet will be summarized, measures will be proposed measures and new goals to keep the Planet in its wealth of life will be set.

Turkey

ROMACTED was launched in Turkey

Lining up for Roma Inclusion at Local Level in Turkey and Western Balkans, a joint programme funded by the EU (DG NEAR) and the Council of Europe was launched in Ankara on 12 December 2018 with the participation of EU Ambassador to Turkey H.E. Christian Berger, Head of Council of Europe Programme Office in Turkey Mr. Michael Ingledow, President of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (TBB) Mrs. Fatma Şahin, Minister of Labour, Social Services and Family Mrs. Zehra Zümürüt Selçuk, Deputy Secretary-General of TBB Mr. Ahmet Kazan and senior representatives from six municipalities in Turkey.

The general objective of the programme entitled "Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level" (ROMACTED) is to promote sustained policy engagement and to enhance democratic and transparent participation at local level. Specifically, the programme advocates to strengthen Roma community to have their voice in community problem-solving and to enhance target groups' (the elected representatives and relevant officials in local public administrations) knowledge and skills in working with Roma integration.

Region benefiting from the programme includes Turkey, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegov-

ina, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. Six municipalities in Turkey namely Pendik, Sişli, Konak, Edirne, Canik and Karadeniz-Ereğli are beneficiaries of the programme.



The 78th Meeting of EU-Turkey JPC

The 78th Meeting of EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) was held on 19-20 December 2018 in Ankara under the joint chairmanship of Mr. Manolis Kefalogiannis (EPP, European Parliament), Mr. İsmail Emrah Karayel and Mr. Manolis Kefalogiannis (EPP, European Parliament). Deputy Director-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations on behalf of the European Commission Mr. Maciej Popowski, EU Ambassador to Turkey H.E. Christian Berger, Austria's Ambassador to Ankara on behalf of the Presidency of the Council of the EU H.E. Ulrike Tilly, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs on behalf of the Turkish Government H.E. Faruk Kaymakçı and civil society organisations also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, officials exchanged views on the state of play of relations and Turkey's accession negotiation process with the EU. Other topics such as economic cooperation and security concerns have been issued by both sides throughout the two-day meeting.

The co-chairs closed the meeting by stating that both parties shared common challenges and cooperation. The meeting ended with a common voice that constructive dialogue between two sides will



Source: EU Delegation to Turkey

contribute Turkey's accession negotiation process. Officials also underlined the importance of main contributions of Turkey's membership to the EU. They expressed their hope to organise the next meeting before the EP elections in May 2019.

The main purpose of the JPC meetings is to strength the relations between the Turkish Grand National Assembly and the European Parliament by discussing all issues within the context of the Turkey-EU relations in general.

Turkey-EU High Level Political Dialogue Meeting
Turkey-EU High Level Political Dialogue Meeting was held in Ankara on 22 November 2018. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Çavuşoğlu, EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn attended the meeting.

The main purpose of the meeting was the resumption of the bilateral dialogue and Turkey's integration with the EU that should be on track as it was. As it was mentioned in the joint statement, officials discussed the current situation of Turkey's accession process with the EU. Both sides underlined the importance of strategic relations and open dialogue between Turkey and the EU. Importantly, they paid attention to Turkey's accession process by stating "Turkey's accession process can provide an important framework for fully realising the potential of the Turkey-EU relationships in social, economic and political reforms". The EU side expressed their concerns on Turkey's performance in guaranteeing the respect for democracy and human rights. Recently, 16 out of 35 Chapters was opened; only one of which (Science and Research) was provisionally closed. In addition, both sides stated that they support Western Balkans' integration to the EU and shared interests in the stability and prosperity of the Western Balkans.

The joint document: https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/54285/joint-statement-following-high-level-political-dialogue-between-eu-and-turkey_en



Source: Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Directorate for EU Affairs

SPOTLIGHT

ENV.Net take part in COP 24!

The 24th Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held between 2-14 December 2018 in Katowice with the participation of scientists, head of governments, ministries, NGOs, international organisations, private sector, finance sector and the like. A special focus this year was to set certain rules so-called "rulebook of the Paris Agreement" where all Parties will follow the guidelines that define how global climate action will be implemented.

The participation of NGOs during the UNFCCC negotiations plays an important role in contributing to national position of Parties and influencing negotiators. As an overall objective level of the ENV.net Project, the project aims to contribute both improved and intensified inter-action among actors including media and policy-makers. Participation to COP events are one of the main deliverables of our project. By examining climate-related issues in national and EU level discussions during the COPs, the team brings its experience to the project region and EU policy agenda.

ENV.net delegation to attend COP24 in Katowice. Representatives from TEMA Foundation, Co-Plan Institute for Habitat Development and Punto.sud attended the General Assembly sessions as well as side events in the second week of COP24. The ENV.net team followed side events on Talanoa Dialogue, non-state actors, adaptation, IPCC special report on 1.5 degrees Celsius, circular economy etc. The ENV.net delegation had a chance to listen to the passionate voices of some children and youth who attended the COP. On the last day of COP24, a group of 30 Polish students protested at the COP venue to pressure on decision-makers to take real action in fighting climate change.

At least 200 parties representing most of the world's countries worked for 2 weeks on implementing partially the Paris agreement. Ministers of Environment and Foreign Affairs were present to achieve an understanding and agreement through the Talanoa Dialogue on the Paris Agreement objectives and the 1.5oC IPCC (V. Masson-Delmotte, 2018) mitigation plan for an equitable low carbon and climate resilient development pathways. Three key messages were the main outcomes from this COP24:

- **Electro-mobility**, as one of the most climate-friendly solution that allows sustainable and adaptive urban development, clean air and an opportunity to create modern jobs. The Driving

Change Together Partnership for Electromobility and Zero Emission Transport is dedicated to technological and organizational change towards zero emission transport. "Maintaining the current rate of development, including the development of urban agglomerations and megacities, while keeping the current model of transport and the dominant types of propulsion and energy sources, is incompatible with the promotion of a sustainable transport model and the reduction of dependence on fossil fuels." (United Nations Conference of Parties COP 24, 2018).

- **Human**, emphasizing the need to lead change together with people through the solidarity and fair transformation of regions and industrial sectors. Declaration on fair transformation under the motto: Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration is dedicated to ensuring a fair and solidarity-based transformation that will help to protect the climate while maintaining economic development and jobs. "Development should be economically, socially, environmentally and climatically responsible. That is why the path we want to follow is socially and environmentally sustainable development, with an emphasis on modernization, technological change and the implementation of innovations enabling a more efficient and environmentally friendly use of resources." (ibid)

- **Nature**, is a concept recently introduced under the initiative Forests for Climate where new regional practices of multifunctional forest management should be implemented in order to achieve a GHG and carbon equilibrium "The Silesian Ministerial Declaration "Forests for Climate" on the conservation and increase of carbon stocks in greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs until 2050 indicates the key role of sinks and will help to achieve the objective set out by the Paris Agreement." (ibid)

Env.Net team had the chance to meet high representatives from European Union delegation on Environment and Energy as well as attend some of the sessions regarding the Talanoa Dialogue, Al Gore presentation on the Inconvenient Truth, Ministerial discussion on PA, visited all the country pavilions where we attended specific presentations on EU Energy Day (@EU Pavilion) Smart Cities (@ German Pavilion), Circular Economy (Indonesian and Poland Pavilion), Future Planning & Innovative Technologies (@ Nordic Pavilion) and most important introduced the Env.Net project to

the active participating bodies in COP24 in order to exchange similar experience and practices for the upcoming year. While a special attention was dedicated to the organization of side-events and NGO spot in COP as we will prepare to become an active member in the next COP.

The IPCC special report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius which was released in October 2018 was one of the central topics at COP24. The CSO community and the scientific community warned the decision-makers about the findings

of the report. According to the report, if global warming is to be kept to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon dioxide emissions have to be reduced 45 per cent by 2030. The report said that the world is heading towards 3 degrees Celsius this century rather than 1.5 degrees Celsius if the existing policies remain as it is now. The 1.5 degrees Celsius report had been formally requested by countries at the 2015 climate talks in Paris, however, four countries objected to the COP24 "welcoming" the document. In the end, despite the majority of

countries being in favour of the IPCC report, the weaker phrase "take note of the report" had to be adopted. In 2019, The UN Climate Change Summit will be organised in New York between 24 and 15 September.

For Further Research:

- Global Warming of 1,5 C by IPCC
- 2018 Emission Gap Report by UNEP
- 2018 Bulletin on GHG Concentrations by WMO
- 2018 Ozone Depletion Assessment by WMO and UNEP.



Source: Env.NET, 2018

ATRC – Kosovo

Media coverage about environmental hot spots in Kosovo

During December, ATRC in partnership with Kallxo.com organized site visits with journalists in two environment hot spots, one in Novo Berde and the other in Obilic Municipalities. Journalists visited places that represent the degradation of the environment in Kosovo such as Water polluted by industrial pollution in Novo Berde; Rivers of Kosovo's Sewerage; Ecological 'bombs' in Mirash/ Obilic and the issue of circular economy in Kosovo. As a result there are four investigative articles published and shared in online media as well as in ENV.net Facebook and shared in ATRC Facebook.

Ujërat e skuqura nga ndotja industriale në Novobërdë

Water polluted by industrial pollution in Novo Brdo

https://kallxo.com/gjnk/ujerat-e-skuqura-nga-ndotja-industriale-ne-novoberde/?fbclid=IwAR2IEwE_ZYGsvzqN-k4qF1k_-EiYYmwwFW6AV4pEzjkjfc-S27Vg0MC8cy3Y

Lumenjtë e Kanalizimit të Kosovës

Rivers of Kosovo's Sewerage

<https://kallxo.com/gjnk/lumenjte-e-kanalizimit-te-kosoves/?fbclid=IwAR0q6Omer8CIWwCeAh72S60-tG-snRwb-FKdq3zx2s87Vuvh7Z-FhYwq8U4>

'Bomba' ekologjike në Mirash

Ecological 'bombs' in Mirash

<https://kallxo.com/gjnk/bomba-ekologjike-ne-mirash/?fbclid=IwAR2tYbzqGAy6ZTuRqNHrV6p4>

6wF2BEX24_P_wtVs0UaQRn9oCVZhGd1wU4M Kosova eksporton 20 milionë kilogramë mbetje të letrës

Kosovo exports 20 million kilos of paper waste

https://kallxo.com/gjnk/kosova-eksporton-20-milione-kilogramme-mbetje-te-letres/?fbclid=IwAR2jsWUF6oHjM3r___C38mkmjeksdkoFjx11-ukwZuxmk34k6F0h1WklvrQ

Funding opportunities for grass-root CSOs, media and individuals (activists)

Calls for funding and opportunities:

<https://sarajewo.diplo.de/blob/1626104/6e691dd949ed827536816fd-d2559ec84/kkf-merkblatt-data.pdf>
https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/funding/support-european-cooperation-projects-2019_en

<https://www.jpj.go.jp/e/program/culture.html>
<https://ba.usembassy.gov/education-culture/grant-opportunities/cultural-grants-program/>
<https://yesodeurope.eu/yesod-professional-development-fund-2/#section-2>

<http://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/mgr/media/vijesti/Pages/Poziv-za-dostavljanje-projektnih-prijedloga-radi-izrade-Jedinstvene-liste-prioritetnih-projekata-za-oblast-zivotne-sredine.aspx>

https://www.developmentaid.org/#!/news-stream/post/34661/global-project-launched-to-protect-marine-biodiversity?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=NewsDigest

https://www.iri.org/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/europe2018bih24o-rfa_small_grants_final.pdf

<http://www.caneurope.org/docman/members/3465-network-outreach-coordinator-vacancy-announcement/file>

<http://europa.ba/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Contract-notice-1.pdf>

<https://www.whambih.org/>

<http://cbc.bih-mne.org/>

<http://westerwelle-foundation.com/en/projects/young-founders-programme-spring-2019/>

<https://www.planetromeofoundation.org/apply/>
https://ec.europa.eu/youth/solidarity-corps/how-to-apply_en

<https://www.interreg-med.eu/news-events/news/detail/actualites/blue-economy-call-eur187-million-available-for-funding/>

Useful links:

<https://www.circulareconomyclub.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1dNMh-303Go>

<http://balkans.aljazeera.net/video/regioskop-crna-senka-zelene-energije>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6dDRLM-HKy0&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environmental-performance-reviews/envepr-publications/environmental-performance-reviews/2018/3rd-environmental-performance-review-of-bosnia-and-herzegovina/docs.html>

<http://www.maecenia-frankfurt.de/de/f%C3%B6rderantrag-stellen>

<https://www.mobility-academy.eu/course/index.php?categoryid=15>