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Country Specific Report

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Republic of Kosovo

Chapter 15 & 27



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Disclaimer:

1. Introduction

1.1.Environmental Status in Kosovo

Country status

The Republic of Kosovo and the European Union signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement on October 27, 2015, in Strasbourg.

The agreement approved by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo on October 30, 2015, through Decision no. 01/55 on the approval of the Draft Law on ratification of the Stabilization and Association Agreement between Kosovo and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

The Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo on November 2, 2015, ratified the Stabilization and Association Agreement between Kosovo and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

The Agreement obliged Kosovo, as a country aiming for EU membership, that during the process of accession, to adopt the entire acquis and make it part of its domestic legislation.

Despite the obligations assumed by the signing of the agreement, Kosovo has not yet managed to harmonize its national legislation with the EU acquis. Environmental legislation is one of the priority areas to be addressed, due to the serious environmental situation in the country, in waste management, water management, air quality, degradation of nature, uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources, etc.

Environmental Status

As regards alignment with European standards, Kosovo is at an early stage. Legislative alignment has continued in some areas but implementation is weak. Some progress made in the area of free movement of goods and services, public procurement and competition as well as in improving the business environment. In the area of taxation and customs, some progress made in collecting revenue and simplifying administrative procedures, but Kosovo should step up the fight against the informal economy and tax evasion. The energy sector continues to face serious challenges. No progress has been achieved to address environmental issues. Overall, Kosovo needs to improve its administrative capacity and coordination, across all sectors, to ensure effective implementation of the acquis.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Kosovo expanded by per capita grew from **US\$1,088 in 2000 to US\$4,458, in 2019**. However, Kosovo remains one of the poorest countries in Europe, with a per-capita gross domestic product (GDP) of about **\$4,458**.

Under such circumstances, there continues to be strong demand for natural resources. Currently, in addition to industry and transportation, the energy sector still has the greatest impact on the environment.

Lignite was the predominant product, accounting for 97.4% of the total coal used. Renewable energy sources represent only about 9% of primary energy consumption.

The air-quality monitoring data shows that the highest limit-value exceedances were recorded for PM10 and PM2.5, especially during the winter season.

According to the results, total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Kosovo in 2009 were 10.5 Mt CO₂ equivalents. Carbon dioxide represents around 80% of all emissions, while methane and nitrous oxide together represent around 10%. The most important GHG inventory sector is "fuel combustion activity", which accounts for roughly 80% of all emissions. Kosovo has not yet determined the reference year for its GHG inventory.

1.2. Summary of the Report

This report provides the overview of the legislation progress and challenges in Kosovo regarding environment in general and harmonization of national environment legislation with environment acquis. Dates for preparing this overview are taken from a variety of sources, including government institutions, official state websites, national and international reports.

In Kosovo, the environment remains not to be at the top agenda of the Government activities. However, there have been some minor achievements as per the latest EU country report for 2020 related to Chapter 15 and Chapter 27.

Key findings from the legislation monitoring

- Non-harmonization of a large part of legislation, directives and strategies with EU environmental policies;
- Inter-institutional coordination and involvement of civil society remains limited;
- Lack of field inspections;
- Defective municipal regulations;
- Large number of illegal landfills;
- Lack of waste sorting and recycling programs;
- Deforestation and illegal logging remain problematic;
- Hazardous and solid waste and the lack of a concrete strategy for their treatment;
- Air pollution and lack of a plan to reduce emissions;
- Alarming water pollution and lack of their monitoring system;
- Partial implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan, while in the field of nature protection there has been no development;
- The implementation of the climate change strategy is still at an early stage. Kosovo relies heavily on coal and does not comply with the emission levels set out in the National Emission Reduction Plan. There is still no strategy for adaptation to climate change.

Air quality, particularly in urban areas, continues to pose a major threat to public health.

In order to improve air quality and its protection against pollution, and in order to improve monitoring and reporting on air quality, the Kosovo Institutions need to:

1. Implement the Strategy and Action Plan on Air Quality;
2. To design specific projects in order to improve the quality of air;
3. To complete inventory of emissions and sources of pollutants in the air;
4. Fully functionalize the national air quality monitoring system in order to improve the collection, processing and reporting of data on air quality;
5. Implement the online (real-time) live data reporting system for air quality;
6. Strengthen the technical and institutional capacities for maintenance of the air quality monitoring network, servicing and calibration of equipment as well as the accreditation of the laboratory for air quality;
7. Improve cooperation between monitoring institutions and operators, especially in the process of information flow, processing, reporting and more efficient public information on air quality.

The current solid **waste management** system in Kosovo is environmentally unsustainable.

Kosovo produces tremendous amounts of organic and inorganic waste, which are disposed in the Public Landfills. Among organic waste, discharged to landfill, that are paper, food, glass, plastic etc.

Financial support from the States can have greater impact and a positive effect on increasing the participation of citizens in recycling in Kosovo, thereby increasing household income and at the same time eliminating long-term environmental pollution.

Up to day, there is no public investments in this sector and no incentives for supporting private sector to be strong and developed in the Country.

Based on data from the Statistical Agency of Kosovo, the total amount of waste treated in Kosovo is 429,534 tonnes ore increasing of 20,641 tonnes from the previous year.

In the area of **water quality**, the level of alignment is limited. Lack of ground water monitoring is a problem that requires solutions. In addition, special attention should paid to the development of water infrastructure, establishment of wastewater treatment plants and adaptation to climate change in the water sector. Among key sector priorities are completion of legislation in the water sector and its transpositions with the EU directives and the adaptation of the National Water Strategy.

In 2019, about 89.59% of the population of Kosovo supplied with water through public systems, managed by Regional Water Companies, while about 10.41% of the population did not have access to water services.

In 2019, the total amount of water supply for households, industrial activities and institutions was 62.07 million mW.

Whereas, the supply of households with drinking water has changed from year to year, such as in 2010 it was 41.88 million m³; in 2014, it was 46.72 million m³; while in 2016 it reached 52.33 million mW, while in 2019 62.07 million mW.

Water used for systemic irrigation in agriculture has undergone significant changes from year to year. In 2010, it was 42 million m³; in 2014, it reached 53 million m³, while in 2017 it was 52.62 million m³.

From the data of accumulation lakes it appears that, the total volume of accumulations is 565 million m³.

Data from the publication show that the largest amount of water used on a daily and annual basis as the main source have accumulating lakes and natural resources.

Regarding **nature protection**, main findings and recommendations are:

1. Research and inventory of species and habitats;
2. To design the Red List of fauna of Kosovo; Continuous monitoring of the condition of rare and endangered plant and animal species;
3. Protection of rare and endangered species habitats and preparation of professional justifications for the designation of protected areas of birds and habitats according to the Natura 2000 network; Establishment of management bodies for protected areas;
4. Approval of the Spatial Plan for the National Park "Bjeshkët e Nemuna";
5. Drafting of the Management Plan for the National Park "Bjeshkët e Nemuna";
6. Capacity building of employees in protected areas;
7. Increase of staff in National Institute for the Protection of Nature.

Insufficient enforcement of legislation and polluter accountability is hampering progress in setting up a system for preventing industrial and **chemical** accidents. Mechanisms should established to ensure sustainability of the

operational costs of collection and transport of waste. An operator still needs to nominate for the future hazardous waste storage facility.

Kosovo is not party to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous **Chemicals** and Pesticides in International Trade and the regulatory framework on export and import of hazardous chemicals still needs to be implemented.

The **LAW ON NOISE PROTECTION** approved from the Kosovo Assembly prevent or reduce on prioritized bases, the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure on noise, in environmental. However, the Kosovo Government and Kosovo Assembly needs to developed secondary legislation for Law implementation.

Significant progress is still necessary in important areas such as **flood protection**.

Regarding the strategic framework, the Strategy and Action Plan on **Climate Change** has still not adopted. The level of alignment remains limited.

Kosovo needs to approve the action plan for the **Energy Strategy** 2017-2026 to make operational the policy orientations developed in the already adopted energy strategy. Even if this should address some of the energy and environment problems in the medium term, Kosovo currently continues to rely nearly exclusively on lignite as a source of energy and on two obsolete and polluting coal power plants. As a result, Kosovo is continuing to face heavy air pollution problems and electricity supply shortages.

Some of the basic challenges facing the energy sector in Kosovo include:

1. delays in the construction of new coal-based electricity generation capacities and rehabilitation of existing plants;
2. insufficient generation capacities to cover the peak demand in the winter season;
3. lack of secondary and tertiary power reserves in the system due to lack of flexible generators, since 97% of domestic generation is based on lignite;
4. limited capacities of thermal energy power systems;
5. lack of natural gas infrastructure;
6. significant technical and commercial losses in the electricity distribution network; inability to correctly manage cross-border flows by the transmission system operator (TSO) as a result of obstruction by the Serbian TSO;
7. underuse of energy saving potentials;
8. underuse of potential renewable energy resources;

9. Fundamentals

9.1.Environmental Rights

The Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, in addition to guaranteeing human rights, has also guaranteed environmental rights, such as;

1. The right to live in a healthy environment
2. The right to participate in public consultation
3. The right to be informed
4. The right to compensation in case of environmental damage
5. The right to organize, form associations, organizes gatherings, etc.

Although guaranteed by the Constitution and Laws, the practical implementation of these rights continues to be a challenge. The construction of more than 10 hydropower plants in Kosovo, contrary to the interests of the inhabitants of the areas, is an argument that the interest of businesses is primary in relation to the public interest.

9.2.Environmental Accountability & Governance

The Law on Environmental Protection has defined the duties and obligations of Kosovo institutions in environmental protection:

1. The Assembly and the Government of Kosovo shall ensure the protection of the environment by issuing strategic documents and programs for the protection of the environment from specific areas, provided such strategic documents and programs shall be in conformity with the other provisions of this law.
2. The Ministry of Environment will protect the environment to the point that specifically authorized by this law, the provisions of supplementary normative acts issued by this law within the summary of responsibilities specified in the Law.
3. The municipality may, based on this law, have the duty to exercise responsibility for those environmental issues that arise or are likely to arise in that municipality, in case those issues may taken over, controlled, prevented, financed or managed by that municipality itself.

9.3.Environmental Monitoring

Monitoring of the state of the environment is implemented at the national level, by the Ministry of Environment through the Kosovo Agency for Environmental Protection, which provides permanent monitoring of the environment, the condition and characteristics of nature values, in space and at certain times, monitoring of degradation with the use of natural resources and their impact on human health.

The Agency is also responsible for collecting and systematizing basic data and other environmental indicators, data from entities responsible for pollution and environmental disturbance including water, air, soil, biological diversity, flora and fauna, climatic elements, atmosphere, radiation, as well as harmful and hazardous substances to the environment.

The data collected from the monitoring of the state of the environment constitute public information and are included in the Environmental Protection Information System. This data made known to the public through public media or other forms of public information.

9.4.Fight against Crime to Environment

The Law on Environmental Protection provides for the establishment of the Kosovo Environmental Fund. The Fund will be in a separate financial account within the Kosovo Consolidated Fund.

Funds in the Fund's account will used to improve the environment, minimize concentrations of hazardous pollution, and promote environmental protection.

The fund will funded by:

- (a) Funds from the public specifically addressed to the Kosovo Consolidated Budget Fund;
- (b) Revenues from environmental taxes approved by the Assembly;
- (c) Fines, penalties and taxes authorized by this law and revenues from polluters;
- (d) Any grant or donation specifically dedicated to the Fund.

Although provided by law, this Fund still not established so far.

10. Obligations of Membership

10.1. Energy (Under Chapter 15)

10.1.1. Security of Supply

Renewable Energy Sources (RES) comprise a significant component of the energy sector in Kosovo, as is outlined in the Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo 2017-2026.

The Energy Strategy of Kosovo 2017-2026, has provided the basic objectives in energy sector, such are:

1. Development and promoting the sustainable economic development;
2. Environmental protection; sustainable and reliable energy supply to final customers;
3. Efficient use of energy; development of new conventional and renewable generation capacities,
4. Creation of a competitive market;
5. Development of the gas system and the creation of new jobs in the energy sector.

The Energy Strategy 2017-2026 facilitates the promotion of RES, strengthening further fiscal and financial measures for RES and the legal and regulatory framework.

The energy sector holds an important place in the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA), which entered into force on April 1, 2016. Under this Agreement (Article 114), Kosovo is obliged to fulfil obligations related to the integration of the regional common market, which includes the Energy Community Contracting Parties. Implementation of the energy acquis related to competition in the energy market, protection of the environment, Energy Efficiency (EE), and renewable energy sources is an important set of obligations that Kosovo must fulfil in the energy sector in the near future. The Energy Strategy 2017-2026 is addressing these challenges.

The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) for the period 2011-2020 submitted in 2013, establishing specific sub targets under the main target of 25% and proposing measures for their achievement until 2020. Kosovo decided within the framework of this first version of the NREAP to adopt a second, more ambitious target than the national mandatory overall target for the penetration of RES in the gross final energy consumption for 2020. This was determined in the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community Decision D/2012/04/MC-EnC on implementation of the Directive 2009/28/EC and amending Article 20 of the Energy Community Treaty. The NREAP mentioned that Kosovo intends to fulfil and surpass its national mandatory target through the implementation of national measures for the promotion of RES, without aiming at the exploitation of the various flexible mechanisms for cooperation, such as joint projects and schemes. This second target was set at 29.47% of the expected gross final energy consumption in 2020.

On security of supply, investment and maintenance continue to improve the reliability of the power transmission system. However, the new transmission line to Albania remains non-functional because of lack of implementation of the connection agreement between the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity and the Kosovo Transmissions System Operator. (cfr. section Trans-European networks). While distribution losses are slowly dropping, the speed of investment in the distribution network is not satisfactory. Combined commercial (not paid bills) and technical losses in 2016 were high at 30%. There was no progress in aligning legislation in the area of compulsory oil stocks and obligatory petroleum 72 reserves with the acquis. Current oil stocks estimated to last only four days. Tariffs on petroleum products (lubricants and petrol coke) have been abolished.

10.1.2. Energy Market

As regards the internal energy market, there has been some progress in implementing legislation transposing the Third Energy Package. The regulatory authority began moves towards market opening by adopting the switching rules and by issuing licenses to two new suppliers to operate on the Kosovo market. An EU-based

trader admitted without requiring an additional license. As regards new power generation capacity, the commercial agreement for the new power plant with the bidder has signed in December 2017, but its potential impact on public finances, tariffs and environment still needs to be assessed. Environmental measures are urgently required at the Kosovo B power plant to reduce the level of ash dump in the air and to comply with the emissions reduction plan. According to the Energy Community Secretariat, the postponement of the emissions reduction plan to January 2022 is in breach of Energy Community Treaty provisions. Kosovo has made some progress in partially deregulating the generation price and phasing out cross-subsidies between different categories of customers. However, electricity consumption (nonpaid bills) in the north of Kosovo continues to be treated as a commercial loss, which is recovered under the retail tariffs. The Board of the Energy Regulatory Office is now functional, but the capacity and independence of the Office have been undermined by political interference, low administrative capacity and lack of human resources.

10.1.3. Hydropower

There are currently 14 small hydropower plants operating in Kosovo, built in some mountainous areas, mainly in Law Protected Parks, built in violation of applicable laws, without obtaining the consent of the Municipalities and without the consent of the residents of the areas. Only during 2020 in Kosovo were given approvals and construction permits to 21 Hydropower Plants, which are in various stages of construction. Construction permits issued without any Professional Environmental Assessment, without obtaining the consent of the Municipalities and without consulting the surrounding residents, as provided in the Aarhus Convention for public participation in decision-making in projects of general environmental importance.

During 2020, citizens organized a number of protests where the construction of hydropower plants has begun, such as: Brezovica, Deçan, Peja, Dragash. In all these areas the construction of hydropower plants has affected and will negatively affect their lives, specifically in the reduction of water resources, necessary for livestock cultivation, land irrigation, use of drinking water, etc.

Due to public pressures, numerous protests, numerous articles in the media, pressure from civil society organizations, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning in early 2020 has decided on a Moratorium to continue construction of hydropower plants.

Furthermore, The Kosovo Parliament established the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry on the process of licensing, operation, supervision and application for hydropower permits of the Commission,

10.1.4. Renewable Energy

There was very little progress in the renewable energy sources sector. While the legislation is partially aligned with the acquis, a new electricity market design should be put in place to facilitate integration of renewable energy generation. The auction market for producers remains non-existent.

Legislation still needs to be developed in line with connectivity measures. Kosovo should revise its action plan to get on track to reach the renewable energy target of 25 % in 2020. The level of investment remains minimal despite the existing legal framework for support schemes for energy produced from renewable sources. Kosovo needs to introduce a market-based approach for cost-effective promotion of renewable energy and integration of renewable energy into the market. Connection and access to the transmission and distribution grids remain the main barriers for renewable energy producers due to the inability of the grid operators to deal with intermittent electricity production. There is no regulation for minimum requirements for renewable energy in buildings. There was no progress in meeting the requirements for the use of biofuels in transport.

There are some hydropower plants in Kosovo, but it is a small amount, it is negligible. About 3-4% of the energy, hydropower plants generate production. Kosovo does not have wind, because here only rivers flow and flow out. The energy produced by wind can also not be calculated, because in Kosovo there are no strong winds, except in some high peaks, where the investment is very expensive.

10.1.5. Energy Efficiency

There was some progress on alignment with the energy efficiency acquis, with the adoption in 2017 of a law on energy performance of buildings. However, the new law – linked with the draft Law on the Energy Efficiency Fund – on energy efficiency still need to adopt.

The 2010- 2018 Energy Efficiency Action Plan envisages an energy savings target of 9 %, which seems unlikely.

Kosovo has approved its third energy efficiency action plan. The establishment of the Energy Efficiency Fund remains crucial to ensure more investment in energy efficiency measures in public and residential sectors.

The Kosovo Agency for Energy Efficiency is understaffed and has low capacity to monitor, evaluate and verify progress towards targets. Kosovo is at an early stage of preparing the legal and regulatory framework on nuclear safety and radiation protection.

The Law on Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety adopted. The capacity of the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Agency for licensing and inspections remains weak and its funding is insufficient to implement its mandate.

There is no radiation monitoring (for example of depleted uranium), no control of radioactive waste and no radiological emergency plan. Kosovo is not party to the Convention on Nuclear Safety or the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

10.2. Environment (*Under Chapter 27*)

10.2.1. Horizontal Legislation

Regarding horizontal legislation, further progress needed for full alignment and implementation of the remaining crosscutting environmental directives.

The lack of enforcement of Environmental Liability Directive undermines the effectiveness of environmental protection. Environmental inspectorates lack staff and capacity and are unable to ensure effective enforcement although some efforts have made for alignment with the Environmental Crime Directive.

The strategy on environment still needs to updated and implemented. Implementation of priority measures is undermined by insufficient funding, a lack of administrative capacity and technical skills. The use of environmental and strategic impact assessments needs to improve considerably, especially in industrial sectors such as energy and transport.

Meaningful involvement of the public and civil society is necessary.

10.2.2. Air Quality

Measures to improve air quality still need to adopt. Air quality, particularly in urban areas, continues to pose a major threat to public health. Kosovo's strategy for air quality and the law on ambient air quality continue not to be enforced. Uncontrolled pollution from the energy sector – particularly from the Kosovo B power plant and household heating – but also from industrial complexes, road traffic, and incineration of waste and other toxic materials remains a serious problem. Air quality plans for zones where the levels of pollutants visibly exceed limit values by a wide margin, especially in winter, have still not been prepared and adopted. The air quality monitoring system still needs to provide real-time data to the public. There is a lack of sufficient financial resources and capacity to maintain and calibrate the monitoring equipment. Urgent measures needed to reduce household reliance on lignite heating.

Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning as a responsible authority for the air quality management has completed the legislation in this sector, based on the EU legislation and adapted to the country's socio-economic situation, which includes:

- The Law on the Protection of Air from Pollution, Law no. 03/L-160,
- Administrative Instruction (AI) on Emission Norms in the air by static sources,

- AI on controlling the emission of volatile organic compounds during disposal, dumping, filling and transportation of fuel,
- AI on the criteria for setting up monitoring points, number and frequency of measurements, classification of pollutants which are monitored, methodology of work and data reporting time,
- AI on the air quality norms,
- AI on the permitted norms of emissions in the air by movable pollution sources.

The Strategy on the Air Quality Strategy for the year 2013-2022 is part of the overall program for the protection of environment, which was approved by the Kosovo Assembly on 19.12.2013 no. 04/V-741.

This year, the Action Plan for Air Quality (APAQ) has been prepared.

Kosovo is a member of the Energy Community Treaty-ECT, thus has the obligation to prepare the National Plan for the Reduction of Emissions (NPRE), which has been forwarded to the ECT for approval.

10.2.3. Waste Management

The current solid waste management system in Kosovo is environmentally unsustainable.

The legal framework partially aligned but waste remains one of the most significant problems in 69 Kosovo. Most waste streams end up in legal and illegal landfills. Collection coverage needs to further increase.

The strategy and master plan for waste management 2013-2022 only partly reflected in municipal plans for solid waste. The responsible authorities should take steps towards a circular economy approach, by introducing separation of waste at the source, recycling and recovery of waste streams. The high number of dumpsites needs urgently and sustainably to address.

Most existing landfills are at the end of their storage capacity and pose considerable long-term environmental risk, especially groundwater contamination. This is particularly the case at the Mirash landfill in Obiliq/Obilić.

10.2.4. Water Quality

In the area of water quality, the level of alignment is limited.

A strategy and action plan on water protection have still not been adopted and urgent efforts are required to ensure the functioning of the river basin authority, established in July 2017, including preparation of its management plan. Untreated sewage and discharge remain the main source of pollution.

The groundwater-monitoring network is at an early stage. The system for monitoring surface water is not yet operational.

The identification of agglomerations and the definition of sensitive areas is required, in line with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

Budget funding needs to secure for priority projects in this area. Tariff-rate collection needs to be improved and technical water losses reduced.

10.2.5. Nature protection

On nature protection, there has been no progress on the alignment with the acquis. Effective protection for designated protected areas is not in place.

Illegal construction in protected areas needs to combat effectively. Infrastructure plans need to ensure that nature protection obligations respected, particularly in areas that could potentially become protected Natura 2000 sites. The process of Natura 2000 designation is still at the very beginning due to a lack of technical and staff capacities in relevant institutions.

10.2.6. Industrial pollution and risk management

On industrial pollution and risk management, alignment remains at an early stage.

Insufficient enforcement of legislation and polluter accountability is hampering progress in setting up a system for preventing industrial and chemical accidents.

Hazardous mine waste, and industrial dumpsites continue to pose a serious risk to soil and water. Mechanisms should be established to ensure sustainability of the operational costs of collection and transport of waste. An operator still needs to nominate for the future hazardous waste storage facility.

10.2.7. Chemicals

On chemicals, alignment with the acquis remains at an early stage. Kosovo is not party to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the regulatory framework on export and import of hazardous chemicals still needs to be implemented.

10.2.8. Noise

The secondary legislation for Law on Noise still needs to be adopted. Strategic noise maps and action plans still need to be developed, as well as effective action to implement the law.

10.2.9. Civil Protection

Kosovo is not part of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism; however, Kosovo is a beneficiary of the IPA Civil Protection Cooperation programme since 2010. Significant progress is still necessary in important areas such as flood protection. Kosovo faced difficulties to implement the Aarhus Convention, especially the obligation for public consultation for the investment in environment.

10.2.10. Climate Change

The level of alignment remains limited. Regarding the strategic framework, the Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change still has not been adopted. The Strategy also contains a component on adaptation to climate change.

The National Council for Environment and Climate Change failed to take concrete measures to mainstream climate action and to raise awareness in the public. There is still no evidence of mainstreaming climate change in any of the government projects. This is particularly lacking in energy and transport sectors. Although Kosovo is not a signatory to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and therefore has not prepared an Intended Nationally Determined Contribution to the 2015 Paris Agreement, full implementation of its climate change strategy should help Kosovo reach the low emissions and climate-resilient objectives of the agreement. Regarding the transparency of climate action, responsibility for compiling greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory reports lies with the Kosovo Environment Protection Agency.

Kosovo still has to align with the EU Emissions Trading System. Further efforts should be made in the field of emission standards for new cars and vans, consumer information, fuel quality as well as effort sharing, geological storage of CO₂, land use, land-use change and forestry, ozone depleting substances and fluorinated gases.

11. Concluding notes

As regards alignment with European standards, Kosovo is at an early stage. Legislative alignment has continued in some areas but implementation is weak. Some progress has been made in the area of free movement of goods and services, public procurement and competition as well as in improving the business environment. In the area of taxation and customs, some progress has also been made in collecting revenue and simplifying administrative procedures, but Kosovo should step up the fight against the informal economy and tax evasion. The energy sector continues

to face serious challenges. No progress been achieved to address environmental issues. Overall, Kosovo needs to improve its administrative capacity and coordination, across all sectors, to ensure effective implementation of the acquis.

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