

# CHAPTER 27

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Promote sustainable development and protect the environment for present and future generations



PRESERVING, PROTECTING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

PRUDENT AND RATIONAL UTILISATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PROTECTING HUMAN HEALTH

PROMOTING MEASURES AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL TO DEAL WITH REGIONAL OR WORLDWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, AND IN PARTICULAR COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

### CHAPTER 27 – ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The acquis comprises over 200 major legal acts covering various sectors. For negotiations purposes, EU legal acts are grouped into about 75 main legal acts/groups of legal acts into following subchapters: horizontal, air quality, waste management, water quality, nature protection, industrial pollution control, chemicals, noise and climate change. Chapter 27 also includes civil protection area.

EU environmental policy is realized through the **EU legal system** (acquis). There are two main types of legislation in the EU legal system, regulations and directives. Regulations apply in the whole EU as soon as they are adopted, while directives must be converted into national law. Directives say what we are aiming to achieve but let Member States decide how they want to do it.

#### PREVENTIVE ACTION

EU environmental policy aims to promote sustainable development and protect the environment for present and future generations. It is based on preventive action: the polluter pays principle, fighting environmental damage at source, shared responsibility and the integration of environmental protection into other EU policies.

**DG Environment**, The Environment Directorate General of the European Commission is responsible for EU policy on the environment. It also makes sure that Member States apply EU environmental law correctly. Together with DG Climate Action they are main professional counterparts for Serbian institutions during screening and negotiations.

**NEGOTIATIONS** are held with each candidate country to determine their ability to apply EU legislation (acquis) and examine their possible request for transition periods. To conduct the accession negotiations, EU legislation and standards are divided into 35 chapters which are negotiated one by one. ENVAP is assisting Serbia in preparing to negotiate the Chapter 27 for Environment and Climate Change.

#### STRONG ADMINISTRATION

A strong and well-equipped administration at national, regional and local level is imperative for the application and enforcement of Chapter 27.

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### CHAPTER 27 NEGOTIATIONS

2

BILATERAL  
SCREENING  
MEETING  
17-21 NOVEMBER  
2014

1

EXPLANATORY  
SCREENING  
MEETING  
15-19 SEPTEMBER  
2014

3

ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION TO  
SUPPORT SCREENING  
(POST-SCREENING  
DOCUMENT)  
SEPTEMBER 2015

4

SCREENING  
REPORT WITH  
RECOMMENDATION  
TO OPEN CHAPTER 27  
NEGOTIATIONS  
DECEMBER 2016

6

COMMENTS FROM  
THE EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION ON  
FIRST DRAFT  
NEGOTIATING  
POSITION JULY  
2018

5

FIRST DRAFT  
NEGOTIATING  
POSITION SUBMITTED  
TO THE EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION FOR  
INFORMAL  
CONSULTATIONS  
5 JUNE 2018

7

SECOND DRAFT  
NEGOTIATING  
POSITION  
SUBMITTED TO  
THE EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION FOR  
INFORMAL  
CONSULTATIONS  
DECEMBER 2019

8

OFFICIAL  
NEGOTIATING  
POSITION  
SUBMITTED TO  
THE COUNCIL  
OF THE EU  
JANUARY 2020

10

CHAPTER 27  
OPENED FOR  
NEGOTIATIONS  
14 DECEMBER  
2021

9

DRAFT COMMON  
POSITION ON  
CHAPTER 27  
DEVELOPED AND  
COELA PROCESS  
STARTED END  
2020

11

NEGOTIATIONS,  
ADDENDUM TO  
NEGOTIATING  
POSITION

12

APPROVAL OF EU  
COMMON POSITION  
ON CHAPTER 27  
PRELIMINARY  
CLOSURE OF  
CHAPTER 27

### INVESTMENT DEMANDING

Compliance with the acquis requires significant investment into environmental infrastructure. If extended periods after membership are required, transitional periods must be negotiated. A request for transitional period must be supported by a Directive Specific Implementation Plan – DSIP.

For the process to be a success, politicians must move environment and climate change up their list of priorities. Strong determination will be necessary to address decades of accumulated environmental challenges and the immediate and future challenges posed by climate change.

**ENVIRONMENT ACCESSION PROJECT 4 (ENVAP 4)** is a project funded by The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and carried out by The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency for the period 2022–2026 assisting Serbia and the Ministry of Environmental Protection particularly in preparing to negotiate and comply with Chapter 27 Environment requirements.

