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From: Secretary-General of the European Commission,  
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 5 April 2019

To: Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of  
the European Union

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
REGIONS

Environmental Implementation Review 2019: A Europe that protects its  
citizens and enhances their quality of life

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Delegations will find attached document COM(2019) 149 final - ANNEX.

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ANNEX

ANNEX

*to the*

**THE COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

**Environmental Implementation Review 2019:  
A Europe that protects its citizens and enhances their quality of life**

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## PRIORITY ACTIONS ON BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION

The present Annex summarises the priority actions in the 28 EIR country reports<sup>1</sup>

<i>Priority actions</i>	<i>Member State(s)</i>
<b>Measures towards a circular economy</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the policy framework to speed up the transition towards the circular economy by all economic sectors, for instance for water and energy savings, waste reduction, the recycling of materials and/or the uptake of the secondary raw materials market.</li> </ul>	AT, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EL, EE, ES, HR, HU, IE, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, SK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt circular economy principles that act as incentives for resource efficiency measures and increased recycling; eco-innovation performance; and investments in green products and services.</li> </ul>	AT, CY, EL, HU, IT, MT, NL, RO, SK
<b>Waste management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce new policies, including economic instruments, to implement further the waste hierarchy, i.e. promote prevention, and make reuse and recycling more economically attractive; and/or implement the policies which are already in place.</li> </ul>	AT, BG, CY, DE, DK, EE, FI, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the functioning of Extended Producer Responsibility Systems, in line with the general minimum requirements established in the Waste Framework Directive.</li> </ul>	AT, CY, CZ, EE, EL, ES, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, MT, PL, RO, SI, SK, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shift reusable and recyclable waste away from incineration by gradually phasing out subsidies for incineration or by introducing an incineration tax. Channel those revenues towards measures to improve waste management in line with the waste hierarchy.</li> </ul>	AT, BE, CZ, DE, DK, EE, FI, IE, LT, LU, NL, PL, PT, SE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce and/or gradually increase landfill taxes to phase out landfilling of recyclable and recoverable waste. Harmonise regional landfill taxes. Channel the revenue towards measures to improve waste management in line with the waste hierarchy.</li> </ul>	CY, CZ, EL, ES, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, MT, RO, SI, SK, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on implementation of the the separate collection obligation to increase recycling rates, including collection of bio-waste. Develop and implement minimum service standards and/or support programmes for municipalities.</li> </ul>	BG, CY, CZ, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete and/or update the waste management plan(s) and/or waste prevention programme(s).</li> </ul>	ES, FR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close and rehabilitate non-compliant landfills as a matter of priority.</li> </ul>	BG, CY, EL, ES, IT, PL, RO, SI, SK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid building excessive infrastructure capacity to treat residual waste, such as mechanical biological treatment plants, incinerators and landfills</li> </ul>	CZ, EL, LT, PL, SK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure waste statistics are compatible with Eurostat guidelines. Provide timely waste management data and improve its consistency.</li> </ul>	CZ, IE, SI

<sup>1</sup> The priority actions have been included in each country report in the light of the information available to the European Commission, to ensure equal treatment of all Member States. To enable comparability, all priority actions have been grouped in this Annex by clusters of Member States that received similar recommendations. For this reason, the wording in the Annex may be less specific than in the country reports.

<b>Nature and biodiversity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the Natura 2000 site designation process, including in the marine part, and/or put in place clearly defined conservation objectives and the necessary conservation measures for all Natura 2000 sites, ideally in the framework of site management plans or equivalent instruments.</li> </ul>	AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that Natura 2000 management plans are being effectively implemented with sufficient administrative capacity and financing.</li> </ul>	BG, EE, ES, EL, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, MT, RO, SI, SK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and promote smart and streamlined implementation approaches, in particular for appropriate assessment procedures and species permitting procedures, ensuring the necessary knowledge and data availability and strengthen communication with stakeholders.</li> </ul>	BG, CY, EE, EL, HU, IT, LT, PT, RO, SI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the appropriate enforcement of hunting and/or trapping bans for protected bird species.</li> </ul>	CY, ES, IT, MT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better integrate biodiversity concerns into other policies (in particular in agriculture, but also in fisheries, urban and infrastructure planning and sustainable tourism) and promote better communication between actors. Where relevant, avoid further habitat fragmentation and take measures to restore connectivity.</li> </ul>	CZ, DE, DK, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, LU, NL, PT, SK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the incentives for foresters and farmers to better protect forest and grassland habitat. Ensure sustainable forest management and promote the efficient use of biomass.</li> </ul>	FI, LT, LV, PL, SE, SK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support the ongoing work on a sustainable partnership for biodiversity protection, sustainable development and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in some of the Outermost Regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories.</li> </ul>	FR, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue supporting the mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services, evaluation and development of natural capital accounting systems.</li> </ul>	AT, BE, CZ, DK, EE, HU, PT, SE, SK
<b>Invasive alien species</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt national legislation to comply with obligations required by the IAS Regulation and notify the Commission in this regard. Provide adequate data.</li> </ul>	AT, BE, CZ, EL, IE, PT, RO, SE, SK, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notify the list of invasive alien species and/or the planned eradication measures in the country. Introduce measures when they do not exist. Where applicable, investigate the apparent lack of data and seek ways of improving the surveillance system.</li> </ul>	CZ, DE, DK, EL, ES, FR, HU, PT
<b>Marine protection<sup>2</sup></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure timely reporting of the different elements under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive to be part of future Commission assessments.</li> </ul>	DK, EE, EL, HR, LT, RO, SI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define good environmental status (GES) and/or determine the timelines for achieving GES. Set targets when these do not exist.</li> </ul>	BG, DE, ES, FI, IE, IT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide more information about measures to achieve GES, establish more measures with a direct impact on pressures and quantify the result in terms of expected reduction of pressure.</li> </ul>	BE, BG, CY, DE, ES, FR, IE, IT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure regional cooperation with Member States sharing the same marine (sub)region to address predominant pressures.</li> </ul>	BE, BG, CY, DE, ES, FI, IE, IT, LV, PT, SE, UK

<sup>2</sup> Several Member States were late in reporting their measures to comply with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. For these countries, only the first priority action applies, because data is insufficient to assess progress since 2017 and outline new challenges.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the Member State's monitoring programme is implemented without delay, and is reported by the set deadline</li> </ul>	BG, CY, ES, FR, IE, IT, LV, MT, PL, UK
<b>Air quality</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In developing adequate national air pollution control programmes (NAPCP), take actions towards reducing the main emission sources; and meet all air quality standards.</li> </ul>	All Member States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accelerate reductions in emissions and concentrations of particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>) by reducing emissions from energy production and from heat generation using solid fuels. Promote efficient and clean district heating and energy efficient built environment.</li> </ul>	AT, BG, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FR, HR, HU, IT, PL, RO, SE, SI, SK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the use of coal for domestic heating in order to limit emissions of air pollutants, for instance by building on the 'Coal regions in transition' initiative.</li> </ul>	BG, CZ, EL, HU, PL, RO, SK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speed up reductions in emissions of nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations by further reducing transport emissions, in particular in urban areas. This may also require proportionate and targeted restrictions on vehicle access to urban areas and/or fiscal incentives.</li> </ul>	AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LU, NL, PL, PT, RO, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) emissions, for example by introducing or expanding the use of low-emission agricultural techniques.</li> </ul>	AT, DE, DK, ES, HR, IE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce emissions of Non-methane volatile organic compounds, NMVOCs (where applicable, to comply with currently applicable national emission ceilings).</li> </ul>	DE, HU, IE, LU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade and improve the air quality monitoring network, and ensure timely reporting of air quality data.</li> </ul>	BE, BG, EL, IT, LU, RO, SI, SK
<b>Industrial emissions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review permits and strengthen control and/or enforcement to comply with newly adopted BAT conclusions.</li> </ul>	All Member States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address air and/or water pollution linked to emissions from installations in one or more of the following sectors: power, intensive rearing of poultry and pigs, waste treatment activities, iron and steel plants.</li> </ul>	BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, HR, HU, IE, IT, LU, LV, NL, PT, RO, SK, UK
<b>Noise</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete missing noise action plans.</li> </ul>	BE, CY, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FR, IT, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete missing noise maps.</li> </ul>	BE, EL, ES, IT, PT, RO, SK
<b>Water quality and management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve monitoring and assessment of all relevant quality elements in all water categories in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.</li> </ul>	BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, FI, HR, HU, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure timely adoption and/or reporting of the river basin management plans in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.</li> </ul>	AT, ES, EL, IE, LT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure timely adoption of the flood risk management plans in accordance with the Floods Directive.</li> </ul>	ES, EL, IE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that water pollution from agriculture, among other sectors, is effectively addressed under the Nitrates and/or Water Framework Directives.</li> </ul>	AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, IT, LT, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take further measures to address chemical pollution (developing a more substance-specific approach/ensure the programmes of measures is based on reliable assessment of the pressures).</li> </ul>	BE, NL

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take further measures to ensure good quantitative status/ecological flows in accordance with the Water Framework Directive (incl. ensuring abstractions are subject to effective permits, metering and controls).</li> </ul>	CY, ES, HU, IT, MT, PL, PT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take steps in order to ensure the implementation of measures to address hydromorphological pressures.</li> </ul>	SI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take steps to harmonise different regional approaches, in particular for the definition of the significance of pressures in relation to the Water Framework Directive.</li> </ul>	IT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that projects, which potentially can affect the status of water bodies, are thoroughly assessed and justified in line with the requirements the Water Framework Directive (Article 4(7)).</li> </ul>	BG, LU, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take steps to reinforce the aspect of public participation and the active involvement of stakeholders (river basin management plans/flood risk management plans).</li> </ul>	NL, SI, SK, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take steps to clarify the method for prioritising measures, including the use of cost/benefit analysis in relation to the flood risk management plans.</li> </ul>	AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, EE, ES, HR, HU, LU, LV, MT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take steps to systematically consider implementing nature-based solutions to support the reduction of flood risks.</li> </ul>	CY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take steps to reinforce climate change considerations in the flood risk management plans including coordination with the national climate change adaptation strategy.</li> </ul>	FI, IT, LV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take steps to improve the integration of the flood risk management cycle's successive steps into the flood risk management plan.</li> </ul>	DK, FR, PL, PT, RO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take steps to reinforce coordination between flood risk management plans and the river basin management plans.</li> </ul>	SE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take steps to clarify the legal status of the flood risk management plan.</li> </ul>	LT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urgently complete implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment (UWWT) Directive for all agglomerations. Continue to prioritise the investments for UWWT plants, including through an efficient use of EU funds where available.</li> </ul>	BG, CY, EL, ES, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK
<b>Environmental funding and investments</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure adequate funding, including by mobilising investments and using EU funds, to tackle the main environmental challenges affecting the country.</li> </ul>	AT, BG, DE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IT, LU, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the capacity to use EU funds for the environment effectively, including to prepare for the next financing period 2021-2027.</li> </ul>	CZ, EE, EL, HR, LT, LV, PL, RO, SK
<b>Information, public participation and access to justice</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve access to spatial data and services by making stronger linkages between the country INSPIRE portals, identify and document all spatial datasets required to implement environmental law, and make the data and documentation at least accessible 'as is' to other public authorities and the public through the digital services envisaged in the INSPIRE Directive.</li> </ul>	All Member States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate public participation in the implementation of EU environmental legislation.</li> </ul>	BE, CZ, HU, LT, PL, RO, SI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that there is legal standing for environmental NGOs to bring legal challenges on environmental issues, where relevant without facing prohibitive costs.</li> </ul>	BG, CY, FI, HR, HU, IE, LT, LU, MT, PL, RO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better inform the public about their access to justice rights.</li> </ul>	AT, BE, CY, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, IE, IT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PT, RO, SE, SK, UK

<b>Compliance assurance</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better inform the public about compliance promotion, monitoring and enforcement.</li> </ul>	All Member States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure more information on how professionals dealing with environmental crime work together.</li> </ul>	AT, BE, BG, DK, EL, HR, HU, IE, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, SE, SI, SK, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve financial security for Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) liabilities and/or ELD guidance, and/or the collection and publication of information on environmental damage.</li> </ul>	AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, RO, SE, SI, SK, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish information on the outcome of enforcement action and on the follow-up to detected cross-compliance breaches on nitrates and nature.</li> </ul>	AT, BE, BG, CY, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK, SI, UK
<b>Effectiveness of environmental administrations</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further improve the overall environmental governance (such as transparency, citizen engagement, compliance and enforcement as well as administrative capacity and coordination).</li> </ul>	All Member States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete transposition of the revised Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive.</li> </ul>	DE, LT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address the fragmentation at regional and local levels by developing better coordination mechanisms for the environment.</li> </ul>	EL, ES, IT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue making efforts to streamline environmental assessment procedures.</li> </ul>	BE, CZ, HR
<b>International agreements</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Become parties to relevant multilateral environmental agreements by signing and ratifying the remaining ones.</li> </ul>	AT, BE, CY, CZ, EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, LT, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK