



# WECOOP NEWS BULLETIN

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### European Union – Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation (WECOOP)

The EU renewed the project “**European Union – Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation (WECOOP)**” in October 2019 to run for three years. The project will continue strengthening the policy dialogue on sustainable development between the CA partner countries, and to facilitate their cooperation with the EU on environment and climate change. Specifically, the project efforts will be focused on improving and rationalising policies and enhancing the capacities of national ministries and government agencies working in the relevant fields.

The WECOOP project aims to enhance environment, climate change and water policies in Central Asia through **approximation to EU standards** and **to promote green investments** in relevant sectors with the aim of contributing to measurable reductions in man-made pollution, including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**Priority areas** for consultations and cooperation include **environmental governance, circular economy** and **sustainable consumption and production, climate change adaptation and mitigation** and **water resources management**.

The WECOOP News Bulletin provides brief information on the recent developments in EU policies and legislation, as well as on new relevant reports and studies published by the European Environment Agency, OECD or other specialized agencies (UNEP, UNECE, WHO).

The present issue of WECOOP News Bulletin is mainly focused on the follow up activities to the European Green Deal.

Detailed information on the WECOOP project is available at the project website <https://wecoop.eu>.

## 2. EU POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

### 2.1. NEW EU POLICIES

#### DRAFT ENVIRONMENT ACTION PROGRAMME TO 2030

The European Commission published a proposal for an **8th Environment Action Programme (EAP)** on 14 October 2020 which supports the environment and climate action objectives of **the European Green Deal**. It provides an opportunity for the EU as a whole to reiterate our commitment to the 7th EAP's 2050 vision: we want to ensure wellbeing for all, while staying within the planetary boundaries.

The 8th EAP proposal calls for active engagement of all stakeholders at all levels of governance, to ensure that EU climate and environment laws are effectively implemented. It forms the EU's basis for achieving the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The proposal for an 8th EAP aims to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient and regenerative economy, which gives back to the planet more than it takes. It recognises that human wellbeing and prosperity depend on the healthy ecosystems within which we operate.

Building on **the European Green Deal**, it has the following **six priority objectives**:

- achieving the 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target and climate neutrality by 2050
- enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change
- advancing towards a regenerative growth model, decoupling economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation, and accelerating the transition to a circular economy
- pursuing a zero-pollution ambition, including for air, water and soil and protecting the health and well-being of Europeans
- protecting, preserving and restoring biodiversity, and enhancing natural capital (notably air, water, soil, and forest, freshwater, wetland and marine ecosystems)
- reducing environmental and climate pressures related to production and consumption (particularly in the areas of energy, industrial development, buildings and infrastructure, mobility and the food system)

Document (English): **Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2030** (COM(2020) 652 final)

Link: <https://europa.eu/!nG34Dk>

### EUROPEAN CLIMATE PACT

The solutions outlined in **the European Green Deal** can only succeed if people, communities and organisations are all involved and take action. The Climate Pact is an opportunity for them to participate in climate action across Europe to learn about climate change, to develop and implement solutions and to connect with others and maximise the impact of the e-solutions. As part of the European Green Deal, the Pact aims to become a lively space to share information, debate and act on the climate crisis, and offer support for a European climate movement to grow and consolidate. Anyone can be part of the European Climate Pact. In fact, the European Commission encourages all to participate in any way they can! There will be many ways to take part:

- to become a Climate Pact Ambassador
- to take climate-friendly action and make a pledge
- to register a satellite event

Links (English):

- European Climate Pact – homepage: [https://europa.eu/climate-pact/about\\_en](https://europa.eu/climate-pact/about_en)
- Communication on the European Climate Pact (COM(2020) 788 final): <https://europa.eu/!Nf99fg>

### EU METHANE STRATEGY

Reducing methane emissions is **one of the priority initiatives in the European Green Deal** and the EU's methane strategy shows promising potential to boost EU efforts towards key climate objectives, such as an increased ambition on greenhouse gas reduction. **The EU strategy to reduce methane emissions** (COM (2020) 663 final), published in October 2020, aims to curb temperature pathways to 2050, improve air quality and reinforce the EU's global leadership in the fight against climate change. The strategy will focus on reducing methane emissions in the energy, agriculture and waste sectors, as these areas account for almost the entirety of anthropogenic methane emissions.





This cross-sectoral approach will take targeted action in each area whilst using synergies across sectors, for example through production of biomethane. As methane emissions transcend national borders, the European Green Deal also stresses the need for international collaboration, including through engagement with third countries and multilateral initiatives.

Link: <https://europa.eu/!vc98HY>

## EU BUILDINGS RENOVATION STRATEGY

A refurbished and improved building stock in the EU will help pave the way for a decarbonised and clean energy system, as the building sector is one of the largest energy consumers in Europe and is responsible for more than one third of the EU's emissions. But only 1% of buildings undergo energy efficient renovation every year, so effective action is crucial to making Europe climate-neutral by 2050. Currently, roughly 75% of the building stock is energy inefficient, yet almost 85-95% of today's buildings will still be in use in 2050.

To pursue this ambition of energy gains and economic growth, the Commission published on 14 October 2020 a new strategy to boost renovation called "**A Renovation Wave for Europe – Greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives**" (COM(2020) 662). It aims to double annual energy renovation rates in the next 10 years. These renovations will enhance the quality of life for people living in and using the buildings, reduce Europe's greenhouse gas emissions, and create up to 160,000 additional green jobs in the construction sector.

Link: <https://europa.eu/!TU38KH>

## EU STRATEGY ON OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

Offshore renewable energy consists of many different sources that are abundant, natural and clean, like wind, wave and tidal. These avoid some of the challenges that onshore renewables face – hills, buildings, roads or other human activities which make it difficult to connect to the grid – even if they face additional challenges, such as competition to sea space access. The energy of the oceans can be harnessed by modern technologies without emitting any greenhouse gases, making offshore renewable energy a potential cornerstone of the clean energy transition in the EU. The EU strives to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, as emphasised in the European Green Deal, and offshore renewables is therefore of key importance.

To ensure that offshore renewable energy can help reach the EU's ambitious energy and climate targets, the Commission published a dedicated **EU Strategy to harness the potential of offshore renewable energy for a climate neutral future** (COM(2020)741) on 19 November 2020 that assesses its potential contribution and proposes ways forward to support the long-term sustainable development of this sector.

Link: <https://europa.eu/!gq67Kn>

## EU CHEMICALS STRATEGY

Chemicals are essential for the well-being, high living standards and comfort of modern society. They are used in many sectors, including health, energy, mobility and housing. However, most chemicals have hazardous properties which can harm the environment and human health.

The EU already has sophisticated chemicals laws in place, but global chemicals production is expected to double by 2030. The already widespread use of chemicals will also increase, including in consumer products. The European Commission published the **Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Towards a Toxic-Free Environment** (COM/2020/667 final) on 14 October 2020. It is part of the EU's zero pollution ambition, which is a key commitment of the European Green Deal.

Link: <https://europa.eu/!Vt94Yr>

## A FARM TO FORK STRATEGY

A healthier and more sustainable EU food system is a cornerstone of the European Green Deal. **A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system** (COM/2020/381 final) includes the following objectives:

- Make sure Europeans have access to healthy, affordable and sustainable food
- Tackle climate change
- Protect the environment and preserve biodiversity
- Ensure a fair economic return in the supply chain
- Increase organic farming

Document: <https://europa.eu/!rt73kQ>

## 2.2. NEW EU LEGISLATION IN PROGRESS

### NEW BATTERIES REGULATION

The proposal is the first initiative among the actions announced in the new Circular Economy Action Plan. Batteries that are more sustainable throughout their life cycle are key for the goals of the European Green Deal and contribute to the zero pollution ambition. They promote competitive sustainability and are necessary for green transport, clean energy and to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

Batteries placed on the EU market should become sustainable, high-performing and safe all along their entire life cycle. Batteries have to be long-lasting and safe, and at the end of their life, they should be repurposed, remanufactured or recycled, feeding valuable materials back into the economy.

The Commission proposes **mandatory requirements for all batteries** (i.e. industrial, automotive, electric vehicle and portable) **placed on the EU market**.

Requirements (responsibly sourced materials with restricted use of hazardous substances, maximum content of recycled materials, performance and durability and labelling) as well as meeting collection and recycling targets, are essential for the development of more sustainable and competitive battery industry across Europe and around the world.

The measures that the Commission proposes will facilitate achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Better and more performant batteries will make a key contribution to the electrification of road transport, which will significantly reduce its emissions, increase the uptake of electric vehicles and facilitate a higher share of renewable sources in the EU energy mix.

With this proposal, the Commission also aims to boost the circular economy of the battery value chains and promote more efficient use of resources with the aim of minimising the environmental impact of batteries. **From 1 July 2024, only rechargeable industrial and electric vehicles batteries for which a carbon footprint declaration has been established, can be placed on the market.**

To close the loop and maintain valuable materials used in batteries for as long as possible in the European economy, the Commission proposes to establish new requirements and targets on the content of recycled materials and collection, treatment and recycling of batteries at the end-of-life part. This would make sure that industrial, automotive or electric vehicle batteries are not lost to the economy after their useful service life.

To significantly improve the collection and recycling of portable batteries, the current figure of 45% collection rate should rise to 65 % in 2025 and 70% in 2030 so that the materials of batteries we use at home are not lost for the economy. Other batteries – industrial, automotive or electric vehicle ones – have to be collected in full. All collected batteries have to be recycled and high levels of recovery have to be achieved, in particular of valuable materials such as cobalt, lithium, nickel and lead.

The proposed regulation defines a framework that will facilitate the repurposing of batteries from electric vehicles so that they can have a second life, for example as stationary energy storage systems, or integration into electricity grids as energy resources.

With its new battery sustainability standards, the Commission will also promote globally the green transition and establish a blueprint for further initiatives under its sustainable product policy.

Document: **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning batteries and waste batteries, repealing Directive 2006/66/EC and amending Regulation (EU) No 2019/1020** (COM(2020) 798/3)

Document (English): <https://europa.eu/!ry77PF>  
Annexes (English): [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/batteries/pdf/Annexes-Proposal\\_for\\_a\\_Regulation\\_on\\_batteries\\_and\\_waste\\_batteries.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/batteries/pdf/Annexes-Proposal_for_a_Regulation_on_batteries_and_waste_batteries.pdf)

## 2.3. NEW EU LEGISLATION IN FORCE

### BAT CONCLUSIONS FOR SURFACE TREATMENT USING ORGANIC SOLVENTS INCLUDING PRESERVATION OF WOOD AND WOOD PRODUCTS WITH CHEMICALS

These BAT conclusions concern the following activities specified in Annex I to Directive 2010/75/EU:

- 6.7: Surface treatment of substances, objects or products using organic solvents, in particular for dressing, printing, coating, degreasing, waterproofing, sizing, painting, cleaning or impregnating, with an organic solvent consumption capacity of more than 150 kg per hour or more than 200 tonnes per year.
- 6.10: Preservation of wood and wood products with chemicals with a production capacity exceeding 75 m<sup>3</sup> per day other than exclusively treating against sapstain.
- 6.11: Independently operated treatment of waste water not covered by Directive 91/271/EEC provided that the main pollutant load originates from activities specified in point 6.7 or 6.10 of Annex I to Directive 2010/75/EU.

These BAT conclusions lay down:

- General BATs
- BATs for particular activities
- BAT associated emission levels (BAT-AELs) to air (VOC, NOx, CO, PAH, dust)
- BAT associated emission levels (BAT-AELs) to water (AOX, TSS, COD, F, Ni, Zn, Cr)
- Specific energy consumption (energy efficiency) levels associated with the best available techniques (BAT-AEPLs)
- Specific water consumption levels associated with the best available techniques (BAT-AEPLs)
- Indicative levels for specific waste quantity sent off site

Operators of relevant installations will have to achieve compliance with the requirements of these BAT conclusions till 20 November 2024.



Document: **Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/2009** of 22 June 2020 establishing the best available techniques (BAT) conclusions, under Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on industrial emissions, for surface treatment using organic solvents including preservation of wood and wood products with chemicals (notified under document C(2020) 4050)

Link (English): [http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec\\_impl/2020/2009/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2020/2009/oj)

## NEW DRINKING WATER DIRECTIVE

This Directive concerns the quality of water intended for human consumption for all in the Union. The objectives of this Directive are to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean, and to improve access to water intended for human consumption.

For the purposes of the minimum requirements of this Directive, water intended for human consumption shall be wholesome and clean if all the following requirements are met:

- a) that water is free from any micro-organisms and parasites and from any substances which, in numbers or concentrations, constitute a potential danger to human health;
- b) that water meets the minimum requirements set out in Parts A, B and D of Annex I to this Directive.

Document: **Directive (EU) 2020/2184** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption

Link (English): <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2020/2184/oj>

## 3. REPORTS AND STUDIES

### 3.1. EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

**Trends and projections in Europe 2020. Tracking progress towards Europe's climate and energy targets.** EEA Report No 13/2020

Link (English): <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/trends-and-projections-in-europe-2020>

**Air quality in Europe — 2020 report.** EEA Report No 09/2020

Link (English): <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/air-quality-in-europe-2020-report>

**Water availability, surface water quality and water use in the Eastern Partnership countries. An indicator-based assessment.** EEA Report No 14/2020

Link (English): <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/regional-water-report>

**EEA SIGNALS 2020. Towards zero pollution in Europe**

Link (English): <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/signals-2020>

**Urban adaptation in Europe: how cities and towns respond to climate change.** EEA Report No 12/2020

Link (English): <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/urban-adaptation-in-europe>

## 3.2 ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

**Addressing the COVID-19 and climate crises. Potential economic recovery pathways and their implications for climate change mitigation, NDCs and broader socio-economic goals.** Climate Change Expert Group Paper No.2020(4)

Link (English): <https://doi.org/10.1787/50abd39c-en>  
**Climate Policy Leadership in an Interconnected World. What Role for Border Carbon Adjustments?**

Link (English): <https://doi.org/10.1787/8008e7f4-en>

**Strengthening Adaptation-Mitigation Linkages for a Low-Carbon, Climate Resilient Future.** POLICY PERSPECTIVES. OECD ENVIRONMENT POLICY PAPER NO. 23

Link (English): <https://doi.org/10.1787/6d79ff6a-en>

**Mobilising institutional investor capital for climate-aligned development.** OECD DEVELOPMENT POLICY PAPERS January 2021 No. 35

Link (English): <https://doi.org/10.1787/e72d7e89-en>

## 3.3 UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE)

**3rd Environmental Performance Review of Uzbekistan**

Link (English, Russian): <https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/3rd-environmental-performance-review-uzbekistan>

## 3.4. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

**Emissions Gap Report 2020: An Inflection Point**

Link (English):

<https://www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report-2020>

Link (Russian): <https://www.unep.org/ru/emissions-gap-report-2020>

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