

ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE

WORK PROGRAMME

Version of December 2023

As of 1 January 2024, the work of the Task Force shall be split into two work streams, addressing issues related to:

- Permitting and planning (Subgroup A)
- Emissions and air quality (Subgroup B)

The activities related to the mandate of the Task Force shall be related to one of these work streams.

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE TASK FORCE MANDATE:

NO.	ACTIVITY	SUBGROUP	DEADLINE	ACTIVITIES (DETAILS)	DELIVERABLE	TASK LEADER	REMARKS
Meetings							
1.	27 th Task Force meeting	Subgroup A – Permitting and planning	April 2024 (one day, physical meeting)	Policy Guidelines on planning and permitting of energy projects in the Energy Community	Conclusions and Policy Guidelines	ECS	
2.	28 th Task Force meeting	Subgroup B – Emissions and air quality	September 2024 (one day, physical meeting)		Conclusions and air quality monitoring guidelines	ECS	

3.	29 th Task Force meeting	Subgroup A – Permitting and planning	April 2025 (one day, physical meeting)	SEA NECP Spatial planning of Renewable Energy Acceleration Areas	Conclusions and SEA	ECS	
4.	30 th Task Force meeting	Subgroup B – Emissions and air quality	September 2025 (one day, physical meeting)		Air quality report	ECS	
Implementation report							
1.	Submission of questionnaires for 2024 Implementation Report	N/A	May 2024	Task Force members are required to report on developments and current status on the transposition and implementation of all pieces of the environmental <i>acquis</i> .	Filled-in questionnaire	Contracting Parties	
2.	Input gathering for 2024 Implementation Report	N/A	June 2024	One day – online meeting CSO representatives are invited to share and elaborate on concerns on transposition and implementation of all pieces of the environmental <i>acquis</i>	Recording of meeting	CSOs	
3.	Submission of questionnaires for	N/A	May 2025	Task Force members are required to report on developments and	Filled-in questionnaire	Contracting Parties	

	2025 Implementation Report			current status on the transposition and implementation of all pieces of the environmental <i>acquis</i> .			
4.	Input gathering for 2025 Implementation Report	N/A	June 2025	One day – online meeting CSO representatives are invited to share and elaborate on concerns on transposition and implementation of all pieces of the environmental <i>acquis</i>	Recording of meeting	CSOs	
Theme: Emissions into the air							
1.	Clean Air Regions - deployment of community monitoring devices	Subgroup B – Emissions and air quality	From January 2024 onwards	The Secretariat will start with the deployment of community-based monitoring devices in Q1 of 2024.	Devices deployed	ECS	In cooperation with participating municipalities
2.	Reporting of 2023 emissions	Subgroup B – Emissions and air quality	March 2024	Contracting Parties to report their emissions data for the reporting year 2023 to the online database of the European Environment Agency.	Reporting data submitted	Contracting Parties	ECS assistance where necessary
3.	Preparation of summary report of emissions from LCPs in the 2023 reporting year	Subgroup B – Emissions and air quality	May 2024	The Secretariat will compile and assess the information reported by Contracting Parties in the 2023 reporting round (period covered: 1) Summary report	ECS	

				January 2023 – 31 December 2023), also in light of NERP implementation.			
4.	Clean Air Regions – stocktaking on the deployment of monitoring devices	Subgroup B – Emissions and air quality	June 2024	The results are expected to come in from Q2 2024 onwards from selected municipalities.	Workshop	Participating municipalities	ECS assistance
5.	Clean Air Regions – workshop on first results on experience with monitoring devices	Subgroup B – Emissions and air quality	September 2024	Evaluation of results + potential data integration with other systems (in particular household heating cadaster)	Workshop	Participating municipalities (Pilot showcase)	ECS assistance
6.	Stocktaking on MCPs	Subgroup B – Emissions and air quality	December 2024	Information necessary for assessing the magnitude and current status of plants that would be concerned by the MCP Directive in the Contracting Parties	Information on the number of MCPs in the Contracting Party	Contracting Parties	ECS assistance/study on data compilation
7.	Clean Air Regions – workshop on first experiences with measures (household heating)	Subgroup B – Emissions and air quality	December 2024	Evaluation of experience with / results delivered by the implemented measures in the heating sector	Workshop	Participating municipalities	ECS assistance
8.	Reporting of 2024 emissions	Subgroup B – Emissions and air quality	March 2025	Contracting Parties to report their emissions data for the reporting year 2021 to the online database of the	Reporting data submitted	Contracting Parties	ECS assistance where necessary

				European Environment Agency.			
9.	Clean Air Regions – workshop on experiences with measures (dedicated to traffic)	Subgroup B – Emissions and air quality	March 2025	Evaluation of experience with / results delivered by the implemented measures in the traffic sector	Workshop	Participating municipalities	ECS assistance
10.	Preparation of summary report of emissions from LCPs in the 2024 reporting year	Subgroup B – Emissions and air quality	May 2025	The Secretariat will compile and assess the information reported by Contracting Parties in the 2023 reporting round (period covered: 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023), also in light of NERP implementation.	Summary report	ECS	
10.	Clean Air Regions – final evaluation workshop of CARI2.0	Subgroup B – Emissions and air quality	June 2025	Evaluation of the CARI2.0	Workshop + report	ECS	
Theme: Permitting and Planning projects (EIA & SEA)							
1.	Environmental impact assessment	Subgroup A – Permitting and planning	Continuous	The Task Force has to continuously take stock of the status of Network Energy-related EIAs in the Contracting Parties and also has to follow the work under the Aarhus Convention.	Information to be provided by Task Force members.	Contracting Parties	

2.	Strategic environmental assessment	Subgroup A – Permitting and planning	Continuous	The Task Force has to continuously take stock of the status of Network Energy-related SEAs in the Contracting Parties.	Information to be provided by Task Force members.	Contracting Parties	
3.	Assist in drafting EIA legislation	Subgroup A – Permitting and planning	Continuous	<p>Breach has been established under Article 91 of the Energy Community Treaty for not transposing the Directive 2014/52/EU for the following CP: Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Serbia and Moldova.</p> <p>The Secretariat will closely cooperate and assist the CPs in the preparation of new legislation.</p> <p>The Secretariat will continue its communication with Albania, Ukraine and BiH concerning the identified shortcomings in the EIA legislation.</p>		ECS	
4.	<p>Blueprints for Renewable Energy Acceleration Areas (PV and wind)</p> <p>MoU with CP and developing concept</p>	Subgroup A – Permitting and planning	February 2024 – July 2024	The Secretariat in cooperation with TNC will develop 7 models for the development of the Renewable Energy (RE) Acceleration Areas. The blueprint models will be	Operational Blueprint for RE Acceleration Areas with at least 7 options	ECS/TNC	

	notes for establishing Renewable Energy Acceleration Areas			then presented and discussed with the CP. All CPs will have the opportunity to express interest in developing RE Acceleration Areas	Joint meeting and at least three follow-up cluster meetings RE Acceleration Areas concept note proposals		
5.	Execution of concept notes (pilot projects)	Subgroup A – Permitting and planning	July 2024 – December 2025	<p>Secretariat will sign MoU with interested CP, set a core group with competent authorities and develop detailed working programme.</p> <p>The Secretariat in cooperation with TNC will also organise at least one training for the CPs authorities to increase the capacity on RE Acceleration Areas</p> <p>The Secretariat in cooperation with the CP and TNC will organise joint meeting to discuss and matching RE Acceleration Areas with financial support.</p>	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and 2 RES Acceleration Area Working Group	ECS/TNC in cooperation with the CPs	
6.	Streamline project permitting	Subgroup A – Permitting and planning	(I phase) February 2024 – July 2024, 6 months (II phase)	In cooperation with the CPs and TNC, the Secretariat will develop Protocol on digitalization and simplified notification and organize		ECS/TNC in cooperation with the CPs	

			January 2025 – June 2025	a Mock case one stop-shop for RE project.			
Other							
1.	Updates to existing pieces of EU environmental law covered by the Energy Community Treaty and proposal for new environmental acquis	N/A	January 2024 – December 2025	<p>EU legislation on wild birds has significantly advanced since the adoption of the Energy Community Treaty. The Treaty, however, still covers this directive in its 2006 form and to a very limited extent. The Habitats Directive which mandates the Appropriate Assessment mechanism is not yet part of the Energy Community Treaty acquis.</p> <p>The Air Quality Directive has prominent links to air pollution arising from the energy sector.</p> <p>Certain provisions of the Water Framework Directive bear direct relevance for hydropower.</p>	Proposal for Ministerial Council decisions	COM	With ECS assistance

				The Medium Combustion Plants (MCP) Directive has direct relevance for Network Energy.			
2.	Transposition assistance in case of adoption of new acquis	Based on topic	January 2024 – December 2025	Same as above	Draft legislation	ECS / CPs	