



Strategic Plan 2016-2020*

DG ENVIRONMENT

*The current Commission's term of office runs until 31 October 2019. New political orientations provided by the incoming Commission for the subsequent period will be appropriately reflected in the strategic planning process.

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PART 1. Strategic vision for 2016-2020

A. Mission statement

DG Environment's mission follows from the General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020¹ (7th EAP) 'Living well, within the limits of our planet':

To develop and facilitate the implementation of policies and legislation that contribute to enabling EU citizens to live well, within the planet's ecological limits, based on an innovative, circular economy, where biodiversity is protected, valued and restored and environment-related health risks are minimized in ways to enhance our society's resilience, and where growth has been decoupled from resource use.

B. Operating context

The Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)² established that the EU shall pursue a policy in the field of environment with objectives to

*According to the Treaties, EU environment policy shall pursue the objectives to **preserve, protect and improve** the quality of the environment, protect human health and promote prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources.*

preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment, protect human health, and promote prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources. The Treaties provide for EU environmental policy to build on the principles of preventive action, rectification of pollution at source, precaution and polluter pays, and to embed an environmental dimension into other policies.

Environmental policy is an area of shared competence between the EU and the Member States. For some type of environmental problems, action at national, regional or local level is sufficient, in line with the principle of subsidiarity. However, many forms of environmental degradation span national borders so addressing them at EU rather than national level is more effective. In addition, common solutions may also be necessary to promote a more level-playing field and fairer competition for companies across the single market. At global and regional levels environmental challenges can be best addressed through international co-operation. The EU can influence international governance in order to address these challenges and most successfully when it acts with one voice.

With its human and financial resources DG Environment aims to develop and implement an environmental policy framework that responds to environmental challenges within the EU and beyond, and which will create new business opportunities, stimulate jobs and growth and improve the sustainability of economic processes and the health and well-being of citizens and avoid financial and social costs associated with pollution and catastrophe.

A significant part of EU environmental policy is regulatory in nature. Legislation is proposed by the Commission following input from various stakeholders and rigorous impact assessment. The end result depends on the final shape in which the European Parliament and the Council adopt it and the way it is implemented by the Member States. Implementation involves multi-level governance, with public and private

*A significant part of EU environmental policy is regulatory in nature and its implementation involves **multi-level governance**, with public and private bodies from the local to the EU level all having a role to play.*

¹ Decision No 1386/2013/EU on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 'Living well, within the limits of our planet'

² Articles 3 and 17 of TEU and Articles 11, 49, 191-193, 208 and 209 of TFEU

bodies from the local to the EU level all having a role to play.

The Treaties enable the EU to participate in international environmental agreements, and give the Commission a strong coordinating and representation responsibility. When necessary the EU also needs to adapt its own legislation to integrate the results negotiated at the multilateral level. Environmental concerns must also be integrated into trade agreements, and environmental protection and cooperation is now an integral part of EU foreign policy.

*EU interventions include participating in **international agreements** to deal with regional and worldwide environmental problems and **funding programmes** to support environmental action at national level.*

LIFE is the only EU financial instrument exclusively dedicated to the environment. Funding is also secured thanks to environmental integration in other EU spending instruments.

LIFE is the only EU financial instrument³ exclusively dedicated to the environment. It supports activities that, given their nature, would not be financed at national level, focusing on relatively small-scale projects which catalyse broader actions. Priority is also given to maintaining a strong link to EU policies, the replicability of the projects and to their capacity to lead to marketable solutions to environmental problems.

LIFE uses the following management modes: centralised direct management by the Commission; centralised indirect management with delegation of implementation tasks to an executive agency; and joint management with international organisations. Further tasks have been entrusted to the European Investment Bank (EIB)

through the Natural Capital Financial Facility.

The responsibility for implementing the LIFE programme is delegated to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)⁴, with the exception of projects flowing from the previous LIFE programmes and new Integrated, Technical Assistance and Preparatory Projects under the Environment sub-programme, which will, for the time being, be managed directly by the Commission services.

The mainstreaming of environmental action into other EU spending instruments, such as the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), provide the vast majority of EU financing available for the protection of the environment, although these instruments are primarily focused on other policy priorities.

DG Environment (ENV) works together with a number of services to develop and implement environment policy, notably DG Climate Action (CLIMA) for most of its streams of work, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW) on the circular economy, air quality legislation and on chemicals which also involves the European Chemicals Agency, and the Legal Service (LS) and Secretariat General (SG) across the full environmental policy spectrum.

*Working with **other actors** and with **external stakeholders** is essential for the multi-faceted challenges the DG faces.*

DG International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) is a key ally on the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while GROW, DG Regional and Urban Policy (REGIO), DG Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE), DG Energy (ENER), DG Mobility and Transport (MOVE) and DG Research and Innovation (RTD) and DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE) are crucial partners helping achieve environmental objectives and for integrating environmental considerations into their policies and funding instruments.

To better understand whether environment policy is delivering the intended results DG Environment relies on the European Environment Agency (EEA) for its assessments on the state of the environment, Eurostat for a range of environmentally relevant statistical data and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) for

³ Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

⁴ Formerly Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI)

specialist advice. DG Environment also works with a range of other knowledge providers to deliver strong science-based policies and instruments.

C. Strategy

The added value of EU environmental policy

Over the past 40 years, environmental policies in Europe have had notable success. Since the 1970s, a broad range of environment legislation has been put in place. This now amounts to the most comprehensive modern set of standards in the world.

Building on a solid Treaty competence base, environment policy has led to real improvements in the state of the environment; emissions of pollutants to air, water and soil have been reduced significantly over the past decades, as have greenhouse gas emissions in recent years. Notable achievements also include the establishment of the world's largest network of protected areas (Natura 2000), the recovery of many species previously on the brink of extinction, provision of safe drinking water, better waste management and a modernised chemicals policy significantly improving knowledge about chemicals on the market and reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals.

European Union environment policy continues to adapt to meet evolving environmental challenges which do not respect national borders and have increasingly global reach.

The EU is increasingly impacted by high volatility in the prices and availability of primary resources and materials in the globalised economy. These developments underline the importance of green growth and a resource efficient, low-carbon economy which can generate new sources of growth and high levels of employment. Using resources more efficiently during the production stage and more sustainable consumption are key aspects of the transition to a circular economy. This will be underpinned by innovation and raising consumer awareness.

*Many environmental problems are **trans-boundary in nature** (e.g. air, marine and freshwater pollution, hazardous waste, industrial accidents, biodiversity loss). **Intervention at EU level** is essential to meet environmental challenges which do not respect national borders. Recent developments underline the importance of new **green sources of growth** and employment.*

Many environmental problems are trans-boundary in nature (e.g., air, marine and freshwater pollution, hazardous waste, industrial accidents, biodiversity) and require solutions at the EU level to be truly effective.

EU environment policy is one of the Union's success stories in terms of providing tangible benefits for its citizens and citizen support for the environment remains remarkably high across all Member States. This is confirmed by annual Eurobarometer surveys and has not significantly waived despite the challenging economic environment. Better environmental protection is strongly attributed to the EU's involvement.

The EU's environmental credentials are also recognised worldwide, which has given the EU key leverage as a globally influential soft power in sustainable development, and EU business front runner status in some sectors. Larger emerging economies recognise the need to move to more sustainable growth, as shown for example by the adoption of Agenda 2030, the outcome of COP21 on Climate change and recent attempts in China to improve air and water quality.

When addressing global environmental problems, working through the EU level at international level and speaking with one voice maximises the collective bargaining power twenty eight countries working together can bring to bear. Both at EU and international levels common environmental

standards among trading partners contribute to a more level playing field for business and present commercial opportunities as the growth of the green economy gathers pace.

One year into the Commission's mandate, the 7th EAP with its three thematic priorities natural capital, green growth and well-being and the emphasis on the links between them remains valid and there is progress in all three areas: the Nature Fitness Check is well underway and has generated unprecedented interest, a broad and ambitious package on the transition to a Circular Economy has been adopted and negotiation of the Air Package with the co-legislators is progressing steadily.

*Environment policy has led to **real improvements** in the state of the environment. Citizens' support for the environment remains remarkably high and the EU's environmental credentials are recognised worldwide. However, **ambitious action must continue** in face of environmental pressures, unsustainable trends and a **foot print that exceeds the carrying capacity of the planet.***

At the same time, the State of the Environment Report (SOER) from the EEA as well as sectoral reports, for example on the state of biodiversity, seas and new studies on endocrine disruptors paint a worrying picture of continued environmental pressures, unsustainable trends and an environmental foot print that exceeds the carrying capacity of the planet⁵.

These assessments provide strong arguments supporting continued ambitious action. The 2030 Agenda recognises that this situation also prevails at global level and thus puts in place a clear framework of universally applicable goals and targets to move towards a globally sustainable *modus vivendi*, recognising the importance of integrated policy making and the need to pursue environmental, economic and social objectives in an integrated and joined-up manner.

Strategic priorities for 2016-2020

Ensuring the sustainability of our environment and the preservation and more efficient use of our natural resources are key policy objectives of the present Commission. The 10 political priorities of the Commission, the 7th EAP, a strong track record of environmental improvements, a mature environmental regulatory framework with few legislative proposals to come as well as addressing an important implementation gap are the key factors which will frame the development and implementation of environment policy in the years ahead. Exploiting the impetus provided by the SOER and the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be crucial to implement the 7th EAP, ensuring that Europe's citizens live well, within the limits of our planet.

*Ensuring the **sustainability** of our environment and the preservation of our **natural resources** are key policy objectives. Commissioner Vella has committed to pursue these objectives and respond to current challenges and priorities through **three distinct focus areas**: green growth, connecting with citizens and making it happen.*

Against that backdrop environment policy and the work of DG Environment will contribute to the Commission's General Objectives, primarily **Objective 1 A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment** while also supporting Objectives 3 (A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy), 4 (A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base), 7 (An Area of Justice and Fundamental Rights Based on Mutual Trust), 9 (A Stronger Global Actor) and 10 (A Union of Democratic Change).

With a view to creating maximum synergies between the 10 political priorities and those of the 7th EAP, for the remainder of the mandate of the current Commission DG Environment will pursue its

⁵ Overall progress in environmental quality has been documented by 5-year *State of the Environment Reports* produced by the European Environment Agency since 1995; all of these reports have concluded that environmental policy has delivered substantial improvements, but major environmental challenges remain.

activities focused on three main work areas (green growth; connecting with citizens; making it happen). DG Environment will thus move forward as follows:

Green Growth

The *Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth* defines the overall policy framework in which the Commission operates. Particularly important for DG Environment is the

*Rapid progress in the transition from a linear economy to a **circular economy model** is perhaps the single most important contribution the EU can make to **realising the jobs and growth aspirations**.*

objective of greening the economy, which entails getting more added value from materials and other natural resources, reducing waste and environmental harm through more efficient use of resources, thus contributing to growth, competitiveness and job creation. This requires innovation and investment.

Rapid progress in the transition of the economy from a linear to a circular model is perhaps the single most important contribution the EU can make to realising our jobs and growth aspirations and delivering on this Commission's economic transformation and competitiveness agenda.

Europe's eco-industry is an enabler for wider transition and has been one of the few sectors to continue growing during the economic crisis. The output of environmental goods and services per unit of GDP has grown by more than 50 % over the last decade and employment linked to this production has risen to more than four million full-time equivalents.

*Since 2000, **employment in the environmental economy** (so called green sectors) in the EU **grew on average eight times faster** than in the overall economy.*

Following the adoption of the Circular Economy Package, effective implementation at European level through the Action Plan and revised waste legislation will provide the framework conditions for private and public investment in circular systems, and for changes in production models, products and consumption habits. It will need to be complemented by national, regional and municipal level actions. The green economy needs to become more broadly based and embedded in key determinants of Europe's environmental footprints such as agriculture/food production, mobility and buildings.

Moving from linear to circular modes will also assist in implementing several of the SDGs and demonstrating global leadership. At the same time, greater resource efficiency translates into lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Natural capital and the ecosystem services it provides such as clean water, pollination and the agricultural productivity from good quality soil, are key elements of the EU economy's resource-base

***Natural capital** and the ecosystem services it provides such as clean water, pollination and good quality soil are a precondition for **lasting growth**, social cohesion and well-being.*

and a precondition for lasting growth, social cohesion and well-being. Strengthening our efforts to protect them would correspond to the SOER analysis which points to particular concern in relation to the state of biodiversity and soil and would also respond to the findings of the *Mid-Term Review of the Biodiversity Strategy*.

At the same time, there is strong potential to contribute to the growth and jobs agenda. In the business of habitat restoration alone, the job potential is on average 17 jobs per million invested – with up to 33 jobs in certain types of projects. Further, nature restoration delivers relevant side-benefits with economic value, such as flood protection, erosion control, carbon storage and climate adaptation.

The follow-up to the Nature Fitness Check will define future priorities which may include bringing forward additional initiatives aimed at filling remaining gaps in EU natural capital policy, for example

in areas such as halting and mitigating biodiversity loss and the more prudent use of finite land resources. Addressing integrated nutrient management in the EU will also contribute.

The reviews of key integration policies and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) scheduled for 2017-18 will be essential elements in determining progress on the natural capital agenda, notably in the agriculture sector.

The marine environment and the ecosystems services it provides are under severe pressure from decades of overexploitation, land-based pollution and impacts of the climate change. Stopping and reversing this trend requires successful implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the reformed Common Fisheries policy, effectively addressing land-based sources of pollution, particularly from single-use plastic products, and climate change mitigation measures. Europe can be a model for regional sea governance and can lead international efforts to improve ocean governance, including its environmental dimension.

Connecting with European Citizens

A healthy environment is also crucial for the health and well-being of citizens, demonstrating that the EU is also producing benefits for citizens on the ground beyond the economic agenda.

EU environmental legislation directly safeguards EU's citizen's health and well-being. For example, today, over 99% of the drinking water supplied in the EU is safe thanks to continuously improving implementation of the EU Directive on drinking water quality. Another striking example is EU's bathing waters: over the past 25 years, the portion that met the minimum quality requirements set by the Bathing Water Directive rose from under 80 % to over 95 %, to a large extent as a result of a dramatic increase in the collection and treatment of urban waste water in accordance with EU legislation.

*Besides its importance for the economic agenda, a good quality environment shows that the EU is working for citizens also in other areas, contributing to their **health and well-being**. The focus on growth and jobs is not compromising environmental protection.*

In addition, better air quality, a more circular way of designing and producing products and materials, improved waste management and better environmental management of cities and towns brings health benefits for citizens. In this sense, the conclusion of the inter-institutional process with regard to the air quality package and the waste review will be key deliverables for the mandate. The 2018 Strategy for a non-toxic environment called for in the 7th EAP along with the REACH⁶ review will also be very relevant to citizens in light of their potential health and environmental benefits. This will demonstrate that the focus on creating growth and jobs is not compromising environmental protection for current or future generations of EU citizens. Equally, improving how the EU implements the Aarhus Convention will show how citizens' rights on access to environmental information and justice and on public participation are being strengthened.

While natural capital provides many economic benefits, EU citizens, who are increasingly urbanised, see it as a source of recreation which they can enjoy and the EU's role in protecting it both domestically and at the international level is well recognised.

Making it Happen

Within the EU a renewed focus on better implementation and enforcement is needed so that the existing policy and legal frameworks deliver their intended benefits and remain credible both for

⁶ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)

citizens and business whose investments are required to enable the circular economy to take root. A number of related initiatives are underway or are about to be launched including REFIT evaluations of important environment policy instruments, reporting simplification, an environmental implementation review and initiatives on compliance assurance and access to justice, the latter being an important contribution to demonstrating how the EU can empower citizens in defending their rights. The DG has also launched a comprehensive review of environment policy reporting obligations with the dual objective of ensuring that key implementation information is available in real time and burdens on Member States and private sector operators are reduced. Using our communication activities as effectively as possible will make an additional contribution to achieving policy goals.

Effective policy-making requires a deep understanding of each Member State, of their common challenges and of their diversity. Contributing to the European Semester will be underpinned with good-quality, up-to-date indicators and data, and with targeted proposals and our focus will be on further integrating resource efficiency and circular economy thinking into the Semester process. Synergies with other policies will be enhanced, in particular in the fields of energy, climate, research and innovation, industry and competitiveness. However, we will also continue to investigate cases where European law may be infringed. This will be complemented by a new and comprehensive analysis of the reasons for the environment policy implementation gap and the challenges faced by Member States to identify best practices and help direct EU funding.

*Making it happen is about better **implementation** and enforcement of the existing legal framework and about understanding the common challenges and the **diversity of the Member States**. It is also about **international cooperation** with institutions and third countries to achieve our important objectives.*

Globally, many of our important objectives can only be achieved in cooperation with third countries and international institutions. How we engage with international partners to mitigate imported environment pressures, reduce the EU's environmental footprint, and create a level playing field for business domestically and opportunities for our companies abroad will be important. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda will provide a strong framework within which to pursue the alignment of our external and internal priorities and the mutual supportiveness of domestic and international policies as can be exemplified by a strengthened approach to sustainability and integration to implement the SDGs. Maintaining a high level of cooperation at regional level is also essential, for example, to reduce pressure on the marine environment and trans-boundary air pollution.

Specific Objectives of environmental policy

DG Environment contributes primarily to the achievement of the Commission's General Objective 1, A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment, through six Specific Objectives⁷ in line with the long-term policy goals defined at EU level in the 7th EAP. These objectives can be seen as also supporting other Commission priorities as detailed below.

Specific Objective 1: The EU economy is resource-efficient, green and competitive

Objective also supporting the Commission General Objective 3, A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy

⁷ Detailed performance tables are provided in annex.

Using resources efficiently and paying more attention to the limits imposed by the Earth's natural resources is a prerequisite for achieving and maintaining growth, good-quality jobs and a high level of well-being, for both current and future generations.

*To maintain growth and stay competitive we need to move from the current linear economy based on extraction, production, consumption and disposal to a **circular resource efficient** model where resources are preserved.*

To maintain growth and stay competitive we need to move from the current linear economy based on extraction, production, consumption and disposal to a circular, resource-efficient model, where resources are preserved and sustainably managed, and the added value in products is kept for as long as possible and waste is eliminated. More efficient use of energy, natural resources and raw materials not only reduce associated pollution but are also key drivers for cost reductions, improved productivity and competitiveness, and security of supply. Details of the way forward were set out in the 2015 Circular Economy package which

is accompanied by a comprehensive work programme for the coming years. This will help European businesses and consumers make the transition to a stronger and more circular economy where resources are used in a more sustainable way.

The proposed actions will contribute to "closing the loop" of product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use, and bring benefits for both the environment and the economy. The plans will extract the maximum value and use from all raw materials, products and waste, fostering energy savings and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The proposals cover the full lifecycle: from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials. This transition will be supported financially by European Structural and Investment (ESIF) funding, EUR 650 million from Horizon 2020 (the EU funding programme for research and innovation), EUR 5.5 billion from structural funds for waste management, and investments in the circular economy at national level.

Apart from new targets for reduction of waste and an ambitious and credible long-term path for waste management and recycling, concrete measures will be developed to address obstacles and the different situations across Member States. These include: reducing food waste, developing quality standards for secondary raw materials to increase the confidence of operators in the single market; eco-design measures to promote reparability, durability and recyclability of products, in addition to energy efficiency; recognising the role of organic and waste-based fertilisers in the single market and supporting the role of bio-nutrients; addressing the recyclability and biodegradability of plastics as well as the presence of hazardous substances in plastics and reducing marine litter along with a series of actions on water reuse.

Specific Objective 2: The Union's natural capital is protected, conserved and enhanced

Conserving and managing ecosystems in a sustainable manner will ensure the long-term availability of goods and services that ecosystems supply and which are crucial to meet the needs of humans, nature and the economy. These range from fertile soil to water provision and purification, from flood control to raw materials and to the contribution of healthy and productive seas to mitigating climate change.

*Conserving and managing ecosystems in a sustainable manner will ensure the **long-term availability of goods and services that ecosystems supply.***

The Mid-Term Review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy in 2015 showed that nature's capacity to clean the air and water, to pollinate crops and to limit the impacts of catastrophes such as flooding is being compromised, with potentially significant unforeseen costs to society and our economy. More than three quarters of the important natural habitats in the EU are now in an unfavourable state, and many species are threatened with extinction.

The Review highlighted the need for much greater commitment from Member States to halt biodiversity loss, a concern shared by the majority of Europeans. Improving this situation, however, will also depend on how effectively biodiversity concerns are integrated into agriculture, forestry, fisheries and regional development policies. The reformed Common Agricultural Policy provides opportunities for enhanced integration of biodiversity concerns, but its effectiveness will depend on the extent to which Member States put in place national measures. For its part the Commission is ensuring that EU nature legislation is fit for purpose.

Implementing the invasive alien species Regulation, rolling out the EU Green Infrastructure Strategy, ensuring that development projects, plans, programmes and policies are positive or at least neutral in terms of biodiversity impact and balancing the protection, conservation and improvement of land while maximizing the socio-economic benefits from its use and improving the quality of both freshwater and marine environments will also contribute to securing a sustainable future for our natural capital in line with the 7th EAP.

The EU is also contributing to halting biodiversity loss globally. Together with its Member States, it is the biggest financial donor for biodiversity conservation. The EU has taken initial steps to reduce indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, including wildlife trade, illegal fishing and to integrate biodiversity into its trade agreements. The new global Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development reiterates the need to deliver on global commitments in this area.

Specific Objective 3: The Union's citizens are safeguarded from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being

Environmental factors such as exposure to pollutants through water, food or air are important determinants of health. Reducing environmental pressures from households and construction, transport, agriculture, industry and energy production and lowering exposure to hazardous substances play a major role in maintaining natural resources such as clean air, good quality water in sufficient quantity, a low-noise environment and productive soil. This preserves the very basis of key economic activities such as agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, the agro-food industry, tourism, power generation and the chemical industry, and lowers the risks related to catastrophic events such as floods and drought with their substantial social and economic burdens. Moreover, reducing health care and clean-up costs translates into lower expenditure for the public purse as well as lost working days for businesses. These efforts stimulate innovation and boost cleaner environmental technologies, while enhancing European businesses' capacity to adapt and respond to new challenges and to compete more effectively on global markets.

Maintaining the good quality of natural resources such as clean air, quality water and productive soil contributes to the health and wellbeing of EU citizens and preserves the basis of key economic activities.

In order to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being and in line with the 7th EAP DG ENV shall focus on: improving outdoor air quality in the Union, developing and implementing measures to combat air pollution at source, bringing noise levels closer to the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended levels; ensuring citizens throughout the Union benefit from high standards for safe drinking and bathing water; continuing to implement REACH in order to ensure a high level of protection for human health and the environment as well as the free circulation of chemicals within the internal market while enhancing competitiveness and innovation and being mindful of the specific needs of SMEs, addressing in particular the combination effects of chemicals and exposure to chemicals in products including imported products as well as safety concerns related to nanomaterials and materials with similar properties and identifying long-term actions with a view to reaching the objective of a non-toxic environment.

Specific Objective 4: There is an enabling framework for environmental policy, based on smart implementation, a strong knowledge and evidence base, investment, and improved environmental integration and policy coherence

Objective also supporting the Commission General Objective 4 (A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base), 7 (An Area of Justice and Fundamental Rights Based on Mutual Trust, and 10 (A Union of Democratic Change)

Environmental legislation has been consolidated over the past years and covers almost all areas of environment (air, water, marine environment, chemicals, waste and so forth) with the exception of soil. Expected policy benefits have to be realised mainly through the proper transposition, implementation and enforcement of existing EU legislation by Member States, new proposals when necessary, respecting environmental conditionality when implementing the multi-annual financial framework, and through investment.

Timely and even implementation of environmental policies and legislation maintains progress and ensures that the intended health, environmental and economic benefits actually materialise and that there is a level playing field both between Member States and between operators for the efficient functioning of the single market.

Rolling out the Environmental Implementation Review initiative starting in 2016 will support the EU and its Member States to achieve the objectives of environmental policy and legislation by providing an informed and targeted overview of the main environmental implementation gaps. This will enable

Four elements are crucial to create and maintain an enabling framework for environmental policy: timely and even implementation of existing policies and legislation; knowledge and evidence-based policy making; the integration of environmental considerations into other policies and a sufficient level of EU investment.

the Commission to deliver tailor-made support to Member States in a more coherent and targeted manner. It will also provide the framework for an enhanced political and policy dialogue with and in the Member States, with other EU institutions, including at political level and where appropriate with stakeholders.

The Commission can also play a key role through compliance promotion (e.g. engaging with national authorities, developing guidance and ensuring cooperation with professional networks and networks of national experts dealing with the implementation of EU legislation) and the use of its own monitoring and enforcement capacities (such as EU Pilot and infringement proceedings). However, sound implementation ultimately depends on effective decentralised tools. These may

include fit-for-purpose environmental information which is accessible online, transparent national systems for inspections and compliance assurance and effective access to justice, all of which would benefit from improvement and are under consideration.

Improving and refining the knowledge base helps to target environment policy as efficiently and as effectively as possible. Continuous improvements in scientific and other data reveal new environmental challenges that warrant being addressed at the EU level. A better awareness of the implications and benefits of new and emerging technologies is essential to secure public confidence and proportionate action by policy-makers.

Environment policy alone, however, does not suffice to achieve the transformation needed. According to Article 11 TFEU, environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union's policies and activities, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development. Mainstreaming environmental considerations into other policies, such as energy and climate, transport, agriculture, fisheries, industry and regional policy is therefore crucial. Improving and refining the knowledge base, including natural capital accounting and better awareness of the potential risks posed by new and emerging technologies, is essential to ensure confidence of policy-makers and the public in the evidence that underpins environmental policy and help target environmental problems as efficiently and effectively as possible.

In this context, integrating environmental priorities into the broader political framework that will shape the MFF review will be crucial. The dedicated follow-up action in the 2016 Commission Work Programme to the recently adopted 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development paves the way for reconsidering priority setting, policy coherence and the overall sustainability of EU funding choices and thus making the necessary adjustments as part of the review.

Specific Objective 5: The Union's cities are more sustainable

Over 70% of EU citizens live in urban and peri-urban areas. Improving the quality of the urban environment, which can be a hotspot for pollution, depends on a range of EU and national policies,

*The quality of the urban environment depends on a range of policies and actors at different levels. DG Environment focuses on promoting **sustainable planning** and best practices, with initiatives such as the Green Capital Award.*

including transport, buildings, waste management, green infrastructure, etc. Apart from single market legislation such as vehicle emissions under DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, and specific environmental issues such as combustion plants and urban wastewater treatment, DG Environment's focus is on promoting sustainable planning and design and best practices, including through a self-assessment tool for cities to gauge their environmental performance, and initiatives such as the Green Capital Award and more recently the European Green Leaf Award for smaller urban centres. The aim, as

set out in the 7th EAP, is to ensure that by 2020 a majority of cities in the Union are implementing policies for sustainable urban planning and design, including innovative approaches for urban public transport and mobility, sustainable buildings, energy efficiency and urban biodiversity conservation.

DG Environment will therefore focus on developing an improved set of criteria to assess the environmental performance of cities, ensuring that cities have information about, and better access to, financing for measures to improve urban sustainability; and sharing best practice between cities at Union and international level in relation to innovative and sustainable urban development. Using ongoing Union initiatives and networks will contribute to this, as will developing and promoting a common understanding of how to improve urban environments through better planning, integrating objectives such as resource efficiency, sustainable urban land-use and mobility, biodiversity management and conservation, water management, human health and public participation in decision-making, together with environmental education and awareness-raising.

Specific Objective 6: The Union is more effective in addressing international environmental challenges

Objective also supporting the Commission General Objective 9, A Stronger global actor

The environment and health of the EU's citizens are directly affected by activities in EU neighbouring countries and regions, and may also be affected by activities conducted in countries further afield. Thus improving environmental management in these countries and regions can have direct and positive impacts on EU citizens. Global pressures can be addressed more effectively through close collaboration with neighbours and international partners. At the same time, EU business can play a key role in greening the global economy by capitalizing on what the EU's environment policy has achieved.

*Global pressures can be addressed more effectively through collaboration with international partners. At the same time, EU business can play a key role in **greening the global economy**.*

Meeting international environment objectives will require better integrating environment policy into trade policy and the European External Action Service's activities at multilateral, regional and bilateral levels. It will also require the strengthening of our partnership with the UN, notably UNEP, to ensure that global development is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. DG

Environment will work towards coordinated EU positions in the Multilateral Environment Agreements and the UN Environment Assembly, which form together the backbone of international environment governance, and will conduct bilateral dialogues with key partners including the US and emerging economies to broaden the understanding of shared environmental challenges, contribute to the development of joint approaches and promote solutions that have worked well at EU level.

External factors

The Commission cannot deliver on these objectives on its own; other actors have a strong influence on the final results. The Commission proposes legislation following input from various stakeholders and rigorous impact assessment, but the end result depends on the final shape in which the European Parliament and the Council adopt it and the way it is implemented by the Member States.

*The Commission's influence over its objectives depends on important **external factors** such as Member States' commitment to implement legislation. Citizens will also play an important role by translating their support for the environment into more sustainable consumption patterns. Meeting global environmental challenges will depend on how effectively the EU can speak with one voice and the commitment of international partners.*

The Commission's responsibilities include ensuring that Member States transpose and apply EU legislation correctly in a wide range of geographic conditions, under very varied national and regional administrative arrangements, and in situations that often have a cross-border dimension. Implementation is helped through facilitating exchange of best practices, proposing non-legislative instruments (delegated and implementing acts), developing guidance, maintaining a structured dialogue with the Member States and ensuring that legislation remains fit for purpose in light of evolving challenges and circumstances. DG Environment also responds to complaints from the public on environmental issues and proposes legal action against Member States when necessary, focusing on key structural problems of transposition and implementation.

Implementing environmental policies also requires financing at national and EU levels. However, despite their benefits, they still have to compete with other priorities, especially in challenging economic times.

Meeting the objectives of environmental policy in the years to come will depend in particular on the extent to which waste legislation and the elements of the Circular Economy Action Plan are implemented by the Member States. Together with broader greening of economies, promoted, *inter alia*, through the EU Semester and other policies, this will influence how quickly and robustly the circular economy gathers pace. Citizens will also play an important role by translating their support for the environment into more sustainable consumption patterns.

Improving protection of biodiversity will depend how well EU nature legislation is properly implemented in the Member States, actions under the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 are delivered upon, and how well biodiversity, soil and water considerations are incorporated into other sectors of the economy, notably agriculture and regional development, both of which are part-financed by EU funds. The success of current EU legislation and Commission proposals also depends on them being based on the most up-to-date scientific knowledge and their implementation in the Member States.

Meeting global environmental challenges will depend on how effectively the EU can speak with one voice, how willing the EU and its Member States are to meet their own commitments under international environmental agreements and how receptive other negotiating parties are to also commit efforts and resources to improve the state of the environment in their own countries and at the global level.

D. Key performance indicators (KPIs)

It is challenging to develop aggregate indicators which would take account of various dimensions of the environment while remaining accurate and meaningful. No single indicator – such as GDP or the rate of inflation - is available to the Commission at present to accurately measure issues such as quality of life, quality of the environment or sustainability. Work is under way to develop a pilot index on environmental pressures to complement the current economic and social indicators. However measuring our performance through the following KPIs will help us to measure progress towards our objectives⁸:

*DG Environment measures progress towards its objectives through a set of indicators, of which five have been identified as **Key Performance Indicators** for the DG.*

- Municipal waste generation and treatment through the waste hierarchy, as a proxy for the circularity of the economy;
- Common birds population, as a proxy for wide-ranging pressures on ecosystems and the services they provide for the quality of life;
- Exposure of urban population to air pollution;
- Quality of EU waters, as reflected by the percentage of water bodies in good ecological status, or with good potential;
- Residual error rate to reflect the degree of sound financial management (defined as the share of payments at risk of mismanagement compared to the overall payments)⁹

⁸ Detailed information on the key policy indicators can be found in annex 1, "Policy performance tables" – see indicators number 1.2, 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2, respectively under Specific Objectives 1, 2 and 3.

⁹ For details on this indicator, see Indicator 1 under 'Financial Management' in annex 2, "Organisation management performance tables"

PART 2. Organisational management

DG Environment has committed and dedicated staff. This was illustrated by last years' positive staff survey results. With its human and financial resources DG Environment aims to develop and implement an environmental policy framework that responds to environmental challenges within the EU and beyond, and which will improve the sustainability of economic processes and the health and well-being of citizens. However, we continually aim at achieving efficiency gains to manage the mandatory reductions in posts.

Management of the legacy projects of the LIFE programmes presents a big challenge now that the offsetting of staff under the externalisation process is picking up. This requires the DG to search for further efficiency gains and a medium term plan for closure of the legacy projects

The Specific Objectives linked to the organisational management of DG Environment are:

- To promote and maintain sound and efficient management of human, financial and information resources within DG Environment and to ensure that resources are allocated to achieve the policy objectives of the DG.
- To implement and maintain an effective internal control, risk management and accounting system so that reasonable assurance can be given that resources assigned to the activities of the DG are used for their intended purpose in accordance with the principles of sound and efficient financial management.
- To ensure that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions

An important part of EU environmental policy is regulatory in nature and DG Environment is fully committed to delivering better results through Better Regulation tools, such as comprehensively assessing the impacts of any new measures before they can be adopted or proposed and conducting a rigorous subsidiarity analysis. Evaluating the performance of the legislation already in place, to ensure it remains fit for purpose and as simple to implement as possible, is also a key element of the Better Regulation agenda and a priority for DG Environment; environmental policy is at the core of the Commission's Refit programme and the DG aims at evaluating most of the *acquis* in the coming years.

DG Environment is also highly committed to openness and transparency and this includes not only listening to stakeholders, but also ensuring that communication on environmental policies reaches all citizens and stakeholders concerned, so that public engagement and participation can also be achieved. Effective Communication focused on the main policy objectives is therefore a priority for the DG, and connecting with the citizens will be an integral part of all environmental policies.

A. Human Resource Management

The yearly reduction in human resources puts considerable pressure on the DG, where the workload is increasing and where public interest in our policies remains high. The DG allocates its resources as efficiently as possible and has made advances in reducing overheads and administrative support. An internal review of working methods is underway and a new training policy to support this process and try to maximise the levels of skill, knowledge and motivation will be implemented.

The externalisation of the LIFE programme to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises (EASME) left a major legacy with the DG. Staff in the programme has to be reduced despite the continuing workload and this will be a major challenge in the years to come: a progressive reduction in staff from 42 to 5 by 2020.

Talent management encompasses many of the HR initiatives in future years.

- The DG will continue to offer useful programmes in the field of learning and development to help staff to develop skills and knowledge that contribute to the success of the DG's work.
- Mobility will allow staff to renew motivation and move to areas where they can best display their talents.
- The DG will launch management development programmes for women to encourage the best women administrators to move into middle management.

The DG has traditionally a high level of engagement. Absence rates for example are lower than the Commission average. Nevertheless, the DG will continue to emphasise the importance of well-being with activities aimed at prevention of toxic stress and burn-out, especially in the context of ongoing resource reductions.

B. Financial Management: Internal control and Risk management

To promote and maintain sound and efficient management of financial resources the DG strives to maintain effective internal control, risk management and accounting systems, so that reasonable assurance can be given that resources assigned to the activities of the DG are used for their intended purpose in accordance with the principles of financial management.

DG Environment is committed to ensuring that the control procedures in place also give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

C. Better Regulation

DG Environment continuously strives to improve the quality of its impact assessments in order to ensure a high rate of positive opinions on first submission to the Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB). This objective will be pursued through close cooperation between the DG's economic analysis and better regulation teams and the technical units in the preparatory work and by rigorous internal quality assessments before submission to the RSB.

DG Environment is also fully committed to evaluating its policies to ensure that they are fit for purpose and correspond to the needs of the European citizens and business. The DG is currently undertaking around fifteen REFIT evaluations or fitness checks and another fifteen are in the planning. These efforts to effectively evaluate the environmental *acquis* and to fully participate in the REFIT process are part of the DG's commitment to the Better Regulation agenda.

D. Information management aspects

This activity promotes and maintains sound and efficient management of information within the DG, and ensures that reliable information/knowledge will be easy to find, retrieved and shared.

The activity involves putting in place and maintaining an effective information management system so that any document/data connected with the DG's official functions can be electronically filed, stored and retrieved in any moment irrespective of its original form and document management system in place. Effective information management importantly contributes to the efficiency of the work carried out and accountability also depends on keeping a good documentary record of actions and decisions made.

E. External communication activities

DG Environment's communication activities support the development and implementation of EU environment policy, raising awareness about the Commission, its values and political priorities, and its efforts to address Europe's challenges. They also shape an understanding of the environment and improve knowledge of environmental policies and their importance for green growth, human health and wellbeing. This in turn builds support for EU policies which is already recognised as 95% of citizens considered protecting the environment very or fairly important to them personally¹⁰. It also demonstrates the clear added value of EU action.

The main objectives DG Environment's communication activities are therefore to:

- Inform and engage a variety of target audiences about the EU's environmental priorities;
- Make people aware that EU environment policy brings a wide range of benefits across the society and the economy, so that current positive public perception is maintained;
- Present the global role of Europe as one of the world's standard setters on environment.

Annual communication priorities are decided during the preparation of the annual work programme and are framed by President Juncker's priorities, the 7th EAP, and Commissioner Vella's three focus areas (Green Growth, Making it Happen, Connecting with Citizens).

Communication activities aim to reach a wide range of different target audiences either directly via our tools or via influencers/multipliers that can reinforce our key messages. Target audiences and the messages and the communication channels and tools are carefully selected and customised for each activity and priority. Simple and positive solutions to environmental problems are promoted, stressing the advantages of solid environmental policy, and its implementation, such as job creation, better health, while showing how everyone is concerned and has a part to play.

Synergies with other policy areas are exploited for example for the implementation of the Circular Economy Package (GROW), regarding green financing (FISMA), for the Sustainable Development Goals and wildlife trafficking (DEVCO), on marine issues and blue growth (MARE), and on reaching our climate goals (CLIMA), to share content and reach new target audiences.

DG Environment complements its activities by working with other EU institutions, Member States, the IMPEL network and various stakeholders. In addition close co-operation with both the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) and the European Environment Agency in Copenhagen also plays an important role.

All major communication activities are monitored on a regular basis and evaluated with a view to ensuring their effectiveness.

¹⁰ Eurobarometer 2014

Annex 1. Policy performance tables

General objective 1: A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment	
Impact indicator: Resource productivity: Gross Domestic Product (GDP, €) over Domestic Material Consumption (DMC, kg). Explanation: this indicator focuses on the sustainability of growth. Source of the data: Eurostat	
Baseline (2010)	Target (2020)
1.4 €/kg (EU-28)	Increase
Impact indicator: GDP growth Source of the data: Eurostat	
Baseline (2014)	Target (2020)
1.4%	Increase
Impact indicator: Employment rate population aged 20-64 Source of the data: Eurostat	
Baseline (2014)	Target (2020)
69.2%	Europe 2020 target At least 75%
Planned evaluations for General Objective 1 (covering all specific objectives below):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of Decision 1386/2013/EU, the 7th Environment Action Programme 	

Specific objective 1 : The EU economy is resource-efficient, green and competitive	Related to spending programme(s) LIFE
Indicator 1.1: Total waste generated (kg/person) The indicator on total waste generated per capita reflects the total amount of waste (prior to breakdown per waste stream) per average population which enables data to be normalised between countries and eliminates the effects of changes in national population sizes over time ¹¹ . Source of data: Eurostat	
Baseline (2004, EU28)	Interim Milestone (2012)
5160 kg/person	4982 kg/person
Target (2020) Based on Decision No 1386/2013/EU (7 th Environment Action Programme) Absolute waste generation and waste generated per capita are in decline	
Indicator 1.2: Municipal waste generation (kg/person) and treatment (%): movement up through the waste hierarchy Municipal waste is generated by households, commercial activities and other sources whose activities are similar to those of households and commercial enterprises. It does not include other waste arising e.g., from mining, industrial or construction and demolition processes. This indicator reflects the amounts of municipal waste generated per capita which enables data to be normalised between countries and eliminates the effects of changes in national population sizes over time. Treatment of waste is defined on the basis of the treatment operations as set out in the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC Source of data: Eurostat	

¹¹ Full details how this data is generated can be found at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/waste/data/main_tables and in the Manual on Waste Statistics by ESTAT at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-RA-13-015.

Baseline (2002, EU27)	Interim Milestone	Target (2020)Based on Directive 2008/98/EC, Waste Framework Directive (2030) Based on COM(2015)595 final, Proposal to amend Directive 2008/98/EC
	(2013 EU28)	
Generation: 527 kg/person Recycling & composting: 28% Incineration: 16% Landfilling: 51%	Generation: 481 kg/person Recycling & composting: 43% Incineration: 26% Landfilling: 31%	Recycling & composting: 50% (2020) Recycling & composting: 65% (2030) Reduction of landfilling to 10% (2030)
Indicator 1.3: Share (%) of toxic chemicals in total EU chemicals production¹² The indicator measures progress in shifting the EU production of chemicals from highly toxic towards less harmful substances. It presents the percentage of toxic substances within the total EU production of industrial chemicals. In the original dataset ¹³ the tonnage of toxic substances is broken down into five toxicity classes, with increasing toxicity from 'harmful' chemicals to 'carcinogens, mutagens and repro-toxicants' (CMRs). The indicator contributes to measuring progress towards targets set by European Union policy (7 th EAP, the revised Sustainable Development Strategy ¹⁴ , as well as UN commitments on the sound management of chemicals (World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) 2020 goals ¹⁵ , Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ¹⁶). Source of data: Eurostat		
Baseline (2004, EU28)	Interim Milestone*	Target
	n/a	(2050) Target based on the overall vision of the 7 th EAP's non-toxic environment strategy to substitute hazardous substances by non-hazardous substances or non-chemical alternatives by 2050.
Chemicals production: 354.7 million tonnes Share of toxic substances: 66.0 % CMRs: 9.9 %		Reduce** the overall share of toxic chemicals in EU chemicals production. Shift away from CMRs** to less harmful chemicals
* Values of 2013: Production: 321.8 million tonnes, share of toxic substances: 62.7 %, CMRs: 9.5 % ** Zero production of toxic substances and even CMRs will probably not be achievable as intermediates (substances to produce other substances) and process generated substances cannot not be avoided.		
Indicator 1.4: Getting prices right; environmental taxation: share of environmental taxes (energy, transport, pollution/resources) in total tax revenue (%), subsidies to fossil fuels phased out The share of environmental taxes in total taxes is a proxy for the use of environmental taxation as a policy instrument by MS, and of the progress with shifting taxes from labour to pollution and resource use (Environmental Tax Reform, ETR). The indicator is used in the Roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe. It can be broken down into energy taxes, taxes on transport and taxes on pollution and resource use (by order of importance). Data available annually for all MS. Fossil fuel subsidies (FFS) exist in the form of direct financial transfers (grants to producers/consumers), preferential tax treatment or not charging for full cost of environmental damage. Data available through the OECD with additional studies for those MS that are not OECD Member Countries. Source of data: Eurostat (Taxation trends in the European Union); OECD (Inventory of Estimated Budgetary Support and Tax Expenditure for Fossil Fuels)		
Baseline (2010, EU27)	Interim Milestone	Target Target based on COM (2011)571 'Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe'
	n/a	
Environmental taxation: 6,3% covering: energy: 4.8%; transport: 1.3%	--	Increase

¹² Includes chemicals covered by biocides and REACH legislation, but not pesticides and fuels

¹³ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tsdph320&plugin=1>

¹⁴ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/>

¹⁵ <http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/Portals/9/Mainstreaming/EnviroFactorsBrnstrmingMeeting%201-3July09%20-%20BSolomon.pdf>

¹⁶ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

pollution/resources: 0.2%		
FFS: €35.8 billion ¹⁷		By 2020 environmentally harmful subsidies to be phased out

Planned evaluations for Specific Objective 1:

- Fitness Check of the Eco-label Regulation (EC) 66/2010 and EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), 2016
- Evaluation of the Directive 2006/21/EC on the management of waste from extractive industries and amending Directive 2004/35/EC, 2017
- Review of directive 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators and repealing Directive 91/157/EEC, 2017
- REACH review report , Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, 2017

Specific objective 2: The Union's natural capital is protected, conserved and enhanced		Related to spending programme(s) LIFE
<p>Indicator 2.1: Common birds population, index 1990=100 → proxy for the state of biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems; reflects wide-ranging pressures coming e.g., from agriculture, fisheries, energy and transport sectors</p> <p>This indicator is an aggregated index integrating the population abundance and the diversity of a selection of common bird species. Rare species are excluded. Three groups of bird species are presented in this indicator: farmland specialists, forest specialists and all common bird species (farmland species, forest species and other species). The indicator is produced by the European Bird Census Council (EBCC) and its Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS) programme. Although this indicator has a narrow focus compared to the EU policy objectives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, it is considered to be the best available dataset and also to be indicative of general environmental status.¹⁸</p> <p>Source of the data: Eurostat</p>		
Baseline (2010)	Interim Milestone n/a	Target Headline target for biodiversity based on COM(2011)244 "Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020"
88 (index 1990 = 100)		Reverse or halt the decline
<p>Indicator 2.2: Conservation status of species and habitats of European importance (percentage in conservation categories)</p> <p>Article 1 of the Habitats Directive defines the term conservation status as applied to habitats and to species. These definitions take into account parameters such as the extent of the area in which the habitat/species is found, the surface of the habitat area, its structure and functions (in case of habitat), the size of the population, its age structure, mortality and reproduction (of species).</p> <p>Source of data: : Report on the Conservation Status of Habitat Types and Species under the Habitats Directive COM (2009)358</p>		
Baseline (2000-2006, EU28)	Interim Milestone n/a	Target Based on COM (2011)244 'Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020', Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

¹⁷ Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM), "Enhancing comparability of data on estimated budgetary support and tax expenditures for fossil fuels", 2014.

¹⁸ Full details on how the Common Bird population index is calculated can be found at: <http://www.ebcc.info/indicators2014.html>.

Habitats: favourable (17%), unfavourable – inadequate (28%), unfavourable – bad (37%), unknown (18%) Species: favourable (17%), unfavourable – inadequate (30%), unfavourable – bad (22%), unknown (31%)		Improve conservation status
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Indicator 2.3: Mean annual urban land take per country as a percentage of 2000 artificial land

Land take by the expansion of residential areas and construction sites is the main cause of the increase in the coverage of urban land at the European level. Agricultural zones and, to a lesser extent, forests and semi-natural and natural areas, are disappearing in favour of the development of artificial surfaces. This affects biodiversity since it decreases habitats, the living space of a number of species, and fragments the landscapes that support and connect them. The annual land take in European countries assessed by 2006 Corine land cover project (EEA39 except Greece) was approximately 108 000 ha/year in 2000-2006¹⁹.

Source of data: European Environment Agency;

Baseline (2002, EU27)	Interim Milestone n/a	Target (2050)Based on COM (2011)571 'Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe''
The average value of EU-28 is 0.51% (data for Greece are not available) with a very wide range from 2.8 % in Spain or 2.3 % in Cyprus to 0.1% in Romania or Malta		No net land take

Indicator 2.4: Percentage of the surface area of marine waters (marine regions and sub-regions) conserved through spatial protection measures²⁰ (networks of marine protected areas in the context of Habitat, Birds and Marine Strategy Framework Directives as well as Common Fisheries Policy)

The spatial protection measures include a variety of actions to protect the marine environment including those laid down in EU legislation. Article 21 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requires the Commission to report on an inventory of such areas which can be considered as a starting point before the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The Commission published this report on 1 October 2015 based on an inventory prepared by the European Environment Agency.

Source of data: EU Budget 2014, Working document Part I (COM(2013) 450)

Baseline (2012)	Interim Milestone n/a	Target (2020) Based on Aichi Target 11 under the Convention on Biological Diversity to cover at least 10% of all waters
5.9% (including 4% through Natura2000)		20 % in the 0-12 nautical mile zone 10 % in the Exclusive Economic Zone

Planned evaluations for Specific Objective 2:

- Fitness check of nature legislation, 2016
- Evaluation of the Zoos Directive , Directive 1999/22/EC, 2017
- Evaluation of Regulation (EU) No 511/2014 on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, 2018
- Directive on the Protection of Animals used for Scientific Purposes (Directive 2010/63/EU), 2019

Specific objective 3: The Union's citizens are safeguarded from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being

Related to spending programme(s)
LIFE

Indicator 3.1: Exposure to air pollution - Percentage of urban population exposed to air pollution above EU standards:

- a. Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) concentrations above the EU limit value (i.e. 50 µg PM₁₀/m³ averaged over 24 hours)

¹⁹ More information at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/land-take-2/assessment-2>

²⁰ As required by Article 13.4 and 5 of Marine Strategy Framework Directive

- on more than 25 days a year²¹
- b. Ozone (O₃) concentrations that exceed the EU target value (i.e. 120 µg O₃/m³ averaged over 8 hours) on more than 25 days a year, averaged over three years
- c. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations above the EU limit value (i.e. 40 µg NO₂/m³ averaged over a year) during a calendar year

The indicator shows the fraction of the urban population that is potentially exposed to ambient air concentrations of PM₁₀, ozone and NO₂ in excess of the EU limit or target values set for the protection of human health. The urban population considered is the total number of people living in cities with at least one monitoring station at a background location²².

Source of data: : European Environment Agency

Baseline 2001	Interim Milestone	Target (2020) Based on Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe
PM₁₀ 26,8 % Urban population exposed (i.e. above EU limit value, on more than 35 days per year; EU 25):	n/a	0 % Urban population exposed (i.e. above EU limit value, on more than 35 days per year)
Ozone 31,4% Urban population exposed (i.e. above EU limit value, on more than 25 days per year, averaged over three years; EU 24)	n/a	0 % Urban population exposed (i.e. above EU target value, on more than 25 days per year, averaged over three years)
NO₂ 18.1% Urban population exposed (i.e. above EU limit value, on an annual average)	n/a	0% Urban population exposed (i.e. above EU limit value, on an annual average)

Indicator 3.2: Percentage of surface water bodies in good ecological status or with good ecological potential (as defined by the Water Framework Directive)

The good ecological status (GES) is defined in Annex 5 of the Water Framework Directive. It is based on the assessment of biological, hydromorphological and physico-chemical elements expressed in numerical values. GES also requires respecting the environmental flow necessary for ecosystems to be healthy. It expresses both qualitative and quantitative aspects of water status in surface water bodies. Therefore, this indicator is also relevant to specific objectives 1 and 2 above on preserving natural capital and the efficient use of resources.

Source of data: Commission report on the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive - River Basin Management Plans COM(2012) 670 (countries that have not reported RBMP, or not reported exemptions or have high unknown status, are not included);

Baseline (2009, EU21)	Interim Milestone	Target (2015) Based on Directive 2000/60/EC, Water Framework Directive.
43%	n/a	100% of water bodies to which justified exemptions do not apply

Indicator 3.3: Exposure to noise: percentage of population in urban areas exposed to more than 55 dB Lden and 50 dB Lnight

Lden (day-evening-night indicator) and Lnight (night-time noise indicator) are indicators that reflect the long-term average sound levels from various sources of noise causing health effects and premature deaths. Lden reflects the exposure for the entire 24H, while Lnight for the night time only (usually 8 hours).

Source of data: European Environment Agency – EIONET

Baseline	Interim Milestone	Target
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²¹ PM₁₀ refers to particulates whose diameter is less than 10 micrometres.

²² The population data applied derives from the Urban Audit, which is conducted at the initiative of the DG Regional and Urban Policy in cooperation with Eurostat and the national statistical offices of the 27 current Member States. Full details on how the index is calculated can be found at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/exceedance-of-air-quality-limit-3>

(2007, EU27)	n/a	(2015) Based on the 7 th Environment Action Programme
65%		Reduce and approach WHO values
Planned evaluations for Specific Objective 2 :		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of Directive 94/63/EC on the control of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions resulting from the storage of petrol and its distribution from terminals to service stations ('VOC Stage I'), 2016 • Evaluation of Directive 2009/126/EC on the control of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions resulting from the storage of petrol and its distribution from terminals to service stations ('VOC Stage II'), 2016 • Evaluation of the E-PRTR Regulation 166/2006/EC, 2016 • Evaluation of Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise, 2016 • Evaluation study supporting the revision of the EU Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC), 2016 • Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks, 2018 • Directive 2006/7/EC concerning the management of bathing water quality , 2020 		

Specific objective 4 : There is an enabling framework for environmental policy, based on smart implementation, a strong knowledge and evidence base, investment, and improved environmental integration and policy coherence

Related to spending programme(s)
LIFE

Indicator 4.1: Effectiveness of application of EU environment legislation

This indicator consists of infringements (formal legal step) and EU Pilot files (bilateral contacts with MS aiming at clarifying implementation issues). There are three types of infringements: non-communication, non-conformity and bad application cases.

Source of data: DG Environment

Baseline (December 2013)	Interim Milestone ²³ n/a	Target
Infringements (353): -Non-communication cases: 94 -Non-conformity cases: 68 -Bad application cases: 194 EU Pilots: 432		For infringements: effective and uniform implementation of EU environmental legislation as translated into a streamlined focus on structural issues that cannot be addressed otherwise For EU Pilots: Effective and uniform implementation of EU environmental legislation via this resolution mechanism

Indicator 4.2.a: Structural funds interventions²⁴

Solid waste: Annual capacity of newly built waste sorting and recycling facilities. It also includes extension of existing facilities.

Water supply: Number of persons provided with drinking water through drinking water supply network as a consequence of increased drinking water production/transportation capacity built by the project, and who were previously not connected or were served by sub-standard water supply.

Waste water treatment: Number of persons whose wastewater is transported to wastewater treatment plants through sewerage in networks as a result of increased wastewater treatment/transportation capacity built by the project, and who were previously not connected or were served by sub-standard wastewater treatment. It includes improving wastewater treatment level.

Land rehabilitation: Surface of remediated or regenerated contaminated or derelict land made available for economic (except non-eligible, e.g. agriculture or forestry) or community activities.

Nature and biodiversity: Surface of restored or created areas aimed at improving the conservation status of

²³ The column should be deleted if only short- and medium term (less than 3 years) targets are set.

²⁴ The common output indicators regarding solid waste, water supply, wastewater treatment, risk prevention and management, land rehabilitation and nature and biodiversity are set out and defined in Regulations 1299/2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal) and 1301/2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal) and will be followed by DG Regional and Urban Policy on the basis of the annual implementation reports to be submitted by the Member States as of 2016.

threatened species. The operations can be carried out both in or outside of Natura 2000 areas, capable of improving the conservation status of targeted species, habitats or ecosystems for biodiversity and the provisioning of ecosystem-services.

Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures.

Source of data: DG Regional and Urban Policy , 2014

	Baseline	Target 2007-2015 (cumulative)	Target 2014-2020 (cumulative)
Additional waste sorting and recycling capacity**	n/a	n/a**	3 260 587 Tonnes/year (CF) 2 532 604 Tonnes/year (ERDF)**
Additional population served by improved water supply*	n/a	15 million*	7874 242 Persons (CF) 4 507 363 Persons (ERDF)**
Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment*	n/a	19,7 million*	8 313 456 Population equivalent (CF) 8 539 195 Population equivalent (ERDF)**
Total surface area of rehabilitated land**	n/a	n/a**	689 Hectares (CF) 2 876 Hectares (ERDF) **
Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status**	n/a	n/a**	326 806 Hectares (CF) 6 046 867 Hectares (ERDF)**
Risk prevention and management. Population benefiting from flood protection measures**	n/a	n/a**	5 648 433 Persons (CF) 7 587 152 Persons (ERDF)**

* Targets result from 2007-2013 Operational Programmes (OPs);

** Specific to 2014-2020 framework.

Indicator 4.2.b: Structural funds interventions - Marine Environment

Promote the protection of the marine environment, in particular its biodiversity and marine protected areas such as Natura 2000 sites, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources and to further define the boundaries of the sustainability of human activities that have an impact on the marine environment, in accordance with the objectives of achieving and maintaining a good environmental status as required by Directive 2008/56/EC.

Baseline	Interim Milestone	Target
2014, EU 27	n/a	Based on Regulation (EU) 508/2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. (EMFF)
5%		Maintain the percentage

Indicator 4.3: % of EAFRD payments related to environment and climate

The percentage of EAFRD payments related to environmental and climate provides a very general estimate of the level of financial efforts of the Rural Development Policy towards the support of environmental operations. The 2012 baseline is based on the % of 2007-2013 EAFRD expenditure planned for the environment (axis 2 – Regulation 1698/2005). The targets will be calculated on the basis of the 2014-2020 expenditure executed for priority 4 of the Regulation 1305/2013, which covers the restoration, preservation and enhancement of ecosystems. The indicators include the expenditure executed on measures specifically dedicated to the achievement of environmental objectives, such as agri-environment and organic farming. It also accounts other measures whose aim is not directly linked with the achievement of environmental objectives such as the Natural Constraint Area and the Forest measures.²⁵

Source of data: DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Baseline	Interim Milestone	Target
(2012, EU 27)	n/a	Based on Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 on

²⁵ Full details on how the calculation is done can be found in the yearly AGRI reports on Statistical and Economic Information at http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/statistics/rural-development/index_en.htm

		support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
43%		Maintain the percentage
<p>Indicator 4.4: Fish catches from stocks outside safe biological limits managed by the EU in the North-East Atlantic (% of total catches per year)</p> <p>A stock is within safe biological limits if its current biomass is above levels capable of producing the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), which ensures a high probability that the stock will be able to replenish itself. The achievement of the MSY has been laid down in the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and is one of many elements to achieve good environmental status under Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The annual values are calculated on the basis of advice from ICES.</p> <p>Source of data: International Council for the Exploration of the Sea²⁶</p>		
Baseline (2008)	Interim Milestone n/a	Target (2015) Based on COM (2011)244 'Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020'
Total: 10.8% Pelagic (e.g. herring): 7.4% Benthic(e.g. prawns.): 11% Demersal (e.g. cod): 49.6% Industrial (e.g. Sand eel): 0%		0% of catches outside safe biological limits in all areas in which EU fishing fleets operate ²⁷
<p>Planned evaluations for Specific Objective 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the application and effectiveness of the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment), 2016 • Environmental Reporting Fitness Check, 2017 • External and independent mid-term evaluation report of the LIFE Programme (and its sub-programmes) in accordance with art 27.2 of LIFE Regulation EU/1293/2013, 2017 • Evaluation of Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), 2018 • Evaluation of Regulation (EC) No 401/2009 on the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Environment Information and Observation Network, 2018 		

Specific objective 5 : The Union's cities are more sustainable		Related to spending programme(s) LIFE
<p>Indicator 5.1: Percentage of EU cities applying for the European Green Capital Award (EGCA)</p> <p>The percentage of eligible cities applying for the EGCA reflects the importance cities attach to urban sustainability.</p> <p>Source of data: DG Environment 2013</p>		
Baseline (2013)	Interim Milestone	Target Set by DG Environment
17 cities applied for EGCA in 2012-2013	n/a	Increased number of cities applying for EGCA each year

Specific objective 6: The Union is more effective in addressing international environmental challenges		Related to spending programme(s)
<p>Indicator 6.1: Level of progress towards a greener, resource efficient global economy as, <i>inter alia</i>, reflected by clear policy commitments at the multilateral level²⁸</p>		

²⁶ New indicator under development

²⁷ According to the Common Fisheries Policy, the Maximum Sustainable Yield rate shall be achieved by 2015 where possible and on progressive, incremental basis at the latest by 2020

The 2030 Agenda that brings together the poverty eradication and sustainable development objectives was adopted in September 2015. The most significant part of this agenda is a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to be achieved by 2030.

Source of data: DG Environment

Baseline (2015)	Interim Milestone (2016)	Target (2030)
Agenda 2030 and SDGs adopted. A High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development to oversee its implementation has been established.	Adoption of SDG indicators	Successful implementation of SDGs

Indicator 6.2: EU participation in Multilateral Environmental Agreements: number of MEAs the EU is a signatory or a party to

Multilateral environmental agreements exist or are being negotiated in a large range of areas in which the EU has internally developed policies and legislation. EU participation in these agreements enables the EU to actively promote ambitious environmental standards and policies at global level and increases its visibility and accountability.

Source of data: DG Environment

Baseline (2013)	Interim Milestone	Target
EU signatory or party to 48 MEAs		The EU joining Conventions to which it is not yet a party (e.g. CITES and Bucharest Convention) and ratifying newly agreed Conventions and Protocols (e.g. Minamata Convention)

Indicator 6.3: Progress with pre-accession work in candidate countries and potential candidate countries and with the implementation of association agreements (AAs) and wider cooperation with neighbourhood countries.

In the enlargement and neighbourhood countries much effort is still required to improve environmental standards. The proximity of these countries to the EU and our shared resources (air, water etc.) signifies the importance of co-operation to achieve the EU's environmental objectives. Progress will be monitored with respect to 1) the transposition of EU-legislation in candidate and pre-candidate countries and approximation in neighbourhood countries and 2) the planning and implementation of required investments and measures.

Source of data: DG Environment

Baseline (2012)	Interim Milestone	Target
Enlargement countries are making gradual progress towards transposition and implementation of the EU acquis but are constrained by limited institutional and technical capacity and insufficient finance. Financial support from IPA is helping to address those issues along with bilateral and regional capacity building support under the TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) and the ECRAN (Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network) programmes. For the neighbourhood countries new AAs with Eastern neighbours include challenging commitments to converge with major EU environmental directives. With respect to Southern neighbours new action plans being negotiated will cover the implementation of the EU environment acquis and international agreements. At the regional		Transposition and implementation of EU environment legislation by candidate and potential candidate countries. Progress towards the adoption of EU standards and norms for environmental protection by countries in the neighbourhood.

²⁸ Also relevant to the Commission's first priority (A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment), as recognised in Commission Work Programme 2016, COM(2015)610, and therefore also to DG Environment's Specific Objective 1 to turn the EU into a resource-efficient, green and competitive economy

level, the Eastern Partnership (EaP) is tackling environment change as a priority area. Under the Union for the Mediterranean a number of capacity building measures are being supported which follow the European model.		
<p>Indicator 6.4: Environmental provisions introduced in bilateral agreements between the EU and third countries and regions</p> <p>Protecting the environment goes well beyond the scope of national or regional considerations, environmental challenges are also a global concern. The EU has comprehensive co-operation agreements with many third countries and regions. Each agreement includes an environment component which encourages the promotion of environmental protection and convergence in multilateral environmental negotiations.</p> <p>The implementation of the environment component in bilateral agreements with third countries and regions will be monitored regularly. The Joint Co-operation Committee Meetings and Trade and Sustainable Development Committee meetings etc. set –up under the Partnership and Co-operation Agreements (PCA), Free Trade Agreements (FTA) and Multi-annual Indicative Programmes (MIP) and Annual Action Plans will play a pivotal role in this context.</p> <p>Source of data: DG Environment</p>		
<p>Baseline (2013)</p>	<p>Interim Milestone n/a</p>	<p>Target</p>
<p>Ensure a strong environment component in the PCAs, FTAs and EDF/DCI (European Development Fund/ Development Cooperation Instrument) Programming plans (MIPs) agreed with third countries and regions.</p>		<p>Environment provisions appropriately reflected and implemented in the PCAs, FTAs and MIPS and Annual Action Plans.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.5: Number of significant timber exporting countries with which EU has signed agreement to prevent illegal logging (Voluntary Partnership Agreements - VPA)</p> <p>The EU adopted the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan in 2003. The Action Plan sets out a range of measures available to the EU and its member states to tackle illegal logging in the world's forests. An important measure foreseen by the Action Plan is the promotion of trade in legal timber, including developing and implementing VPAs between the EU and timber-producing countries, as a means to reducing to negligible levels trade in timber products related to illegal logging²⁹.</p> <p>Source of data: DG Environment</p>		
<p>Baseline (2012)</p>	<p>Interim Milestone n/a</p>	<p>Target</p>
<p>VPAs ratified to date: 5 VPAs concluded but pending ratification: 1 VPAs under negotiation: 9 Significant timber exporting countries (globally): 20</p>		<p>Increased number of ratified VPAs</p>

²⁹ Among others, stimulated by entry into force of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR)

Annex 2. Organisational management performance tables

A. Human Resources

Objective: The DG deploys effectively its resources in support of the delivery of the Commission's priorities and core business, has a competent and engaged workforce, which is driven by an effective and gender-balanced management and which can deploy its full potential within supportive and healthy working conditions.

Indicator 1: Percentage of female representation in middle management

Source of data: Target for female representation in management functions in the European Commission for the years 2015-2019 *adopted by the Commission on 15 July 2015 – SEC(2015)336*

Baseline	Target
21% in January 2015	Indicator targets for each Directorate-General adopted by the Commission on 15 July 2015 – SEC(2015)336 Commission decision 35% by end-2019

Indicator 2: Percentage of staff who feel that the Commission cares about their well-being³⁰

Source of data: Commission staff survey

Baseline	Target
36% in 2014	Not to fall below baseline (as satisfaction with the Commission covers more than the activities of DG ENV)

Indicator 3: Staff engagement index

Source of data: Commission staff survey

Baseline	Target
71% in 2014	To improve participation rate in the staff survey and improve the % of satisfaction

B. Financial management

Overarching objective: The Authorising Officer by Delegation should have reasonable assurance that resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions including prevention, detection, correction and follow-up of fraud and irregularities.

Objective 1: Effective and reliable internal control system giving the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and the regularity of the underlying transactions

Indicator 1: Estimated residual error rate³¹

Where necessary specific residual error rates would be calculated for each programme managed or for expenditure with a common risk profile.

Source of data: DG Environment (ex-post audits)

Baseline	Target
2011: 4.9%	2016: Below 2% 2017: Below 2% 2018: Below 2% 2019: Below 2% 2020: Below 2%

Indicator 2: Estimated overall amount at risk for the year for the entire budget under the DGs responsibility.

Source of data: DG Environment

³⁰ This indicator may be replaced by a fit@work index on which DG HR is currently working.

³¹ For the definition, see the first annex to the AAR instructions 2014 "Key definitions for determining amounts at risk" at <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/budgweb/EN/rep/aar/Documents/aar-standing-instructions.pdf>.

Baseline	Target
2013: €4.9 million	2016: €6.7 million
Indicator 3: Estimated future corrections	
Source of data: Data from DG BUDG, 2014 AAR	
Baseline	Target
2014: €6.8 million	--

Objective 2: Effective and reliable internal control system in line with sound financial management.

Indicator 1: conclusion reached on cost effectiveness of controls

Source of data: DG Environment

Baseline 2014	Target 2016-2020
Conclusion reached; ratio of overall cost of control to benefit calculated at 1:6	To reach a conclusion each year 2016-2020; ratio of overall cost of control to benefit not to be more than baseline figure of 1:6.

Objective 3: Minimisation of the risk of fraud through application of effective anti-fraud measures, integrated in all activities of the DG, based on the DG's anti-fraud strategy (AFS) aimed at the prevention, detection and reparation of fraud.

Indicator 1: Updated anti-fraud strategy elaborated on the basis of the methodology provided by OLAF³²

Source of data: Commission's Anti-Fraud Strategy (AFS), audit recommendations, internal meetings.

Baseline 2013	Interim Milestone 2018	Target 2020
Date of the last update: January 2016	To be reviewed every 2 years: Interim Milestone for review/update in 2018.	To be reviewed and updated, if needed, in 2020.
Indicator 2 : Fraud awareness is increased for target population(s) as identified in the DG's AFS		
Source of data: DG Environment		
Baseline 2015	Interim Milestones 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019:	Target 2020
100% of LIFE Project Managers, Financial Initiators (LIFE and SRD.2), ex-post Auditors	100% target population(s) reached; Annual review and continuous update of red flags lists.	100% target population(s) reached; Annual review and continuous update of red flags lists.

C. Better Regulation

Objective: Prepare new policy initiatives and manage the EU's acquis in line with better regulation practices to ensure that EU policy objectives are achieved effectively and efficiently.

Indicator 1: Percentage of Impact assessments submitted to the Regulatory Scrutiny Board that received a favourable opinion on first submission.

The opinion of the RSB will take into account the better regulation practices followed for new policy initiatives. Gradual improvement of the percentage of positive opinions on first submission is an indicator of progress made by the DG in applying better regulation practices.

Source of data: DG Environment

Baseline 2014	Interim Milestone 2016	Target 2020
50%	Positive trend compared to baseline	Positive trend compared to interim milestone

³²The methodology can be found on the FPDNet website: <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/serv/en/fraud-prevention/ToolBox/Documents/Methodology%20and%20guidance%20for%20DGs%20anti-fraud%20strategies.pdf>. In particular paragraph 3 of the methodology is relevant.

Indicator 2: Percentage of the DG's regulatory *acquis* covered by ex-post evaluations and Fitness Checks not older than five years.

Better Regulation principles foresee that regulatory *acquis* is evaluated at regular intervals. As evaluations help to identify any burdens, implementation problems, and the extent to which objectives have been achieved, the availability of performance feedback is a prerequisite to introduce corrective measures allowing the *acquis* to stay fit for purpose.

The application of better regulation practices would progressively lead to the stock of legislative *acquis* covered by regular evaluations to increase.

Source of data: DG Environment

Baseline 2015	Interim Milestone 2016	Target 2020
42% (including ongoing evaluations)	Positive trend compared to baseline	Positive trend compared to interim milestone

D. Information management aspects

Objective: Information and knowledge in your DG is shared and reusable by other DGs. Important documents are registered, filed and retrievable

Indicator 1: Percentage of registered documents that are not filed³³ (ratio)

Source of data: *Hermes-Ares-Nomcom (HAN)*³⁴ statistics

Baseline 2014	Target
2.88%	Maintain/Improve and not to fall below baseline

Indicator 2: Percentage of HAN files readable/accessible by all units in the DG

Source of data: *HAN statistics*

Baseline	Target
97.60%	Maintain/Improve and not to fall below baseline

Indicator 3: Percentage of HAN files shared with other DGs

Source of data: *HAN statistics*

Baseline	Target
0.07%	Improve

E. External Communication Activities

Objective: Citizens perceive that the EU is working to improve their lives and engage with the EU. They feel that their concerns are taken into consideration in European decision making and they know about their rights in the EU.

Indicator 1: Percentage of EU citizens having a positive image of the EU

Definition: Eurobarometer measures the state of public opinion in the EU Member States. This global indicator is influenced by many factors, including the work of other EU institutions and national governments, as well as political and economic factors, not just the communication actions of the Commission. It is relevant as a proxy for the overall perception of the EU citizens. Positive visibility for the EU is the desirable corporate outcome of Commission communication, even if individual DGs' actions may only make a small contribution.

Source of data: Standard Eurobarometer (DG COMM budget) [*monitored by DG COMM*].

Baseline: November 2014	Target: 2020
Total "Positive": 39% Neutral: 37 % Total "Negative": 22%	Positive image of the EU ≥ 50%

³³ Each registered document must be filed in at least one official file of the *Chef de file*, as required by the [e-Domec policy rules](#) (and by ICS 11 requirements). The indicator is to be measured via reporting tools available in Ares.

³⁴ Suite of tools designed to implement the [e-Domec policy rules](#).

Indicator 2: Percentage of EU citizens who are aware of the portfolio item Environment as a result of the DG's actions	
Source of data: Eurobarometer	
Baseline: 2014/2015	Target: 2020
95% of citizens considered protecting the environment very or fairly important to them personally in 2014	Maintain or increase
39% of SMEs consider the environment is a top priority for their company in December 2015	Increase