



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO UKRAINE
Head of Cooperation

Kyiv,

Mrs. Olena Kravchenko
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Subject: The law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Creating Conditions for Food Security in Martial Law" (No 2145-IX former bill No. 7178 of 19.03.2022), the law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine regarding Activity in the Area of Environment and Civil Protection in Martial Law and in Reconstruction Period" (No 2132-IX former bill No 7144 of 13.03.2022) and decisions restricting access to environmental databases and forests

Reference: Your letters dated 23 March and 6 April 2022

Dear Ms. Kravchenko,

Thank you very much for your letters drawing the EU's attention to the recent amendments in the legislation of Ukraine.

First of all, we would like to recall that the adoption of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) legislation in Ukraine was strongly advocated by the EU several years ago. We have been also repeatedly stressing the need to ensure implementation and enforcement of this legislation in line with the provisions of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. The importance of the principle of environmental integration is also a cornerstone of the European Green Deal. In this context, we share your concerns that any derogation from the application of the EIA legislation shall be cautiously assessed and avoided. Commissioner Sinkevičius has already raised relevant concerns with the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine Ruslan Strilets. We will also follow up on this issue in our policy dialogue with the government of Ukraine.

We would also like to assure you that we will raise and follow-up with Ukrainian authorities on other issues raised in your second letter. At the same time, environmental dimension of the reforms in the area of agriculture and forestry has been always duly integrated in our policy dialogue with Ukrainian authorities and will continue to be so.

Let me thank you again for keeping us informed. We highly appreciate the work done by our partners from environmental non-governmental organisations, including “Environment.People.Law” (EPL). We believe that the issues related to protection of the environment shall remain high in the agenda in these difficult times, in order to ensure that Ukraine builds back for a greener and more resilient future. On our side, we remain in close contact with the government of Ukraine, including through our technical assistance projects, to assist in assessing the environmental damage caused by the unprovoked Russian aggression as well as to further support the implementation of environmental reforms as outlined in the Association Agreement.

Let me thank you again for drawing our attention to the issue.

Yours sincerely,

/e-signed/
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