CHAPTER 27 – ENVIRONMENT

Promote sustainable development and protect the environment for present and future generations.

The acquis comprises over 200 major legal acts covering various sectors. For negotiations purposes, EU legal acts are grouped into about 75 main legal acts/groups of legal acts into following subchapters: horizontal, air quality, waste management, water quality, nature protection, industrial pollution control, chemicals, noise and climate change. Chapter 27 also includes civil protection area.

EU environmental policy is realized through the EU legal system (acquis). There are two main types of legislation in the EU legal system. Some laws – regulations – apply in the whole EU as soon as they are adopted. Others – directives – have to be converted into national law. Directives say what we are aiming to achieve but let Member States decide how they will do it.

PREVENTIVE ACTION

EU environmental policy aims to promote sustainable development and protect the environment for present and future generations. It is based on preventive action: the polluter pays principle, fighting environmental damage at source, shared responsibility and the integration of environmental protection into other EU policies.

NEGOTIATIONS

NEGOTIATIONS are held with each candidate country to determine their ability to apply EU legislation (acquis) and examine their possible request for transition periods. To conduct the accession negotiations, EU legislation and standards are divided into 35 chapters which are negotiated one by one. ENVAP is assisting Serbia in preparing to negotiate the Chapter 27 Environment and climate change.

STRONG ADMINISTRATION

A strong and well-equipped administration at national, regional and local level is imperative for the application and enforcement of the environment acquis.
INVESTMENT DEMANDING

Compliance with the acquis requires significant investment into environmental infrastructure. If extended periods after membership are required, transitional periods have to be negotiated. Request for transitional period has to be supported by the Directive Specific Implementation Plan – DSIP.

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For the process to be a success, politicians must move Environment and Climate Change up their list of priorities. Strong determination will be necessary to address decades of accumulated environmental challenges and the immediate and future challenges posed by climate change.