

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on
Access to Information, Public Participation
in Decision-making and Access to Justice
in Environmental Matters

Task Force on Access to Information

Seventh meeting

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda:

Access to environment-related product information

Access to Environment-related Product Information: Implementation Outlook

Background paper¹
Prepared by the secretariat

This document contains a “cut and paste” compilation of the relevant extracts from the synthesis report² submitted to the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session (Budva, Montenegro, 11 – 13 September 2017)³ and reports on the implementation of article 5, paragraphs 6 and 8, of the Aarhus Convention provided in the national implementation reports submitted by Parties to the Convention in the 2017 reporting cycle⁴. The document also includes a summary table indicating the Parties that provided specific information on article 5, paragraphs 6 and 8. When provided, all paragraph numbers from the original synthesis report and 2017 national implementation reports are indicated in parentheses at the end of each copied paragraph in this document.

Delegates are invited to consult this document in advance of the meeting in order to gain an overview of the status the implementation of article 5, paragraphs 6 and 8, of the Aarhus Convention and to discuss further needs to be addressed under the auspices of the Task Force on Access to Information.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

² Available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/mop5_docs.html#/

³ Available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/mop5_main.html#/

⁴ Available from <http://apps.unece.org/ehlm/pp/NIR/index.asp>

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I. Summary table of reporting on the implementation of article 5, paragraphs 6 and 8, of the Convention

Symbols used in table:

- X = The Party included information on obstacles encountered in the implementation of article 5, paragraphs 6 and 8 respectively in 2017 reporting cycle (question 11, paragraphs f and h, of the reporting format)
- = The Party did not report specifically on the implementation of article 5, paragraphs 6 and 8, in that reporting cycle (question 11, paragraphs f and h, of the reporting format respectively)

Party	Article 5, para. 6 2017	Article 5, para. 8 2017
Albania	X	—
Armenia	X	X
Austria	X	X
Azerbaijan	—	—
Belarus	X	—
Belgium	X	X
Bosnia and Herzegovina	X	X
Bulgaria	X	X
Croatia	X	X
Cyprus	X	—
Czechia	X	X
Denmark	X	X
Estonia	X	X
European Union	X	X
Finland	X	X
France	X	X
Georgia	X	X
Germany	X	—
Greece	X	X
Hungary	X	X
Iceland	X	—
Ireland	X	X
Italy	X	X

Kazakhstan	—	X
Kyrgyzstan	X	X
Latvia	X	X
Lithuania	X	X
Luxembourg	X	X
Malta	X	X
Montenegro	X	X
Netherlands	—	X
North Macedonia	X	—
Norway	X	X
Poland	X	X
Portugal	X	X
Republic of Moldova	—	—
Romania	X	X
Serbia	X	X
Slovakia	X	X
Slovenia	X	X
Spain	X	X
Sweden	X	X
Switzerland	X	X
Tajikistan	—	—
Turkmenistan	—	X
Ukraine	—	—
United Kingdom	X	X

II. Extracts from the Synthesis report

The following is extracted from the Synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2017/6) with regard to the implementation of Article 5, paragraphs 6 and 8, of the Aarhus Convention:

Encouraging operators to inform the public (article 5, paragraph 6)

1. With regard to article 5, paragraph 6, concerning measures taken to encourage operators whose activities have a significant impact on the environment to inform the public regularly of the environmental impact of their activities and products, most of the reporting Parties from the European Union, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland subregion mentioned the operation of eco-labelling schemes and voluntary environmental management systems. Estonia mentioned the conclusion of voluntary agreements by the Ministry of Environment with the main polluters (i.e., their associations). Danish farmers have submitted fertilizer accounts for a number of years now. This information has been made public on the Internet. In Luxembourg, businesses can participate in a voluntary scheme to audit their waste management practices (112).

Availability of product information (article 5, paragraph 8)

2. With respect to article 5, paragraph 8, concerning measures taken to develop mechanisms to ensure that sufficient product information is made available to the public, many reporting Parties from the European Union, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland subregion mentioned the operation of eco-labelling schemes, energy labelling for electric goods, organic labelling and other national labels. Georgia reported that requirements on food safety are in place, while Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan mentioned requirements on labelling of products containing GMOs. Among the reporting Parties from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia subregion, only Belarus mentioned the existence of ecolabelling and eco-certification systems (114).

III. Extracts from the national implementation reports

Albania

3. *Regarding paragraph 6*, Manuals published for businesses, especially large businesses, are distributed in Albanian, American, Greek and Italian Chambers of Commerce. This step has had an impact because it is noticed an increase at about 20% compared to 2011, the number of businesses that come near Aarhus centres in Tirana to be informed on legal and practical procedures on the organization of public hearings for activities which are part of Annex I (Aarhus Convention). Following the entrance into force, 1 June 2016, of the Decision of Council of Ministers No 742, dated 09.09.2015, "On functioning and management of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register, which are subject of this register, and also declaration forms of data on releases and transfers of pollutants by the operator", National Environmental Agency has installed release register and they are at test stage.

4. The Agency has also identified all the companies which are part of reporting in the context of PRTR protocol. At this stage the Agency is being supported by REC, funded by German Federal Environment Agency, through the project "Support on the establishment and advancing with pollutant transfer register in the countries of Western Balkan".

Armenia

5. *Article 5, paragraph 6*. The Armenian law does not provide for any special measures to encourage operators whose activities may have a significant impact on the environment, according to public awareness. Such an opportunity is provided by the draft law on environmental expert review and environmental impact assessment.

6. *Article 5, paragraph 8*. The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, and in particular the National Institute of Standards, which is part of its structure, are dealing with information issues related to the food industry. Many commercial organizations have also been granted the right to international product certification, such as the Pharmaceutical and Medical Technology Administration. In this area, the State Food Safety Service, established in 2012, plays an important role. In the case of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), a package of amendments to the Food Safety Act (27.11.2006) is currently being discussed in the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia. In particular, the marking of GMOs is envisaged. Amendments and additions to the Consumer Protection Act (26.06.2001) are also under discussion. A draft law on biosecurity of genetically modified organisms is under discussion. Changes and additions to the Food Safety Act have not been adopted, the scope of GMO use remains unregulated and the public awareness is unsatisfactory. In recent years, several NGOs have been involved in the development and implementation of voluntary eco-labelling systems (e.g. for labelling environmentally friendly agricultural products, NGO Ecogloba). Although public organizations, scientists are quite aware, in particular, about the draft Law. It was submitted to parliamentary hearings. A number of Government decrees were approved: "Technical regulation of the requirements for food-related substances and their labeling in Armenian (25.10.2007 N1282), Requirements for the form of labeling of information in the Armenian language of food and food additives imported into Armenia (21.12.2006 N1838), The order of labeling and development of organic agricultural products, as well as products in the transitional stage of organic agriculture (19.03.2009 N283), Order of organic agriculture, plant production and plant products (including bee products), organic development, packaging, implementation and labelling (11.06.2009 N662). (106)

Austria

7. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* In accordance with paragraph 13 of the Austrian Environmental Information Act, the owners of companies, obliged to measure and record emission data shall actively (i.e. without being asked to do so) disclose such environmental information. This means that the respective company shall publish the emission data he/she is obliged to measure for the period of the respectively last month (or the last year) in a way that is easily understood by the general public and in a place which is easily accessible.

8. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* The website of the environmental consultancy body, Umweltberatung provides information on precautionary environmental protection in various fields (e.g. chemicals, building and living, climate protection, energy etc.). In addition, citizens can turn to dedicated information centres in the federal provinces. The municipality of Vienna, for instance, has published the “Gut-gekauft-Bezirkspläne”, i.e. city district guides including a register of companies selling environmentally friendly products as well as advice on sustainable shopping. In the framework of the initiative “Bewusst kaufen” (“conscious buying”), sustainable products are advertised by merchants, enabling consumers to make informed choices when shopping. Food stuff, electric equipment and hardware retailers, butchers and furniture traders are taking part in the campaign. Moreover, a growing number of self-employed merchants are supporting the campaign, which has been launched by the BMLFUW, its partners and the Austrian retail industry.

Belarus

9. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* The Environmental Protection Act, the Consumer Protection Act and the Conformity Assessment Act (which aims to ensure compliance with the requirements of technical legislation in the field of technical regulation and standardization) cover voluntary environmental certification and eco-labelling of food and manufactured goods. A ‘Natural Product’ food label has been introduced in order to certify that a given product corresponds to the established requirements and to give effect to the right of consumers to receive reliable information and make an informed choice. Technical code of established practice TKP 126-2008, entitled ‘Food products. Rules for the ‘Natural Product’ Label. Basic regulations’, came into force on 1 June 2008. In Belarus, environmental certification is one of the major elements of State environmental policy; it aims to protect the interests of the State, society and citizens in the environmental sphere, to guarantee safety and to ensure the preservation of biodiversity (82).

Belgium

10. *Federal authority:* (f) (Paragraph unchanged).

11. Providing information about products is a federal competence.

12. Providing information about activities is a regional competence.

13. With regard to the provision of information by operators whose activities have a significant impact on the environment, we should in the first instance refer to Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2001 allowing voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) (OJ L 114, 24.04.2001).

14. The main lines of the EMAS Regulation can be summarised as follows. The basic principle is that companies in the industrial sector can participate voluntarily in the evaluation and improvement of their environmental performance. In addition, the public must be informed of this. A system of environmental verifiers and registration is used. Before a registration can be made, the sites in question must meet a number of requirements, such as the drawing up of an environmental policy, review, programme, management system, audit, and statement.

15. On the basis of the co-operation agreement of 30 March 1995 (B.S., 03.10.1995) between the federal state and the Regions, this matter is applied in a co-ordinated way in Belgium.

16. Apart from EMAS, “internal environmental performance” was integrated into the Flemish Parliament Act of 5 April 1995 containing general provisions regarding environmental policy in the Flemish Region. This regulation provides for a partial environmental performance system, which means that certain categories of installations are obliged to meet only the elements that are essential for government policy.

17. A first relevant regulation mentioned in this respect is the compulsory environmental audit. This may be either a one-off or a periodical (that is three-yearly) environmental audit. This is to be understood as a systematic, documented and objective evaluation of the management, organisation and equipment of the installation or activity concerned in terms of environmental protection. Concretely, it is examined, among other things, how the plant provides information externally and an explanation is also given of its production methods.
18. Moreover, the Flemish Parliament Act containing general provisions regarding environmental policy also provides for the drawing up of an annual integrated environmental report for specific categories of installations. This report consists of four partial reports: an annual emission report, a waste register, noise and emission measurements.
19. (h) (Paragraph unchanged). With respect to paragraph 8: Product information is a federal competence. See the federal report (www.health.fgov.be).
20. *Walloon Region:* (f) Roll-out of annual environmental reporting to the public authority via the Walloon Government's draft. The Environment Code (Book I, Part V on environmental impact assessment), the Decree of 11 mars 1999 and the CWATUP (*Code wallon de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Urbanisme et du Patrimoine*) deal with the procedure for granting permits to installations having an impact on the environment. Under those legislations, an impact assessment is systematically required for all projects listed in Annex I of the Aarhus Convention.
21. In addition, a decree of 22nd November 2007 amending the decree of 11 mars 1999 on environmental permits, adopted in 2007, has established a mandatory annual reporting on environmental datas for the installations concerned by the PRTR Protocol.
22. (h) The Walloon Region supports a non-profit organization gathering association of consumer defence and environmental protection associations ("Ecoconso") to set up an "ecological consumption network" to raise consumer awareness and inform and help consumers to make more environmentally friendly and healthier consumption choices.
23. *Brussels Capital-Region: Paragraph 6:* see Ord. art.16 § 2.
24. *Paragraph 8:* See Law of 21 December 1998 (published in Moniteur Belge of 11 February 1999) on product standards designed to promote sustainable production means, environmental protection and public health, art.5, §1, 6°.
25. Practically speaking, this means: awareness of the public of the need to behave in such a way and buy products that damage to the environment is kept to a minimum (see above).
26. *Flemish Region:* (f) European Regulation 1221/2009 (EMAS): companies must supply information on the environmental impact of their activities.
27. For certain categories of plants, an environmental audit and integrated annual environmental report is obliged according to the "Internal Corporate environmental care".

Bosnia and Herzegovina

28. (f) With respect to Paragraph 6, measures taken to encourage operators whose activities have a significant impact on the environment to inform the public regularly of the environmental impact of their activities and product.
29. Of relevance are the provisions of Article 73 of the LoPE FBH, Article 92, LoPE RS and Article 72 of LoPE BD. The public is informed by the relevant bodies. With regard to eco-labels and control, of relevance are the provisions of Chapter XIII of LoPE FBH, Chapter IX of LoPE RS and Chapter XII of LoPE BD. Regulations on eco-labels are in place in the FBiH (Official Gazette of FBiH: 92/07), and the RS (Official Gazette of RS: 22/08).
30. (h) With respect to Paragraph 8, measures taken to develop mechanisms with a view to ensuring that sufficient product information is made available to the public
31. Relevant provisions are Article 93 and 94 of LoPE FBH, Articles 111 to 114 of LoPE RS and Articles 89 and 90 of LoPE BD as well as the provisions of the Rulebook on Eco-Labels of FBiH. In addition, also applicable are the provisions of Article 52 of LoGMO. The data on income collected on different grounds and subsequently distributed to users for various purposes, as specified under the regulations in effect and according to geographic distribution, may be obtained from the FEF, upon the request from the relevant institutions.

Bulgaria

32. *Subpoint (f)*: With articles 137 - 141 of the EPA, the legislative requirements for the application of the EU Ecolabel Scheme are established in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the EU Ecolabel. The EU Ecolabel is a voluntary commitment of the business and focuses on production and consumption of products and services with reduced negative impact on the environment throughout their life cycle. The logo of the EU Ecolabel ensures consumers that products and services have the highest environmental performance achieved on the Community market. Information is accurate, not misleading and scientifically sound, and facilitates consumer choice. Actual information for the Scheme, the organizations on the territory of Bulgaria and the products obtained the right to use the logo of the EU Ecolabel is kept on the website of MoEW and regularly updated.

33. Article 132-141 of EPA establish legislative requirements for the application of the Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) according to Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS), repealing Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 and Commission Decisions 2001/681/EC and 2006/193/EC. The objective of EMAS is to promote continuous improvement of the environmental performance of organizations through: creation and implementation by the organizations a system for environmental management; systematic, objective and periodic evaluation of the performance of such systems; provision of information on environmental performance; open dialogue with the public and other stakeholders, as well as active involvement of employees in organizations and appropriate training. Actual information for the Scheme and the organizations on the territory of Bulgaria which are registered under Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 is kept on the website of MoEW and regularly updated.

34. The European Commission has published criteria for the products and services subject of environmental friendly/"green" public procurement (also voluntary instrument of EU as the EU Ecolabel). Criteria for "green" public procurement cover 21 product and service groups identified as most appropriate, given the high consumption, high market share, significant environmental impacts. These criteria are published on the websites of the Commission and the MoEW.

35. *Subpoint (h)*: As a member of the EU, Bulgaria uses some other instruments, except EU Ecolabel, that provide information about the environmental characteristics of products and services, including eco-design, energy labeling etc.

Croatia

36. *Paragraph 6*: As part of the CNPEPR portal, the public has access to information on operators exceeding the thresholds prescribed for the release and transfer of pollutants, the generated, collected and treated waste from the EPR as well as polluters and their location.

37. The operators, manufacturers and service providers implementing high environmental protection standards can be awarded an eco-certificate, and co-financing of the introduction of ISO 14001, EU Ecolabel and the EMAS was initiated.

38. *Paragraph 8*: Art. 219 of the EPA prescribes that the producer, that is the person placing a product on the market, shall be obliged in cases it is so prescribed to put, prior to placing a product on the market, an instruction on the packaging or on the technical document accompanying the product informing the consumer about the environmental impact of the product and of the packaging, and instructing how to handle the product and packaging after their use. The EPA also prescribed fines for violations of provisions under Art. 219. The Act on Sustainable Waste Management (OG No. 94/13) and the Ordinance on Packaging and Packaging Waste (OG No. 88/15 and 78/16) are also relevant in this context.

39. The following are also relevant in this context: The Regulation on limit values for volatile organic compound content of certain paints and varnishes used in construction and vehicle refinishing products (OG No. 69/13), Regulation on the quality of petroleum-derived liquid fuels (OG No. 113/13, 76/14 and 56/15) which prescribe that, prior to being placed on the Croatian market, the products must have an intelligible label in Croatian informing the consumers of the content and limit values. Also publicly available through CAEN are databases on „Volatile organic compounds in paints and varnishes“ and „Fuel quality at petrol stations and in fuel storage tanks“ along with reports on indicated products (<http://blv.azo.hr/>; <http://iszz.azo.hr/kago/>; [http://www.azo.hr/GodisnjaIzvjjescaOHLapivim](http://www.azo.hr/GodisnjaIzvjjescaOHLapivim;); <http://www.azo.hr/GodisnjaIzvjjescaOTekucim>).

40. The public can also access the information on the approved biocidal products, the list of which is regularly published by the Ministry of Health on its website. The annual list of biocidal products is adopted by the Minister of Health pursuant to the Act on Biocidal Products (OG No. 63/07, 53/08 and 49/11).

Cyprus

41. *Paragraph 6:* In the case of waste management, information is provided through (a) the obligation of the Waste Management Permit holders to submit to the competent authority a yearly report on quantities, type and final destination of the waste received, (b) the producers' responsibility to submit a yearly report on the quantities of packaging, electrical and electronic equipment, batteries and accumulators and vehicle tyres they put on the market, (c) the individual and collective take back systems formed under the producers responsibility principle, (d) independent studies carried out by the competent authority and (e) surveys carried out by the Statistical Service. An electronic data base is under preparation in order to facilitate this procedure.

42. The Department of Environment actively promotes the voluntary EU Eco-management and Audit Scheme, which requires the preparation and annual update of a validated environmental statement which includes the environmental policy of the organisation and a description of the environmental aspects and impacts of the organisation, and which must be made available to the public.

Czechia

43. *Regarding article 5, paragraph 6:* There is the Integrated Pollution Register and the Information System for the Fulfilment of Reporting Duties (ISPOP) through which the polluters are legally obliged to report pollutants released to the environment (Act No. 25/2008, on the Integrated Pollution Register). Enterprises and companies that have products with a certificate authorizing them to use the label "environmentally friendly product" and that have applied an environmental management/audit system make use of comparative advantages and mostly inform the public about such activities through the available information sources

44. *Regarding article 5, paragraph 8:* Under an EU Directive, the obligation to designate electrical appliances with energy labels has been implemented in Act No. 406/2000 Coll., on Energy Management. In addition, it is also possible to obtain the label "environmentally friendly product" both for the Czech Republic and the whole of the EU within the scope of voluntary environmental protection tools. In addition, Council Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products is directly applicable in the Czech Republic, followed by Act No. 242/2000 Coll., on Organic Farming. These regulations regulate the use of designations "bio-product", "bio-food" and "other bio-product".

Denmark

45. *Paragraph 6:* During the period from 1996 till 2015 certain heavily polluting enterprises had a duty to provide general environmental information to the public through so called green accounts, which were put up on the internet. The green accounts also covered PRTR. In 2015 the regulation of this information system was modernized. The green accounts system was replaced by the PRTR register.

46. On the basis of the various plans for the aquatic environment, farmers have been submitting fertiliser accounts for a number of years. Since January 2008, these have been made public on the internet – see (c) above.

47. Through product labelling (e.g. the EU ecolabel, the Flower, and the Nordic ecolabel, the Swan) enterprises can confirm that a product meets specific environmental quality requirements.

48. Enterprises can also register according to the voluntary European Community environmental management scheme (EMAS). An EMAS-registered enterprise in Denmark must annually publish a statement regarding its environmental performance verified by an independent third party. Danish enterprises are encouraged by the EPA to adopt the EMAS scheme.

49. *Paragraph 8:* On the EPA's website there is a full catalogue of approved pesticides. In addition, the EPA provides good advice on a spray garden on the website godthavemiljo.dk and helps the garden owners who want to spray in the garden, to choose the least harmful pesticides.

50. Administration of the eco-labels the Flower and the Swan in Denmark is headed by Ecolabelling Denmark assisted by an eco-labelling board set up by the Minister for the Environment and Food following recommendations from a number of organisations representing the interests of retailers, industry, the environment, and consumers.

51. The Ø logo is an inspection label and shows that the latest preparation of an organic product has taken place in a Danish company covered by organic inspection from the public Danish authorities.

52. Only authorities under the Ministry of Environment and Food carry out inspection under the government rules for organic production. Application of the logo is voluntary for the producer. Inspection of organic foods in Denmark applies to all stages from stable to table, and is carried out at least once a year.

Estonia

53. *Paragraph 6:* The Ministry of the Environment has since the end of the 1990s concluded several free-will agreements with enterprises, whose activities have a significant impact on the environment (available to the public on the website of the Ministry of the Environment), with the aim of mutual cooperation to improve environmental conditions. This cooperation consists the Ministry providing information on future changes in environment-related legal acts and involving representatives of the enterprises in the development of legal acts, and the enterprises assuming additional obligations that are not directly mandatory under the applicable law but considerably improve environmental conditions, such as the implementation of International Standardization Organisation (ISO) 14001-compliant environmental management systems, informing the public of their activities influencing the environment and carrying out additional scientific research. Such agreements have been concluded with the Estonian Association of Mining Enterprises, Estonian Association of Environmental Management, Association of Fishermen of the Lake Peipus, Association of Fishermen of the Sub-basin of the Lake Peipus, Federation of the Estonian Chemical Industry, Estonian Forest and Wood Industries Association, Estonian Water Works Association, Estonian Traders Association, Non-profit organisation KEEL, OÜ Eesti Pandipakend AS Nordic Kunda Tsement, and OÜ Kumari Reisid.

54. *Paragraph 8:* Access to information regarding goods and services offered on the commodities market is regulated primarily under the Consumer Protection Act. Product safety and the related provision of information to consumers is regulated under the Product Safety Act. Pursuant to section 3 of the Consumer Protection Act, obtaining necessary and truthful information on the goods and services offered in order to make an informed choice is one of the fundamental rights of consumers (clause 2). A consumer has the right to obtain necessary information on safety, protection of health, property and economic interests related to goods or services offered.

55. Disclosure of data is regulated by specific laws or EU regulations, e.g. REACH (EC) No 1907/2006 and Regulation concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products (EU) No 528/2012. The Environmental Management System Act establishes in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No. 1221/2009 allowing voluntary participation by organisations in a European Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) the rights and obligations of respective institutions in Estonia. In accordance with its section 50, the Ministry of the Environment must prepare a strategy and plan of activities for promoting environmental management and auditing systems for promoting the European Union's environmental management and auditing system and for organizing the necessary information campaigns and training. The strategy is approved by the Government of the Republic. The same act also establishes the national provisions detailing the application of the voluntary eco-label of the European Union.

56. Regulation (EC) No. 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council on EU eco-label award scheme which is directly applicable also in Estonia, establishes in article 12 the obligation of the Member States and the European Commission to promote the use of eco-label by performing information campaigns for consumers, producers, merchants, distributors and the public.

European Union

57. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* The EU adopted regulatory acts on voluntary eco-labelling and eco-auditing schemes: the EU Ecolabel Regulation 66/2010 and the EMAS Regulation 1221/2009. The EU Ecolabel Regulation provides for the consultation of stakeholders when establishing Ecolabel criteria for product groups (see in particular Article 7 of the Regulation).

58. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* The EU adopted several legislative acts to ensure that producers make available to consumers information concerning the energy efficiency and energy performance of their products: the Energy Labelling Directive 2010/30/EU, the Ecodesign Directive 2009/125/EC whose Article 14 deals with consumer information, the EU Tyre Labelling Regulation 1222/2009 and the Car Labelling Directive 1999/94/EC.

59. Both the Energy Labelling Directive and the Ecodesign Directive provide for the adoption of delegated acts on the eco-design and energy labelling of energy related products: see http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/labelling/household_en.htm. Before such acts are adopted, stakeholders are consulted via the Ecodesign Consultation Forum: see http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/ecodesign/forum_en.htm.

60. Reference is also made to the European Energy Star Programme, a voluntary energy labelling programme for office equipment. The Energy Star logo helps consumers identify office equipment products that better protect the environment by saving energy, see the EU Energy Star Regulation 106/2008.

61. The European Business Awards for the Environment, which are presented every two years, recognise and reward European companies that set an example by successfully bringing together innovation, economic viability and environmental concerns; see <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/awards/index.html>.

Finland

62. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* In the 1990s voluntary environmental control methods were introduced concerning the industrial protection of the environment. These systems also involve informative tasks. Since 1996, all organisations have the opportunity to implement the global ISO 14001 environmental system. Moreover, organisations have also had access to the voluntary EU environmental management and auditing system EMAS. A new EU Regulation ((EC) No. 1221/2009) came into effect in January 2010 [comment 2017 cycle: EMAS Handbook, decision of the Commission 2013/131/EU] (90).

63. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* The Nordic environmental mark, i.e. the swan logo, was established in 1989 by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Its goal is to instruct consumers in choosing from among the relevant range of products those that place the smallest impact on the environment. At the same time, it strives to promote product development in a direction which is positive to the environment. The ecolabel of the European Union, the "euro flower", is based on Regulation of the European Parliament and Council (EC) No. 66/2010 on the system of granting a Community ecolabel. The goals of the system are similar to the Nordic label system(92).

64. The purpose of the European energy labels is to inform consumers about the energy efficiency of appliances. The label is based on directive 2010/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, which was approved on 19 May 2010. Several delegated regulations have been issued based on the directive, which include more detailed provisions on the energy labels of different devices. The scope of the directive covers all products related to energy. The Commission's Directive has been implemented in Finland by the Act on Requirements of Ecological Design and Energy Labels (1005/2008, amended 1009/2010). In addition to the official labels, environmental labels may also be contained in other products. Such labels include "luomu" [organic], the EU origin label and the "fair trade" label (93).

France

65. *Paragraph 6:* Under the Order of 24 December 2002 on annual declaration of pollutant emissions from ICPEs that are subject to authorization, each operator must submit a single statement of the pollutant emissions originating from its installations. This statement is submitted on the GEREPE website, and the Ministry disseminates the data collected to the general public at <http://www.georisques.gouv.fr/dossiers/irep-registre-des-emissions-polluantes>. In 2015, data from over 15,000 establishments were made available in this way. CO2 emissions covered by the Emissions Trading Directive must be declared at the same time (74).

66. France supplies the European Commission with the data needed for the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register on an annual basis (3,586 establishments in 2015). They have been available on the European Commission website since 2007 (75).

67. Various types of data relating to water pollution are available on the website of the Ministry responsible for the environment: a list of data banks and networks run by the water information network (DISCEAU database); the national data bank on underground water (ADES); and the data bank on hydrometry (HYDRO) (76).

68. *Paragraph 8:* An official French environmental label, *NF-Environnement*, has been in existence since 1991. It is the property of the French Standards Association (AFNOR), and has an associated logo which, when attached to a product, guarantees that it meets specific criteria. The purpose of the *NF-Environnement* label is to guide consumer choice while

encouraging industries to improve the environmental quality of their products. A list of environmental labels may be consulted at www.afnor.fr (66).

69. Article L. 112-10 of the Consumer Code arranged a trial period during which consumers were to be informed of the carbon-equivalent content of products and packaging as well as the consumption of natural resources and the environmental impact that can be attributed to products over their lifespan (67).

70. This trial period has led to the conclusion that it is necessary – in the expectation of a European Union measure – to take an approach that will be progressive, proactive, adapted to the given sector of economic activity, consistent with measures at the European level, compatible with international trade rules and based on the methodological reference frameworks developed by the French Standards Association and the Environment and Energy Agency (68).

71. Article L. 121-15-4 of the Consumer Code requires advertisements for products covered by EU energy labelling to include a reference to the energy efficiency class of these products that is as visible as the price labelling (69).

72. Article 228 of Act No. 2010-788 of 12 July 2010 on National Commitment to the Environment requires the provision of information relating to the quantity of carbon dioxide emitted by the mode or modes of transport used to carry out a given transport service (70).

73. Article 229 of the same Act allows environmental protection associations to file civil claims against misleading business practices and advertisements that contain environmental information (71).

74. Act No. 2014-344 of 17 March 2014 on Consumer Protection aims to promote responsible consumption and the durability and reparability of products (72).

75. Article 90 of Act No. 2015-992 of 17 August 2015 on Energy Transition for Green Growth provides that producers who make any environmental announcement or claim as part of the voluntary environmental footprinting scheme must at the same time make available information on all the main environmental characteristics of the product (72).

Georgia

76. *Paragraph 6: f)* The national legislation contains no provision or norm corresponding to this paragraph, which would offer incentives to the operators of small and medium enterprises.

77. *Paragraph 8: h)* It should be mentioned that, according to the Food/Animal Safety, Plant Protection and Veterinary Code (2012), the consumer shall be given necessary, reliable and complete information about food/animal safety, animal, plant, animal and plant products, veterinary drugs, pesticides and agrochemicals, that enables him/her to make the right choice” (article 10, section 1). A Decree of the Minister of Agriculture of Georgia (December 11, 2009) on Approval of Additional Requirements for Food Labeling, establishes additional requirements for food products of all types, circulating on the territory of Georgia and aims to ensure protection of consumers’ economic interests and possibility to make a choice.

Germany

78. (f, h) The provision of information to consumers about the environmental impact of products, pursuant to Article 5 (6) and (8) of the Convention, is safeguarded through mandatory product labelling provided for in relevant areas of European and German law, and also through voluntary measures, e.g. various environmental certificates or labels. For example, the BMUB’s Blue Angel eco-label is awarded by RAL gGmbH in collaboration with the organisations and Länder represented on the Environmental Label Jury and the UBA. The state-sponsored organic production logo eco-label pursuant to Regulation (EU) 834/2007 can be used on a voluntary basis for all unprocessed agricultural products and agricultural products intended for human consumption. It has been and is currently used by 4,737 companies for 74,737 products (as of 30 September 2016). The Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food is the authority responsible for dealing with the registrations for the scheme that are required by statute. The scheme is monitored through Germany’s system of public and private controls. The Eco-Audit Regulation (EC) 1221/2009, last amended in 2009, not only encourages voluntary participation by organisations in a European eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS), but also promotes the publication of environmental data, including data on the production process. In May 2016, there were 9,271 sites registered under EMAS throughout the EU, of which 2,047 in Germany.

Greece

79. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* To facilitate public access to environmental information, the EMAS official website is regularly updated and the EMAS register was redesigned in September 2012 to provide additional information for all registered organisations and sites, as well as all the environmental statements available in electronic format of the EMAS registered organisations (even multiple versions for previous years) (86).

80. The European eco label has been awarded to detergent products, to paints and varnishes products and hotels. The aforementioned licenses have been issued by the National Competent Body - the Hellenic Council for Ecolabel Awards - ASAOS, which forms an integral part of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (87).

81. As far as GGP issues are concerned, Greece is currently finalising the National Action Plan and associated policies on Green Public Procurement. This contains mainly an assessment of the existing situation regarding public procurement in Greece, sets targets for the following years, specifying the measures that will be taken in order to achieve them (88).

82. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* The Cartagena Protocol, which was ratified through Law 3233/2004 (OJG A 51/18-2-2004), provides for a Biosafety Clearing House Mechanism. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health (90).

Hungary

83. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* Implementation of the objectives of article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention are fostered in Hungary by the EU eco-label regime and the national “environmental friendly product” award, and the EU Environmental Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). The national product quality/conformity assessment scheme was introduced in 1993. The ministry responsible for the environment and regional development determined the conditions for participation in the scheme and established the legal predecessor of the “Environmentally Friendly Product Non-profit Company”, whose principal responsibility is the coordination and administration of the scheme. By the date of EU accession, Hungary has introduced the legal and institutional framework necessary for participation in the EU eco-label scheme. Administration of the EU scheme in Hungary also falls under the competence of the Environmentally Friendly Product Non-profit Ltd as a competent authority.

84. All information relating to the national and EU eco-label schemes can be downloaded in English and Hungarian languages from the specific eco-label website of the Ministry responsible for the environment as well as the website of the Environmental Friendly product Non Profit Kft: <http://www.kornyezetbarat-termek.hu>. The website also provides access to data on organisations that meet all domestic and EU eco-label qualification criteria and is granted the environmentally friendly and eco-label rating.

85. A model program has been launched in 2015 in the framework of a trilateral agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Environmental Friendly Product Non-Profit Kft. and the one of the largest Hungarian retail store chains with the goals to create a project which describes how to increase the retail consumption of products with environmental- and eco label. The expectation is that as a result the number of retail shops able to formulate consumer demands and supplying such products in large quantities to consumers who are committed towards environmental products will rise. Upon EU accession, Hungary also joined the EU EMAS scheme. The designated competent body is the National Environment, Nature Conservation and Water Chief Inspectorate (OKTF), while accreditation is the responsibility of the National Accreditation Authority (NAH).

86. Information on the legal and institutional framework of EMAS, on EMAS registrations and accredited verifiers is published on the specific website of the ministry responsible for the environment (<http://emas.kvvm.hu/>). It also contains the environmental declarations of EMAS-registered bodies and provides topical EMAS-related news. It displays the environmentally validated statements of EMAS registered organisations and provides news for the interested about the events and results of the professional field (98).

87. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* The set-up of the National Park Trademark system commenced in early 2010. The aim is to support local producers, the local population and service providers who conduct activities in areas rich in natural values, with traditional methods and in harmony with the interests of nature conservation. The trademark is granted to products

and services produced, provided in protected natural areas which fulfil the certification criteria. The trademark provides a quality guarantee to buyers and consumers, indicating that the product or service was produced in an environmentally friendly form, in good quality. The success of the trademark scheme can be measured by the fact, that currently 620 products of more than 160 farmers may proudly wear the label of National Park Trademark. The number of trademarked products is continuously increasing. Amongst eco-labelled goods can be found fruit syrups, fruit juices, palinkas, wines, salamis and sausages unique products, such as smoked trout, ramson products, pumpkin seed oil, and Orség dödölle as well. Those visiting the areas of the National Park Directorates may use accommodation services with this trademark (99).

Iceland

88. *Paragraph 6:* The operation permit of polluting industry establishes requirements for monitoring and reporting on the operation and its environmental effects. According to regulation 851/2002 on green accounts all activity that has an operation permit must keep green accounts which are audited by independent bodies. The green accounts provide information on the use of raw material and substances and polluting emissions from the activity in question and are published on the Environment Agency's web site.

Ireland

89. *Paragraph 6:* Ireland has fulfilled its obligations by encouraging operators whose activities have a significant impact on the environment to inform the public regularly of the environmental impact of their activities and products through the establishment of www.envirocentre.ie. This website is an environmental information portal from Enterprise Ireland, which is designed to enhance environmental awareness and improve performance in Irish industry and contains information on the EU Eco Management Audit Scheme (EMAS).

90. *Paragraph 8: h)* Ireland has taken the following measures to ensure that sufficient product information is made available to the public to facilitate the public in making informed environmental decisions.

91. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is charged with implementing significant aspects of government policy on sustainable energy and climate change abatement. It provides a comprehensive information portal to consumers on a variety of schemes to promote energy efficiency in Ireland. See for example: www.seai.ie/Power_of_One/.

92. Ireland has established product labelling mechanisms to assist consumers to make informed choices: *Eco-labelling* Businesses are encouraged to partake in the voluntary European eco-labelling scheme established in 1992 to encourage businesses to market products and services that are kinder to the environment, see www.irdg.ie/eco-label-initiative.

93. Under the Enterprise Ireland Ecolabel Initiative, companies can apply for support towards validation, testing and application for an eco-label for a particular product.

- *Motor Vehicles:* Under EU and Irish law it is mandatory for the fuel economy and CO₂ emissions of new passenger cars to be clearly displayed, allowing consumers to make informed purchasing choices on both environmental and economic grounds. This is implemented by the European Communities (Consumer Information on Fuel Economy and CO₂ Emissions of New Passenger Cars) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 339 of 2001).
- *Electrical Appliances:* In line with EU law, Ireland has implemented a range of legislation providing for the labelling of electrical appliances. The full suite of legislation is outlined at: www.seai.ie/Power_of_One/Appliances_and_Labelling/Legislation. Retail outlets are regularly inspected for compliance with the energy labelling regulations.

Italy

94. *Paragraph 6:* (f, g) The national programme for the evaluation of the environmental footprint, launched by the Ministry of the Environment in 2011, promotes the analysis of the environmental performance of the productive processes of companies and organisations, with a particular focus on carbon print. The programme developed through the signature of numerous voluntary agreements and the participation of numerous companies in two public invitations to tender for small and medium-sized enterprises, launched in 2011 and 2013 respectively. The three-year agreement (2013-2016)

between the Ministry of the Environment and Expo 2015 Inc. contributes to the same objective and is aimed at measuring the emissions generated in the preparation of the Universal Exhibition and at identifying measures for mitigation and neutralisation. In the framework of the agreement, a strategy for the sustainability of major events was defined and promoted.

95. Many industrial sites have registered to the EC eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS), a management tool for companies and other organizations focusing on their environmental performance, which envisages that participating sites make public a report on their environmental performance in return for being certified with an EMAS logo. In order to facilitate the use of EMAS by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), an agreement between the MoE and the main business association (Confindustria) was signed in 2002. Within this framework, a public fund is used to contribute to consulting fees that SMEs are faced with. Furthermore, the possibility of applying to EMAS logo has been granted to industrial districts.

96. An example of EMAS obtained by industrial districts is the one in Pordenone area (north-eastern Italy) specialised in furniture production, based on an agreement involving the Provincial Government, the Region, the MoE and a committee of local furniture producers. EMAS as well as integrated product policies have recently been applied with success to tourist sites. Similarly, environmental reporting is encouraged on the basis of the Corporate Social Responsibility of enterprises. An example of best practice is represented by the autonomous Province of Trento that in 2009 has enabled the EMAS certification in 51 Municipalities, 2 Public Services Agencies and 2 Parks.

97. The Emilia-Romagna region is a model of excellence with regard to the public information on the environmental impact of products and activities. The Emilia Romagna Green Observatory (<http://imprese.regione.emilia-romagna.it/green-economy/temi/osservatorio-greener/osservatorio-greener>) provides a picture of the green companies operating at regional level. The Micro-enterprises Environmental Management System (http://www.microsga.org/Home.asp?Page=1&id_gruppo=4) contains operational tools for environmental certification, including a self-assessment section which allows entrepreneurs to assess their compliance with the regional environmental legislation. The website www.tecnologiepulite.it contains information on suppliers that respect ecological standards. The website www.mappedelconsumo.it contains geo-referred information on 'conscious consumption' initiatives in Emilia Romagna (address, phone numbers, type of products). Moreover, the Life project PREFER ("*PRoduct Environmental Footprint Enhanced by Regions*"), currently in its final stage, has promoted the calculation of PEF (Product Environmental Footprint) on eight typologies of goods produced in Emilia Romagna (www.lifeprefer.it).

98. *Paragraph 8: h*) Concerning product information, the MoE and ISPRA are committed, at different levels, in promoting the use of green labels, including EMAS, Ecolabel, and Green Public Procurement-GPP. With reference to the latter, it is worth recalling that Italy, thanks to the recent Law 221/2015 and to the New Code on Public Procurement (Legislative Decree 50/2016), has been the first country in Europe that set as mandatory the use of the Minimum Environmental Criteria in public procurement.

99. At European level the use of these criteria is incentivated but not completely compulsory. Minimum Environmental Criteria are those criteria - inspired to environmental principles, i.e. saving energy or decreasing the use of natural resources - that the Public Administration should consider when purchasing a service or a product. Up to date, Italy has defined Minimum Environmental Criteria for 17 categories of products or services (i.e. public lighting or IT products). Furthermore, the current legislation includes, among the criteria for the evaluation of the more advantageous offer, a consideration on the life cycle of the product and thus a perspective linked to the circular economy approach.

100. In order to give wide visibility to the normative on Green Public Procurement (GPP), the Ministry of Environment launched a web page on GPP where a monthly newsletter and a quarterly in-depth magazine are published. An informative video on the Ecolabel trademark has also been distributed via web. The legislation on GPP must be implemented at regional level. In Emilia Romagna, the Action Plan for environmental sustainability of public consumption (2016-2018) targets to reach the 50% of sustainable procurement by 2018 (<http://ambiente.regione.emilia-romagna.it/sviluppoo-sostenibile/temi/green-public-procurement>).

101. The national voluntary system for the assessment and evaluation of the environmental footprint of products called "Made Green in Italy" is a new tool introduced by the article 21, clause 1 of the Law 221/2015. This trademark will become a new instrument to inform the public about the ecological footprint of products. In 2016, in order to receive feedback from the public, the MoE put under consultation the draft regulation of the mark.

Kazakhstan

102. *Paragraph 8:* State regulation in the field of food safety is carried out in accordance with the Law "On food safety» (N301 of 21 July 2007). Article 1 of the Law defined the concept of labeling, eco-friendly food products, the sign of clean food. According to sub-paragraph 4 of paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the Law, state regulation in the field of food safety is based on transparency, accessibility, reliability of the information. In accordance with sub-paragraph 6 of paragraph 2 of Article 17 of the given Law on the documents, leaflets (package insert), label, back label, collar labels, labels, decals (stickers), in addition to the information specified by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on food safety, with taking into account the types of food products must be listed on the Kazakh and Russian languages information on the composition, including the presence and quantity of food additives, feed and feed additives, biologically active food additives, genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

103. In accordance with Article 6 of the Law "On Access to environmental information" information on food safety is not subject to access restriction.

104. According to Article 282 EC of natural resources required to inform buyers of food and feed derived from GMOs through labeling, EC does not set the level (in percentage terms) the content of GMO in products and commits to label all products without exception, containing or consisting from or created from GMOs.

Kyrgyzstan

105. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* According to the Law "On guarantees of access to information", charged with the duty to provide information to public authorities, local governments, citizens, public associations, enterprises, institutions, organizations and officials, access to information is provided by the publication and dissemination of relevant materials through periodicals, on television and radio programs, web sites, and mailing lists.

106. Measures similar to those specified in paragraph 6 of Article 5 of the Convention, and which are specially designed for small and medium enterprises are not accepted.

107. National legislation stipulates the right of people to be informed about the risks to which people may be exposed in certain places of stay in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the necessary steps for security ("Law on Civil Protection" 20.07.09g. № 239), but does not stipulate the obligation of state agencies and businesses to provide information about the possible impact.

108. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* Amendments were introduced to the Law "On Protection of Consumer Rights" which oblige producers to provide information about the product (marked) and the presence in food ingredients derived from the use of genetically modified organisms.

Latvia

109. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* Articles 38 and 39 of the EPL set out for voluntary environmental management activities: implementation of eco-labeling and of an environmental management and audit system, and also provision of better information to the public on operator's activities, as well as product information. Information on European eco-labeling and its implementation in Latvia is available on the ESB website (<https://www.vpvb.gov.lv/lv/ekomarkejums/informacija>).

110. Article 6, paragraph 3, of the Law on Pollution stipulates operators' obligation to provide environmental protection institutions and the public with information on the results of monitoring defined by the permit and the impact of polluting activities on human health and environment.

111. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* Choice of environmentally friendly products is encouraged by: EU eco-labeling; Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) which has been implemented in several municipalities; also applicable are quality and management systems (ISO 9001 and ISO 14001), pure technologies, and various product labeling.

112. The association "Green Liberty" has done research on environmental influence of various products and human activities and environmentally friendly choices (see www.zb-zeme.lv).

113. The website of the Food and Veterinary Service provides information about food products, novel food and food additives.

114. All chemical substances and mixtures shall bear labels indicating basic information on the respective substance or mixture including environmental hazard information according to the Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

115. Article 26 of the Law on Circulation of Genetically Modified Organisms stipulates that food products containing genetically modified organisms, consisting of them or being produced from them, shall be placed for sale separately from other food products in such a way as to be easily identifiable.

Lithuania

116. *Paragraph 6:* National legislation lays down requirements for economic entities to disseminate information about their activities having a significant effect on the environment. Economic entities perform pollution source monitoring and environmental monitoring, provide monitoring data to the relevant authorities and inform the public in established cases. For instance, economic entities taking continuous measurements of emissions from sources of pollution into the ambient air and surface water are obligated to publish the results of continuous measurements of pollutant emissions/discharges on the internet and update them regularly (94).

117. Operators must use funds received for the transfer of emissions trading allowances and Kyoto units for implementing measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental pollution (installation of environmentally-friendly technologies, increase of energy efficiency, use of renewable energy sources, afforestation, research and its dissemination, consultations and training to economic entities, public information and education on climate change policy management and implementation issues and other measures). Reports on the allocation and use of funds received for the transfer of emissions trading allowances and Kyoto units are published on the MoE website (95).

118. Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council allowing voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) is applied in Lithuania. Companies that put in place EMAS inform the public and the EPA about the results achieved every year. Companies that mark their products with an eco-label are enabled to inform the public by disseminating information on the EPA website. An economic entity performing monitoring of activities, introducing advanced technology and participating in EMAS on a voluntary basis receives incentives in terms of environmental control and is assigned a lower level of risk (96).

119. *Paragraph 8:* Eco-labelling and social relations lined with it in Lithuania are governed by Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the EU Ecolabel, as well as by the criteria for the award of the Community Ecolabel for relevant product groups. Information on eco-labelling is published and regularly updated on the EPA website. The EPA organises seminars and invites industry, science and community-based organisation representatives to provide them with information on the opportunities and benefits of the award of the Community Ecolabel (98).

Luxembourg

120. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* In a broader context, the *SuperDrecksKëscht* (SDK) quality label is worthy of mention. Businesses can participate in a voluntary scheme to audit their waste management practices. The SDK quality label, awarded by the AEV and the Chamber of Trade, proves that a company manages its waste in an environmentally responsible way. It also provides the businesses concerned with a means of 'green' advertising.

121. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* The Government has initiated a series of incentive measures designed *inter alia* to promote foods intended for human consumption which have been produced by environmentally friendly domestic growers (in particular, the *Naturfleisch* meat mark).

Malta

122. (f): Specific reporting conditions are incorporated in environmental permits such as the provision of an Annual Environment Report of activities. Actions were also taken to ensure that, prior to the issue of permit, continuous dialogue

and dissemination of relevant information to the interested parties is affected. In certain cases, actions were also taken to engage a monitoring company to review the implementation of the environmental permit in conjunction with the operator, Local Council and ENGOs.

123. *Are there any measures of the kind referred to in this paragraph that have been specially designed for small and medium-size enterprises?* Reporting conditions are incorporated as part of permits issued under the Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations (S.L. 549.77) as well as environmental permits, which are targeted for small and medium enterprises that fall outside the scope of the said Regulations. In the case of Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) permits, the operators are requested to submit an Annual Environmental Report that is made publicly available through ERA's website. Operators are encouraged to initiate dialogues with the respective local councils both formally, through public consultation, and informally, through committee meetings that are held between certain operators, ERA and the respective local council as well as other interested parties such as ENGOs.

124. *(h):* In Malta, the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA) has been designated by the European Commission as the Competent Body that assesses applications and award the EU Eco-label to products and services that meet the criteria set for them. It is the first contact point for interested parties to learn more about the scheme, submit an application or ask any questions about the application process or the scheme in general.

125. *Is there a legal requirement and/or practice of public participation in awarding or monitoring the use of eco-labels?* As noted above, the MCCAA is a public entity established by the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority Act (Cap. 510) as the competent body for the EU Eco-Label Scheme in Malta.

Montenegro

126. *Paragraph 6:* f) Refer to the provisions of the Law on Environment, Article 43.

127. *Paragraph 8:* h) Refer to the provisions of the following regulations: Law on Environment, Article 43 and 44; Law on Chemicals, Article 11; Decree on substances that deplete the ozone layer and alternative substances, Article 20, 23; Waste Management Law, Article 11; Decree on the notification procedure of placing the packaging and packed products on the market, establishing a system for acquisition, collection and treatment of waste packaging and operation of that system, Article 3, Item 29.

Netherlands

128. *Paragraph 8:* The Netherlands encourages the use of ecolabel and other (Dutch or international) product certification or hallmark systems ("milieukeur"). The government also subsidizes an independent organisation ("Milieu centraal") which provides consumers with product information.

North Macedonia

129. *Paragraph 6:* Article 41, Register for discharge and transfer of pollutants:

(1) The authority of the state administration competent for the affairs of the field of environment shall establish and maintain a Register for discharges and transfer of pollutants (hereinafter: Register of pollutants), which is constituent part of the Environmental Cadastre.

(4) The legal and physical entities are responsible to establish data for the preparation and maintenance of the Register of pollutants from the paragraph (1) of this Article, in accordance with the regulation of article 40 paragraph (5) in accordance with the regulation referred to in Article 40 paragraph (5) of this Law and in accordance with the issued integrated environmental permits.

130. Operators of installations which are the source of emission and pollute one or more in the media environment and areas are obliged, in accordance with separate laws, to monitor the emission sources, in the media of environment and the data to be delivered to the Information System MoEPP.

131. Based on their function, the entities are obliged to disseminate the information about the environment they dispose of or which others keep on their behalf, to be available to the public and to maintain, in forms and in formats that can be easy to reproduce and to be available through the electronic communications net.

Norway

132. *Paragraph 6: f)* The Norwegian Environmental Information Act requires all public and private undertakings to hold information about factors relating to their operations that may have an appreciable effect on the environment, and to supply such information on request. Similar provisions for product-specific information have been included in the Product Control Act. Undertakings are required to provide information as soon as possible and no later than one month after the request was received. This time limit can be extended to two months. The Appeals Board for Environmental Information, which is regulated under Section 19 of the Environmental Information Act and in the Regulations pursuant to the Act, has been established to consider appeals against refusals of requests for environmental information. The existence of the Appeals Board ensures proper evaluation and control of whether requests for environmental information are treated in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The reader is referred to the translation of the Act (<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/doc/laws/Acts/environmental-information-act.html?id=173247>). Annually the Board receives approximately 10 to 15 cases. In 2015 eleven appeals were received by the Board, four less than in 2014 but four more than in 2012 and 2013.

133. Under the Accounting Act, enterprises are required to take active steps to provide information about factors relating to their operations that have had an appreciable environmental impact. There are also voluntary environmental certification schemes, which include requirements to provide environmental information.

134. Regulations on warning labelling, including labelling to indicate environmental hazards, apply to chemicals that are marketed as such, i.e. as substances or preparations. The warning labelling system is based on a comprehensive, internationally harmonised set of rules for the classification of chemicals.

135. There are also voluntary eco-labelling schemes (the Nordic Swan and the EU Ecolabel), and environmental declaration schemes.

136. A website has been set up to help enterprises and individuals find their way around Norwegian legislation (www.regelhjelp.no). Here are the most important regulations for 58 different industries collocated in a clear manor. This is believed to be particularly useful for small and medium-sized enterprises with limited resources;

137. *Paragraph 8: h)* When the Environmental Information Act was adopted, amendments were also made to the Product Control Act. These entitle the general public to receive information directly from producers, importers, processors, distributors and users of products. This includes information on whether products contain components or have properties that may cause injury to health or environmental damage, what these properties are, and what significant injury to health or environmental disturbance is caused by production and distribution of the product. All information held by a public body on products must also be disclosed unless specific grounds for exemption apply.

138. There are several voluntary ecolabelling schemes, of which the Nordic Swan is in most widespread use. This scheme is run by a foundation. Proposals for criteria for licensing different product groups are drawn up by highly qualified experts, and public consultations are held on the proposals, which are also published on the Internet for comment.

139. As mentioned above a website has also been established at www.erdetfarlig.no, providing consumers with information on chemicals in consumer products, advise on which products to chose, as well as how to dispose of the products.

Poland

140. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* The Article 21(2) point 32 of the Act on access to information about the environment states that in data on environmental declarations, referred to in the Act of 15 July 2011 on state eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) (Journal of Laws, item 1060, as amended), shall be placed in the publicly available lists; on the other hand, Article 21(2) point 23(m) of the Act on access to information about the environment states that data on eco-auditing issued by virtue of the LACP Act shall be placed in the publicly available lists (87).

141. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* According to LACP, the entity placing a product on the market should ensure that the product meets the environmental requirements. The product should be provided with information concerning fuel consumption or consumables, the volume of emissions related to the product utilisation, environmentally safe usage, dismantling, recycling or rendering the product harmless. The Seller of the products should ensure that such information is also available at the points of sale of the product (91).

142. According to LACP, advertising or a different type of promotion of a product or a service should not contain contents propagating a consumption model contradictory to principles of the environmental protection and sustainable development, and in particular use the imagery of wild nature to promote products and services negatively affecting the natural environment (92).

Portugal

143. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* For an environmental policy to be effective it is necessary and even indispensable to support the mechanisms of voluntary membership, which advocate and rely on good sustainability practices - information, transparency, accountability; examples of this are ISO 14001 environmental certification, EMAS registration, EU Ecolabels or even awards such as the Blue Flag of Europe (for beaches, pleasure boat ports and marinas, and pleasure craft), ECO XXI (for municipalities), the Green Key (for hotel units), etc.

144. With regard to the ISO 14001:2004 standard, up to 1 March 2013, 903 certifications were awarded in Portugal by the eight existing certification bodies, accredited in the Portuguese Quality System.

145. Four registrations were made in Portugal under the EC Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) in 2014. At the end of that year, 57 organisations were registered (which corresponds to a total of 116 registered activity sites). Only one registration was made in Portugal in 2015. At the end of that year, 58 organisations were registered (which corresponds to a total of 117 registered activity sites). At the end of July 2016, 54 organisations were registered in EMAS (which corresponds to a total of 113 registered activity sites). No new registration has been made. APA maintains updated information on organisations registered with EMAS on its website <http://apambiente.wixsite.com/emas>.

146. Of note in relation to environmental labelling is the EU Ecolabel System (Regulation (EC) 66/2010 of the Parliament and the Council of 25 November) as a market instrument, also voluntary, which aims to stimulate supply and demand for products and services with reduced impact on both the environment and health during their production and consumption, promoting products and services with high environmental performance. In Portugal, 18 ecological labels had been assigned to products of 16 different companies by 30 August 2013.

147. The ecodesign of products is an essential element of the EU strategy for the 'Integrated Product Policy', which is considered a preventive approach aimed at optimising the environmental performance of products while preserving their functional and safety characteristics, and cannot have negative impacts on health or increased costs for consumers. The Ecodesign Directive (Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 21 October) is a Framework Directive, which is considered a fundamental component of European policy to improve the energy and environmental performance of products in the domestic market not directly introducing mandatory requirements for specific products, but merely setting the conditions and criteria for the introduction of "Implementing measures". The Ecodesign Directive is complemented by Directive 2010/30/EU of the European Parliament and the Council of 19 May, on the indication of the consumption of energy and other resources by energy-related products, through labelling and standard indications concerning the products. In this context, the European Commission established a Work Plan for the 2012-2014 period, to improve the energy efficiency and environmental performance of products throughout their life cycle. It considers 18 priority products and has the main objective of the reduction of CO2 emissions and reducing energy consumption.

148. Turismo de Portugal promotes its own initiatives, such as the Tourism Awards of Portugal for sustainability in tourism, and establishes partnerships with other entities, as is the case of the Green Key award for tourism developments, integrating the National Commission of the Programme. The Green Key Programme, coordinated by the Environmental NGO Association Blue Flag of Europe (ABAE), aims to distinguish tourism developments that develop good environmental management and education practices. The award, when attributed, has a duration of 12 months, and its renewal is possible (cf. www.abae.pt/programa/chaveverde).

149. The Turismo de Portugal Awards, in the Environmental Sustainability category, created in 2008, promote the best practices in the sector, rewarding them and publicly recognising them. To the present date, 2 prizes have been awarded

(cf.<http://www.turismodeportugal.pt/português/areasatividade/desenvolvimentoeinovacao1/boaspraticasetendencias/pages/turismoesustentabilidade.aspx>).

150. TdP, as part of its concern for quality and environmental sustainability - one of the most important resources for the development of tourism - participates in several activities related to the environment and its preservation, in particular:

- European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET), the Tourism Working Group (TOUERM);
- ISO/TC 228 - the highlight is the work related to WG 13 on Sustainability in Tourism Projects, and WG7, which is currently developing a Sustainability Standard for Adventure Tourism, with Portugal responsible for the proposal;
- National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (ENAAC), in particular with regard to the specific working group on Tourism.

151. It should be emphasised that the system for setting the classification of tourism enterprises by TdP comprises several environmental sustainability requirements - such as the use of systems that promote efficient water consumption and reuse, systems that promote efficient energy consumption, including the use of renewable energies, energy or environmental certification by national or European standard, of high valuation, in order to promote the adoption of sustainability measures in tourism developments.

152. Regarding green public procurement, Council of Ministers Resolution No. 38/2016 of 29 July was published, approving the National Strategy for Ecological Procurement (ENCPE 2020), whose main purpose is to create a supplementary instrument for environmental policies, contributing to the goal of promoting pollution reduction, reducing the consumption of natural resources and, inherently, increasing the efficiency of systems. For this reason, it focuses on the definition of technical specifications for the set of priority products and services. The aim of ENCPE 2020 is also to stimulate the adoption of a green public procurement policy, thus constituting a repository of good practices and reinforcing the incentive for technological and product innovation, encouraging suppliers and service providers to benefit from the advantages of environmentally-oriented contracting, in a framework of effective transparency and shared responsibility.

153. A set of information initiatives are planned for the implementation of ENCPE 2020, namely:

- Development of a specific area for green public procurement on the APA website as a repository of information, dissemination of specifications and green, general and adapted criteria, using open standards, pursuant to Law No. 36/2011 of 21 June;
- Holding an annual conference aimed at the dissemination and diffusion of up-to-date knowledge on the various topics, as well as the communication of results related to the monitoring of objectives and goals pursued during the economic year in question;
- Carrying out training activities with entities covered by ENCPE 2020 and other stakeholders.

154. IGAMAOT, under the measures to encourage operators of facilities with environmental impact to improve the environmental performance of their activities or products, has implemented risk analysis systems for planning inspection activities at IPPC installations and WWTP serving populations of more than 10,000 equivalent inhabitants. Also implemented is a risk analysis system for economic agents covered by the REACH Regulation in respect of some sectors in which this Regulation applies. Currently under way is the development of a system of global environmental risk analysis, a risk analysis system for operators covered by the Seveso directive and a system of risk analysis for operators managing electrical and electronic waste, thus widening the scope of activities in which the planning of the inspection activity is performed based on an analysis of systematic risk, to direct resources to areas that have a higher risk.

155. The use of the tool for informal conflict resolution and strategic communication with industry associations representing the sectors of activity that have been the subject of action by the IGAMAOT tool has permitted an increase in the awareness of operators to the environmental impacts associated with incorrect conduct, thus enhancing legal compliance. The activity of IGAMAOT is reflected on the website www.igamaot.gov.pt and in published documents.

156. IGAMAOT also has an ongoing multiyear objective to "improve the integration of companies and the population in environmental terms at the Sines Light Industrial Zone and Estarreja Industrial Zone", which aims to promote cross-communication involving the central authorities, companies, local authorities and the population, especially in the

industrial areas in question, where the businesses and the surrounding community are geographically close to each other, and where there are several complaints about the respective activity. This project also aims to promote inter-company communication, which is beneficial - especially if they are located in the same geographical area – as it aids in identifying common hazards and measures for joint action, maximising and coordinating prevention measures to ensure the protection of the environment and human health. IGAMAOT is implementing two methods of the IMPEL network to develop this multi-year goal:

- Informal resolution of conflicts, constituting a methodology that is proven and effective in solving environmental issues of industry/population antagonism, which aims to achieve compromise solutions in a consensual manner;
- Assessment of the performance of companies based on their compliance management systems (SBS - based supervision system), which is an innovative approach in which the inspection authorities perform the supervision of the management systems implemented by companies through a methodology audit that assesses the quality levels of the internal control of the operator and its risk management, thus gauging the level of self-regulation and the degree of legal compliance achieved (goal-setting).

157. In the area of forest management, ICNF is the sector's standardisation body (ONS) for Sustainable Forest Management, according to the protocol of cooperation in the field of standardisation between the national standardisation body, Portuguese Institute of Quality, and ICNF. Accordingly, ICNF and in its capacity of ONS, is responsible for the coordination of the Technical Committee of Standardisation for Sustainable Forest Management (CT 145), an entity aimed at standardising the definitions and requirements for sustainable forest management in which individual and collective entities interested in these matters participate on a voluntary basis, organised into three areas: environmental, economic and social, and ensuring public participation in this topic.

158. Reference should also be made to the "Guidance on the labelling of foodstuffs produced according to the organic production method", which aims to facilitate the application of the provisions of Regulations (EC) 834/2007 and 889/2008, applicable since 1 January 2009, available on the DGADR website (cf. http://www.dgadr.mamaot.pt/images/docs/val/bio/Biologica/Guia_rotulagem_MPB.pdf).

159. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* For more effective communication that makes it easier for consumers to make sound environmental choices, the General Directorate for Consumers institutionally promotes the consumer website at www.consumidor.pt which includes concerns for sustainability.

160. The civil society organisations include DECO, the consumer association, which also provides specific information on the environment: <http://www.deco.proteste.pt/>.

161. Environmental NGOs have also performed extensive work in this field, such as Quercus (Eco-home project <http://www.ecocasa.pt/>) and the daily media shows: on TV "Green Minute" and on the radio "One minute for the Earth" and GEOTA ("Oceans Campaign", with Greenpeace, aimed at retailers and consumers, with the goal of creating sustainable fish markets (<http://www.greenpeace.org/portugal/pt/O-que-fazemos/Campanha-Dos-Oceanos-Mercados-em-Portugal/>)).

Romania

162. f) With respect to paragraph 6, measures taken to encourage operators whose activities have a significant impact on the environment to inform the public regularly of the environmental impact of their activities and products.

163. The Environment Protection Law established that:

- the operators have the obligation to ensure the records of the result and shall inform the competent environmental authorities on the self-monitoring results of pollutant emissions and the threats or the accidents that occurred. The operators shall also inform the competent authorities and the public in case of accidental polluting discharges or major accidents.
- the operators whose activities have significant impact on the soil or subsoil shall inform the competent environmental authorities and the other authorities on any accident situation which put in danger the environment and to operate for the reconstruction of it.

164. Under Article 26 of GD No.878/2005, the operators whose activities have a significant environmental impacts shall inform the public, on a quarterly basis, on the environmental consequences of their activities/products, by posting the information on their website and other means of communication.

165. h) With respect to *paragraph 8*, measures taken to develop mechanisms with a view to ensuring that sufficient product information is made available to the public;

166. In December 2009 Regulation (EC) No. 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and Council on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS), repealing Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 and Commission Decisions 2001/681/EC and 2006/193/EC, known as Regulation EMAS III, published in the Official Journal of the European Union L342 of 22.12.2009.

167. EMAS - allows the voluntary participation of organisations in all the business sectors, whether public or private, wishing to continuously improve their environmental performance and promote the provision of information to the public and other stakeholders on the environmental performance of the activities, services and products that obtained EMAS registration, by publishing the environmental declaration.

168. The national legal framework for EMAS includes:

- Government Decision No. 57 of 26 January 2011 on setting up measures to ensure the implementation of the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and Council of 25 November 2009 on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS), repealing Regulation (EC) No. 761/2001 and Decisions 2001/681/CE EC and 2006/193/EC of the Commission;
- Order No. 1541 of 6 June 2011 approving the Rules of Organisation and Operation of the EMAS Committee and EMAS Office;
- Order No. 2086 of 17 August 2011 approving the Registration Procedure for the community eco-management and audit system - EMAS.

169. Romania adopted GD No.661/2011 on establishing measures to ensure the national implementation of the provisions of the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council (EC) No. 66/2010 of 25 November 2009 on the EU eco-label.

170. The EU Eco-Label Commission consists of 3 representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, one representative of the Ministry of Economy, one representative of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, one representative of the National Environmental Protection Agency, one representative of the National Authority for Consumer Protection, one representative of the National Environmental Guard, three representatives of the environmental research institutes, two representatives of the employers' organisations, two representatives of environmental non-governmental organisations.

171. During 2013 - 2014 the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is organising a campaign to promote the European eco-label under the project "Research services to prepare a study on ways to promote the European Union (EU) eco-management and audit system (EMAS) nationally and to encourage voluntary participation in EMAS of the organisations under the EMAS-related European legislation and the community eco-labelling scheme, assumed in the implementation of Regulation of the European Parliament and Council (EC) No 66/2010 of 25 November 2009 on the eco-label".

172. Such seminars will be organised in all the 8 development regions of Romania. The purpose of the seminar is to facilitate access to information through the use of functional media, to inform the public on the objectives and main components of such European instruments, to inform and train public or private organisations on how to apply and register, the long term benefits of obtaining the eco-label and registering with EMAS.

173. The national legal framework for Eco-labelling includes:

- GD No. 661/2011 on establishing measures to ensure the national implementation of the provisions of the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council (EC) No. 66/2010 of 25 November 2009 on the EU eco-label.
- Order No. 2129/21.08.2011 on approving the individual competence of the EU Eco-Label Commission;

- Order No. 2468/12.10.2011 on approving the Rules of Organisation and Operation of the EU Eco-Label Commission.

Serbia

174. *Paragraph 6:* Article 53 of the LEP stipulates that an ecolabel is established for products intended for general consumption, except for foodstuffs, agricultural and other products made in accordance with the legislation regulating organic production, the production of beverages, pharmaceutical products and medical equipment whose production, marketing, consumption and disposal cause less environmental pollution compared to similar products, or if they are produced from recycled waste.

175. See also the Rule book on detailed conditions and procedure for gaining the right to use an ecolabel and on the appearance and ways of using ecolabels for products, processes and services (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No. 3/2009).

176. Article 44 Paragraph 3 of the LEP states that legal persons, entrepreneurs and organizations with an established environmental management system may take part in the eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS system), in accordance with this law.

177. The National Programme for Protection of the Environment specifies that environmental protection management systems (ISO 14001, EMAS) for industrial sites should be widely promoted as a voluntary measure. Businesses should be stimulated to implement the environmental protection management system. A register of businesses that set up environmental protection management systems should also be established.

178. The data obtained from the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Serbia, 302 businesses have ISO 14001 certified systems.

179. *Paragraph 8:* Article 52 of the LEP states that producer or distributor shall be obliged to issue a warning on the declaration of raw material, semi-product or finished products of environmental pollution and damage to human health, which the product or its packaging causes or may cause. The warning must contain instructions for use or handling of the product, its contents and packaging in the process of production, use and disposal in compliance with the standards in force and instructions for handling.

180. Please refer to the provisions of Article 53-54 of the LEP (ecolabel) and Article 84 Item 4 of the Law on Food Safety.

181. Law on Nature Protection in Article 7 specifies that packaging must not be harmful to human health or to the environment. Packaging and re-packaging of products must be done in such a way so as to ensure that health and sanitary standards regarding products are met and product quality preserved.

182. Article 41 of the Law on Advertising prohibits advertising that unjustifiably exploits people's concern for preserving health or environment, as well as their lack of knowledge on ways and means for environment protection, namely advertising that encourages or approves actions that are not in accordance with the regulations on environmental protection. (Article 42) Article 43 stipulates that an advertisement may not contain untruthful claims that a product or a service has a positive or negative effect on the protection of health or the environment, especially by emphasising words "environmentally safe", "eco-friendly", "eco-food", "healthy food" and similar words or symbols with the same meaning. The behaviour violating these provisions is defined as an offence in Article 108, Paragraph 1, Item 31.

183. The Law on Food Safety contains special provisions related to "tracking and labelling new food, genetically modified food and genetically modified animal food" (Article 63).

Slovakia

184. The Law on Food Safety contains special provisions related to “tracking and labelling new food, genetically modified food and genetically modified animal food” (Article 63).

185. *Paragraph 6:* Act No. 205/2004 Coll. on collection, storage and dissemination of environmental information as amended.

186. In accordance with Article 15 (1) (p) of Act No. 137/2010 Coll. as amended, operators of waste incineration plants and waste co-firing facilities having a capacity of 2 and more tons of waste being incinerated per hour shall annually elaborate a report on operation and control of the stationary source and submit it to the district office until 15 February of the following year.

187. *Paragraph 8:* In terms of Article 5 (6) of Act No. 469/2002 Coll. on environmental labelling of products as amended, the MoE SR ensures that the process of proposing and determining of groups of products and special conditions for granting the national environmental label can be attended by parties interested, in particular the representatives of producers, importers and sellers, including micro, small and medium-sized entrepreneurs, trade unions, environment protection associations, and consumer protection associations, science and research institutions, general government bodies, authorized persons, and accredited workplaces.

188. In terms of Article 15 of Act No. 469/2002 Coll. as amended, the Ministry ensures that the public has the possibility to express its opinion on the determination of groups of products, as well as on the proposal of special conditions for granting the national environmental label. In the MoE SR Bulletin and at its website, the ministry annually publishes the list of products that were granted the national environmental label, and the list of products that were granted the EU environmental label and uses other forms of active promotion to inform the public on the system of environmental labelling of products. In accordance with Article 14 (2) (e) of Act No. 469/2002 Coll. as amended by Act No. 351/2012 Coll., the Slovak Environment Agency is entrusted with the fulfilment of the above tasks.

Slovenia

189. *Paragraph 6:* In the environmental protection register, the ministry competent for the environment keeps records of persons to whom an environmental permit has been issued. Pursuant to paragraph two of Article 104 of the ZVO-1, these records include the following in particular: personal name and address, or a corporate name and registered office, type and extent of environmental burden caused by that entity's activity, and information on the relevant environmental protection permit (<http://okolje.arso.gov.si/ippc/vsebina/ippc-register>; <http://okolje.arso.gov.si/ippc/vsebina/seveso-register>; http://okolje.arso.gov.si/onesnazevanje_zraka/vsebina/okoljevarstvena-dovoljenja).

190. Moreover, the environmental protection register also keeps records on entities providing public utility services related to environmental protection, on persons holding authorisations or certificates for performing environmental protection activities, EMAS records, etc.

191. Environmental labelling and the certification of products and services is carried out by means of established international standards, registrations in the EMAS system, and the conferral of the Ecolabel – the European environmental label conferred by the Slovenian Environment Agency in accordance with EU regulations. The list of those who have received the Ecolabel, including a manual and additional information, is available on the website <http://www.arso.gov.si/o%20agenciji/okoljski%20znaki/ECO%20Label/>.

192. As green public procurement was introduced, manufacturers and suppliers were given additional encouragement to verify and provide relevant environmental information through environmental labels and declarations. Pursuant to the Public Procurement Act and the Act Regulating Public Procurement in Water, Energy, Transport and Postal Services, the Decree on green public procurement (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], Nos 102/11, 18/12, 24/12, 64/12, 2/13, 89/14 and 91/15 – ZJN-3) was adopted in 2011, the purpose of which is to reduce the negative impact on the environment caused by the public procurement of environmentally less burdening goods, services, and construction works, and by setting an example to the private sector and consumers.

193. *Paragraph 8:* The EMAS environmental management system (Articles 32 and 33 of the ZVO-1) and the Ecolabel (Article 31 of the ZVO-1) have been introduced in the Republic of Slovenia. The Ecolabel is intended to promote the

production of products or the rendering of services that have a less detrimental impact on the environment throughout their life-cycle than other products of the same kind and thus contribute to the efficient use of environmental components and high level of environmental protection. At a legislative level, the Republic of Slovenia has not introduced any special national environmental labels. National legislation does not govern any other international standards. In part, this field is also addressed in Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and the labelling of organic products, as organic foodstuffs are produced in a more environmentally friendly manner. Which produce or foodstuff can use the 'organic' label is governed by the Rules on organic production and processing of agricultural products and/or foods (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], No 8/14).

194. Article 33 of the Consumer Protection Act addresses in greater detail the rights of consumers relating to the level of information on products. It provides that the instructions for use must be enclosed with products if for their proper use a particular procedure is required or if the consumer could cause harm to themselves or to others or pollute the environment by using the product improperly. The misleading advertising of products is prohibited (Article 12 of the Consumer Protection Act).

195. The control of the proper labelling of products is carried out by the Market Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia (<http://www.ti.gov.si/si/>). Advice and assistance to consumers as well as various comparative testing between products is provided by the non-governmental organisation Slovenian Consumers' Association (<https://www.zps.si/>), the projects of which are also co-funded by the state.

Spain

196. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* The twelfth additional provision of Law 27/2006 requires public authorities to encourage economic operators, when required to do so, to inform the public regularly of those activities or products that have or could have a significant impact on the environment. In this regard, the national and Autonomous PRTR inventories include data on emissions from companies with greater pollution potential. Moreover, Regulation (EC) No. 761/2001 of the Council of the European Union allows public and private organizations, both non-profit and otherwise, to voluntarily join the Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). Eco-labeling and organic farming production allow for similar mechanisms for the dissemination of information on private activities and products that could have a significant impact on the environment.

197. The Autonomous Communities, have adopted initiatives for consumers and producers of waste to encourage a reduction of the latter at source and for urban users on best practices in energy consumption, water use, waste separation and, in some cases, financial aid for actions to implement environmental management systems.

198. Economic operators, particularly the big distributors, have informed about their contribution to the reduction of the use of non-reusable, non-biodegradable plastic bags, through their own public campaigns or through campaigns promoted by the MAPAMA.

199. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* In Spain, the labeling of food products is regulated in Royal Decree 1334/1999 (July 31), modified by Royal Decree 162/2015, 27 February, approving the general rule of labeling, presentation and advertising of food products, and transposing the relevant European legislation. This regulation applies to ready to consume food and drink products as well as to restaurants, hospitals, canteens and similar establishments.

200. Regarding the European Union Eco-label, in 2013 adopted a new Royal Decree 234/2013, 5 April, implementing the eco-labeling in Spain according to Regulation (CE) No 66/2010, which will replace the currently in force Royal Decree 598/1994.

201. Similarly, the labeling of fish products, dangerous substances, noise from domestic appliances, energy consumption, etc., have their own national regulation covering environmental information.

202. Some Autonomous Communities control the labeling of electrical appliances and the symbols of integrated waste management systems. Both these authorities and some local governments have produced green shopping guides and incorporated sustainability criteria in public competitions for goods and services.

203. The new Royal Decree 110/2015 of 20 February 2015 on wastes of electric and electronic equipments provides the creation of a Platform to harmonize and ensure the traceability of this wastes allowing the participation of stakeholders.

Sweden

204. The new Royal Decree 110/2015 of 20 February 2015 on wastes of electric and electronic equipments provides the creation of a Platform to harmonize and ensure the traceability of this wastes allowing the participation of stakeholders.

205. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* Distributors of chemicals are obliged to classify and label their products and to supply product information sheets to professional, industrial recipients. As regards products, consumers and others receiving a product have the right to information about the content in the product of particularly hazardous substances that are included in the EU's Candidate List. The Swedish Chemicals Agency's website has a form that consumers can print out and use when they want to ask about the content of hazardous substances in products. The EU Biocidal Products Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products) contains rules about whether and how to label products treated with biocidal products. The purpose of the labelling is to provide information that a product contains biologically active substances and how consumers can use the product without harming their health or the environment. The Swedish Chemicals Agency has produced a fact sheet to provide information about this obligation, <http://www.kemi.se/global/faktablad/faktablad-om-regler-for-biocidbehandlade-varor.pdf>. On the Swedish Chemicals Agency's website it is also possible to give tips about deficiencies in the handling of chemicals, and each year the Agency receives about 300 tips from companies and the public. This helps the Agency to protect people and the environment and to get companies to comply with their obligations.

206. There are several voluntary systems for making product-related environmental information accessible to the public, such as environmental labelling and environmental product declarations. Environmental labelling makes it easier for consumers to choose green products and services and is also a driver for companies.

207. The state-owned company Ecolabelling AB [*Miljömärkning Sverige AB*] manages the Nordic Swan and EU Flower labelling systems in Sweden on behalf of the Government. There are a number of other environmental labels in addition to these labelling systems, including Good Environmental

208. Choice, which is the label of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, and TCO Certified, which is an independent sustainability certification for IT products.

209. The Swedish Forest Stewardship Council is an organisation that has developed a forestry standard and an environmental labelling of products from responsible forestry. Wood-based products can also be PEFC-labelled. PEFC (the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) evaluates and endorses national standards for certification that meet the organisation's criteria for responsible forestry. IVL Swedish Environmental Research is responsible for the international system of certified environmental product declarations, EPD (Environmental Product Declaration). These declarations are intended to provide accessible, quality-assured and comparable information about the environmental impact of products and services.

210. The public can obtain information about the impact of activities on the environment through various environmental management and environmental audit systems.

211. Central government authorities covered by the Ordinance concerning environmental management at government agencies (2009:907) – there are now 185 of them – have to have an environmental management system that integrates environmental considerations into their activities so that that the direct and indirect environmental impact of their activities is taken into account in a systematic way. This means, for instance, that these authorities have to have an environmental policy and adopted environmental objectives for their activities as well as an action plan for work to achieve these objectives. Each year these authorities have to make a report to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency on their environmental management work. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has to support these authorities in this work and to present a summary of their reports to the Government each year. The Agency also awards points for and ranks the environmental management work of Swedish authorities.

212. There are also voluntary environmental management systems under which a certification body examines and awards environmental certification to companies and organisations, e.g. ISO 14001 (an internationally accepted standard that is the basis for adopting an environmental management system) and EMAS (Eco Management and Audit Scheme), which is a similar system in the EU. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for EMAS in Sweden.

213. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* The Swedish Chemicals Agency provides information and answers questions about chemicals and chemicals in products via its information service. The Agency's website also has a target group access point for the public/consumers. It contains information about chemicals and products that are common in everyday life,

such as coolants, firefighting foam, toys and clothing. Information is also provided about common chemical substances such as bisphenol A, lead and flame retardants. The Swedish Chemicals Agency's *Chemicals Pod*, is intended to spread information about chemicals in everyday life to the public. The idea of the pod is to make it easier for consumers to make conscious choices. The Agency is working proactively on media relations so as to spread information about harmful chemicals in everyday life to the public and companies. The Agency is cooperating with the Public Health Agency of Sweden and other authorities to provide information about risks of antibiotic resistance. Rapex is a system used by EU countries to inform one another about dangerous consumer products on the market. Every Friday a list is published of RAPEX reports of dangerous products made by the authorities in EU member countries. The list contains information about the product, the potential risk and the measures taken by the reporting country. The Swedish Consumer Agency has a link to Rapex weekly reports at <http://www.konsumentverket.se/fragor-och-svar/produktsakerhet/vad-ar-rapeX/>.

Switzerland

Article 5 paragraph 6 and 8

Swiss law contains several regulations relating to market transparency in the environmental sector. According to Article 27 EPA any person who puts environmentally hazardous substances into circulation must inform recipients about their environment-related properties and provide them with instructions so that their use does not endanger human health the environment. Similar provision can also be found in Article 29e EPA for putting organisms into circulation, Article 7 of the Federal Act of 15 December 2000 on Protection against Dangerous Substances and Preparations (ChemA, SR 813.1) for placing dangerous substances or preparations on the market, Article 15 GTA for putting genetically modified organisms into circulation, etc. Detailed rules on the content and extent of the information given to recipients, including the labelling of products, are set out by the Federal Council at the ordinance level.

Consumer goods and services are subject to the declaration requirements of the Federal Act of 5 October 1990 on Consumer Information (ConsumIA, SR SR 944.0).

In compliance with the requirements of Article 5 paragraph 6 of the Convention, Article 43a EPA provides that the Federal Council may issue regulations on the introduction of voluntary systems for environmental labels («eco-label») or voluntary systems for the evaluation and improvement of environmental protection in establishments (environmental management and auditing).

Turkmenistan

214. *Paragraph 8:* Regarding paragraph 8, measures were taken to develop mechanisms in order to ensure that the public is provided with sufficient information on products. The Law of Turkmenistan "On Food Safety and Quality" dated August 16, 2014 establishes the legal, organizational and economic basis for ensuring the safety and quality of food products and it is aimed at protecting the public health of Turkmenistan.

215. According to the Law, the main directions of the state policy in the field of ensuring food safety and quality are: 1) prevention of production and import of inferior and dangerous food products, materials and products in Turkmenistan; 2) realization of the right of citizens to the enjoyment of safe and high-quality food products; 3) legal regulation of relations in the field of ensuring the safety and quality of food products, materials and products; 4) implementation of government programs to ensure the safety and quality of food, materials and products; 5) implementation of state control in the sphere of ensuring the safety and quality of food products, materials and products; 6) implementation of state registration of food products, materials for packaging food products; 7) organization and conduct of certification of food products, materials and products; 8) improving the system of training and retraining of specialists engaged in activities related to the production and turnover of food products, materials and products; 9) informing the public about food safety and quality; 10) improving the legislation of Turkmenistan in the field of ensuring the safety and quality of food products, materials and products; 11) implementation of international cooperation in the field of food safety and quality assurance (Article 4). In addition, authorized bodies inform citizens on the issues of ensuring the safety and quality of food products, materials and products (Article 7).

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

216. *Article 5, paragraphs 6 and 8:* The UK Government believes that changes to the way we produce, use and dispose of products and provide services can result in big reductions in the major environmental impacts. The Government's aim is to develop more integrated approaches to tackling product impacts right across their life cycle. This involves identifying product sectors with the most significant impacts and finding the best combination of market measures to bring about improvements. These measures include encouraging businesses to manage their impacts on the environment, raising public awareness and developing tools to improve green claims and other labelling. Information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/encouraging-businesses-to-manage-their-impact-on-the-environment> (45).

217. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) (funded by Defra, the Welsh Government and the Scottish Government) have set up the Product Sustainability Forum to encourage organisations to work collaboratively on product environmental information. The Forum is a collaboration of over 80 organisations including grocery and home improvement retailers and suppliers, academics, NGOs and UK Government representatives. It provides a platform to work together to measure, reduce and communicate the environmental performance of the grocery and home improvement products (<http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/product-sustainability-forum>). Data and information will be published and freely available on the internet. The Product Sustainability Forum is working with UNEP to develop collaborative actions with similar initiatives around the world (46).

218. Other bodies which provide information to the public, to enable them to make informed environmental choices about products and services, include:

- (a) The Food Standards Agency (<http://www.food.gov.uk/>);
- (b) The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy>);
- (d) The Chartered Trading Standards Institute (<http://www.tradingstandards.uk/>);
- (e) The Carbon Trust which helps businesses and the public sector cut carbon emissions (<http://www.carbontrust.com/>) (47).

IV. Conclusions

(a) General Remarks

219. Achieving Sustainable Development Goals and boosting green and circular economy require full consumer product transparency, traceability and accountability using the benefits of digitalization and innovation. In the recent years, most Parties continued developing regulatory and voluntary tools and measures to inform the public regularly of the environmental impact of operators' activities and products.

220. The current document demonstrate that these tools were applicable to different categories of products (for example, food, pharmaceuticals, plant protection products, chemicals and mixtures, biocidal products, motor vehicles, electric appliances and tourism, transport and other services).

221. Several voluntary domestic initiatives and campaigns at the national, regional and local levels aimed to raise awareness of consumers and businesses to promote sustainable consumption and production and increase retail sales of environmentally friendly products (e.g. the European Business Awards for the Environment; initiative "Bewusst kaufen" ("conscious buying") or city district guides in Austria; the Emilia Romagna Green Observatory in Italy).

222. Some Parties established electronic information tools to support public access to environment-related product information and multi-stakeholder engagement in improving environmental performance and sustainable production (see national implementation reports by Croatia, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom). Some Nordic countries have established websites that allow enterprises and individuals navigate national environmental legislation, which is of particular use to small and medium-sized enterprises with limited resources.

223. The information on environmental impact of activities carried out by operators was mainly made disseminated to the public through polluters' registers, pollutant release and transfer registers and reporting in accordance with environmental permits or legislation.

224. “Green” public procurement based on the established minimum environmental criteria has been widened in several countries (see national implementation reports by Bulgaria, Greece and Italy).

(b) Encouraging operators to inform the public (article 5, paragraph 6)

225. Most Parties continued encouraging operators to inform the public regularly of the environmental impact of their activities and products, where appropriate within the framework of voluntary eco-labelling or eco-auditing schemes or by other means.

226. Eco-labelling approaches vary across the region. Most of the EU member states utilize the EU’s Eco-Label to identify and verify environmentally friendly products and services, or those products and services that employ “Green” public procurement methods. Similarly, the Nordic countries make use of the Nordic Swan eco-label in addition to the EU Eco-Label. Some other countries established national certification and eco-labelling schemes.

227. Regarding the auditing of polluting enterprises, most EU countries note that they highly encourage companies to participate in the European Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). This voluntary scheme encourages companies to constantly improve their environmental performance and to willingly provide and regularly update information about their business practices and environmental outputs to the public.

228. Many countries encourage companies operating within their borders to promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by voluntarily adopting high social and environmental standards according to international norms and principles and by encouraging companies to make these standards public and easily accessible in their reports and strategies.

229. Some countries have established national trademark systems, which grant trademarks to products and services that fulfil specific certification criteria, either by being produced in a particular environmentally friendly way, or by originating from resources obtained from sustainably managed or protected natural areas. These types of trademarks serve as a guarantee for consumers of environmentally friendly production and good quality.

230. Several Parties promoted the use of a voluntary system for the assessment and evaluation of the environmental footprint of products. In France, for example, producers who make any environmental announcement or claim as part of the voluntary environmental footprint scheme must at the same time make available information on all the main environmental characteristics of the product.

(c) Availability of product information (article 5, paragraph 8)

231. Several Parties established the requirements to provide consumers with environment-related product information while placing a product on the market. For example:

- (a) In Croatia, the producer, that is the person placing a product on the market, shall be obliged in cases it is so prescribed to put, prior to placing a product on the market, an instruction on the packaging or on the technical document accompanying the product informing the consumer about the environmental impact of the product and of the packaging, and instructing how to handle the product and packaging after their use;
- (b) In France, the Consumer Code established a trial period during which consumers were to be informed of the carbon-equivalent content of products and packaging as well as the consumption of natural resources and the environmental impact that can be attributed to products over their lifespan;
- (c) In Norway, the general public is entitled to receive information directly from producers, importers, processors, distributors and users of products. This includes information on whether products contain components or have properties that may cause injury to health or environmental damage, what these properties are, and what significant injury to health or environmental disturbance is caused by production and distribution of the product. All information held by a public body on products must also be disclosed unless specific grounds for exemption apply.
- (d) In Poland, the entity placing a product on the market should ensure that the product meets the environmental requirements. The product should be provided with information concerning fuel consumption or consumables, the volume of emissions related to the product utilisation, environmentally safe usage, dismantling, recycling or

rendering the product harmless. The seller of the products should ensure that such information is also available at the points of sale of the product.

- (e) In Serbia, producer or distributor shall be obliged to issue a warning on the declaration of raw material, semi-product or finished products of environmental pollution and damage to human health, which the product or its packaging causes or may cause. The warning must contain instructions for use or handling of the product, its contents and packaging in the process of production, use and disposal in compliance with the standards in force and instructions for handling.
- (f) In Switzerland, any person who puts environmentally hazardous substances into circulation must inform recipients about their environment-related properties and provide them with instructions so that their use does not endanger human health the environment. Similar provision can also be found with regard to putting organisms into circulation.

232. Several Parties provide access to annual, public lists of biocide products, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), fertiliser use accounts from farms, etc., and require the clear labelling of these products before they are allowed to enter the national market.

233. Many Parties have also applied a variety of labelling tools to promote ecodesign and enable consumers to make informed environmental choices. Such tools include:

- (a) eco-labeling;
- (b) energy labelling;
- (c) organic labelling;
- (d) waste management labelling;
- (e) genetically modified organisms labelling;
- (f) warning labelling, including labelling environmental hazards.

234. Several Parties described agreements of cooperation that have been signed between the government and groups of non-profit associations for consumer and environmental protection organizations. These agreements aim to raise consumer awareness and inform and help consumers to make more environmentally friendly and healthier consumption choices when purchasing groceries, housewares, and other durables. Other agreements were designed to allow environmental NGOs to educate the public on local and national environmental status information via radio, television, and online media.

235. Some countries have taken legislative measures to prevent “greenwashing” and allow environmental protection associations the right to bring civil suit claims against misleading business practices or advertisements that contain misleading or incorrect environmental information or appeal refusals of operators to provide information upon request (see above national implementation reports by France, Norway, Poland and Serbia).