

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

**International Workshop “Advancing public access
to environment-related product information:
challenges and opportunities”**

Geneva, 9 November 2023

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 extracts² from the synthesis report submitted to the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session (Geneva, 18 – 21 October 2021) 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 2021 reporting cycle.³ The document also includes a summary chart table indicating the number of Parties that provided specific information on article 5, paragraphs 6 and 8, in comparison with 2017 reporting cycle.

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 <https://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/national-reports/reports>

³ This document presents an update of the earlier prepared document AC/TF.AI-7/Inf.2, available from <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/seventh-meeting-task-force-access-information-under-aarhus-convention>

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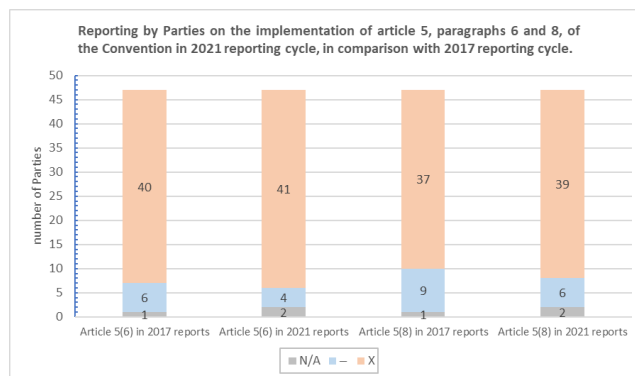
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I. Introduction

1. The present document aims to provide an overview of the progress and current trends in the implementation of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) with regard to article 5, paragraphs 6 and 8, requiring Parties to develop mechanisms with a view to ensuring that sufficient product information is made available to the public in a manner which enables consumers to make informed environmental choices (article 5 (8) of the Convention). Parties also shall encourage operators whose activities have a significant impact on the environment to inform the public regularly of the environmental impact of their products, where appropriate within the framework of voluntary eco-labelling or eco-auditing schemes or by other means (article 5 (6) of the Convention).

2. This document contains a “cut and paste” compilation of the relevant extracts⁴ from the synthesis report submitted to the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session (Geneva, 18 – 21 October 2021) 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 2021 reporting cycle and present the update of document AC/TF.AI-7/Inf.2⁵.

3. The document also includes a summary chart table indicating the number of Parties that provided specific information on article 5, paragraphs 6 and 8, in comparison with 2017 reporting cycle. When provided, all paragraph numbers from the original synthesis report and 2021 national implementation reports are indicated in parentheses at the end of each copied paragraph in this document. At present, forty-five Parties to the Convention submitted their national implementation reports for the 2021 reporting cycle, and forty-three Parties reported on article 5 (6) and (8) of the Convention, or on one of them. More responses were received regarding the implementation of article 5 (6) of the Convention than article 5 (8). The analysis revealed that about half of the Parties revised their responses related to the implementation of article 5 (6) and (8) as compared to national implementation reports submitted in 2017. Specifically, twenty-one Parties provided new information, with ten Parties provided the updated information on the implementation of article 5, paragraph 6, and eleven Parties provided the updated information on the implementation of article 5, paragraph 8.



⁴ Available from <https://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/national-reports/reports>

⁵ Available from <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/seventh-meeting-task-force-access-information-under-aarhus-convention>

II. Extracts from the Synthesis report

4. The following is extracted from the synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2021/6) with regard to the implementation of article 5 (6) and (8) of the Aarhus Convention.

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

5. 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, Switzerland and United Kingdom subregion mentioned the operation of eco-labelling schemes and voluntary environmental management systems. In the subregion, the companies which have introduced an environmental management system pursuant to the European Eco-Audit Regulation, report on their environmentally sound and sustainable corporate management (116).

6. Additionally, in France, the law requires certain companies to report annually on their social and environmental management and how they take into account the social and environmental consequences of their activities. In Latvia, the law requires operators to provide the public with information on the results of monitoring defined by the permit and the impact of polluting activities on human health and environment. In Luxembourg, businesses can participate in a voluntary scheme to audit their waste management practices (117).

7. Parties from the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia subregion reported that their legislation does not encourage operators whose activities have a significant impact on the environment to inform the public or provided no information on this matter (118).

Availability of product information (article 5, paragraph 8)

8. 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, Switzerland and United Kingdom subregion mentioned the operation of eco-labelling schemes, energy labelling for electric goods, organic labelling and other national labels. For example, Portugal submitted information on a consumer website run by the General Directorate for Consumers ensuring more effective communication that makes it easier for consumers to make sound environmental choices. In France, the law requires that users are informed about the quantity of greenhouse gases emitted by the mode(s) of transport used. Parties from the South-Eastern Europe also reported on application of Eco-Management and Audit Scheme 25, a voluntary environmental management system, as well as eco-labels (120).

9. Among the reporting Parties from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia subregion, only Belarus mentioned the existence of eco-labelling and eco-certification systems. In 2018, the Party reported on introduction of the principles of “green” procurement as well as amendments to the Law on Consumer Protection requiring information on goods to contain information on energy efficiency classes of goods. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan mentioned requirements on labelling of products containing GMOs (121).

III. Extracts from the national implementation reports

Albania

10. *Regarding Article 5, paragraph 6.* It is adopted the Decision of Council of Ministers No 701, dated 22.10.2014 “On adoption of regulations “on providing classified information in industrial field”. The subject of this regulation is: a) regulation of relations between the parties to determine protective measures and prevention procedures from unauthorized dissemination, loss or violation of security of classified information, which is treated in the conditions of implementing a

classified project / program / contract/ sub-contract. b) Determination of standards when a natural or legal person, has the ability to have access in classified information and possesses the required capacity for the management of that information, before giving an offer, negotiate or participate in a classified contract or to work for a classified project which involves access to classified information. Also, on 1 June 2016 entered into force 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 form of data on pollutant release and transfer by the operator”. This decision establishes the pollutant release and transfer register in the Republic of Albania (PRTR), in the form of a public electronic database, to facilitate access to data on releases to environment and also to increase public participation in environmental decision making, with a view of preventing and reducing environment pollution.

11. 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.

12. 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

13. *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.

14. *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).

Austria

15. *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.

16. *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

17. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* Article 31 of the Law on Environmental Protection regulates the environmental certification, the object of which is the environmental management system; products; the competence of personnel in the performance of work and services in the field of environmental protection; provision of services in the field of environmental protection; other objects in the field of environmental protection in accordance with the legislation. In particular, the certification of the provision of services in the field of environmental protection is voluntary and is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the standard STB 1803-2007 "Services in the field of environmental protection. General requirements" on the basis of declaration. The Register of compliance certificates for the provision of services in the field of environmental protection has been created and posted on the following website: <http://ecoinv.by/uslugi/ekologicheskaya-sertifikatsiya-uslug-v-oblasti-okhrany-okruzhayushchej-sredy.html>

18. Procedures and other issues of confirmation of the compliance with the technical requirements within the framework of the National System for Compliance Assessment of the Republic of Belarus, including the regulations for certification of environmental management systems, certification of services are determined by the Rules for Compliance Assessment of the National System of Compliance Assessment of the Republic of Belarus, approved by the Resolution of the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus of 25 July 2017 No. 61.

19. The "greening" of public procurement is one of the main goals and principles in the field of public procurement in accordance with the amendments of 17 July 2018 to the Law on Public Procurement of Goods (works, services) of the Republic of Belarus of 13 July 2012. No. 419-Z. To promote this provision of the Law, methodological recommendations have been developed for organizing and conducting procurement of goods (works, services) using the principles of "green" procurement (public procurement, procurement from own account and procurement of goods (work, services) for construction projects)

20. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* Information on goods (works, services) must contain such environmental information as information on energy efficiency classes of goods in accordance with the amendments of 13 June 2018 to the Law on Consumer Protection of the Republic of Belarus of 9 January 2002 No. 90-Z (Article 7).

21. Environmental information provided or disseminated by owners of environmental information in accordance with the Law on Environmental Protection is formed, *inter alia*, as a result of environmental certification. In accordance with Article 31 of the Law on Environmental Protection, environmental certification is carried out by certification authorities accredited in the National Accreditation System of the Republic of Belarus according to the legislation. The objects of environmental certification are:

- environmental management system;
- products;

- the competence of personnel in the performance of work (provision of services) in the field of environmental protection;
 - performance of work (provision of services) in the field of environmental protection;
 - other objects in the field of environmental protection in accordance with the legislation.
22. Environmental certification is voluntary and is carried out at the initiative of the applicant for certification.
23. In accordance with the Law on the Assessment of Compliance to Technical Requirements and Accreditation of Compliance Assessment Bodies of the Republic of Belarus of 24 October 2016 No. 437-Z, the objects of compliance assessment are subject to mandatory confirmation of compliance (mandatory certification or declaration of compliance) if one of the following grounds is present:
- in relation to products or products and related processes, the technical requirements of the technical regulations of the Republic of Belarus or the technical regulations of the Eurasian Economic Union (hereinafter – the EAEU) and the corresponding technical regulations of the Republic of Belarus or the technical regulations of the EAEU provide for mandatory compliance confirmation of these objects of compliance assessment with an indication of the compliance confirmation;
 - in relation to the object of compliance assessment, mandatory compliance confirmation was introduced due to the need to take operational measures of governmental regulation.
24. Technical regulations of the EAEU and the Republic of Belarus are developed for the purposes of environmental protection, among others, in accordance with the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union of 29 May 2014 and the Law on Technical Regulation and Standardization of the Republic of Belarus of 5 January 2004 No. 262-Z.
25. The list of objects of mandatory compliance assessment of the National System of Compliance Confirmation of the Republic of Belarus, approved by the Resolution of Council of Ministers of 21 October 2016 No. 849, does not provide for objects of compliance assessment in the field of environmental protection.
26. In case of voluntary compliance confirmation (voluntary certification), the applicant for certification independently chooses the technical requirements for compliance with which the voluntary compliance confirmation is carried out, and determines the nomenclature of indicators monitored in the voluntary confirmation of conformity. The nomenclature of these indicators necessarily includes safety indicators if they are established by technical normative legal acts in the field of technical regulation and standardization for this object of compliance assessment.
27. Information on the issued compliance certificates is posted on the register of the National System for Compliance Confirmation of the Republic of Belarus (<https://tsouz.belgiss.by/#>).
28. The requirements for marking, labels and the regulations for their application can be established by the technical regulations of the EAEU in accordance with the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union of 29 May 2014.
29. The labeling of packaged food products must contain, among other things, information on the presence in food products of components obtained using genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in accordance with the technical regulations of the Customs Union "Food Products Labelling" (TR CU 022/2011). Information on the distinctive properties declared by the producer of food products in the labeling of such products (for example, "Organic products", "Halal", "Environmentally friendly products", "Eco", "Bio") is indicated by them independently and is not subject to mandatory confirmation by third parties.
30. According to the EAEU technical regulations "On the Technical Regulations of the Eurasian Economic Union "On the requirements for the energy efficiency of energy-consuming devices" (TR EAEU 048/2019), the object of marking for energy-consuming devices is information on the energy efficiency class and on the device energy efficiency. Forms of labels and regulations for their design must comply with the requirements approved by the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission (under development).

Belgium

31. *Federal authority:* (f) (Paragraph unchanged).
32. Providing information about products is a federal competence.
33. Providing information about activities is a regional competence.
34. 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).
35. 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.
36. 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.
37. 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.
38. 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.
39. 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.
40. (h) (Paragraph unchanged). With respect to paragraph 8: Product information is a federal competence. See the federal report (www.health.fgov.be).
41. *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.
42. 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.
43. (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. In addition, Wallonia participates in the Ecolabel Committee, (european label indicating to citizens “environment-friendly” products or services.).
44. *Brussels Capital-Region: Paragraph 6:* see Ord. art.16 § 2.
45. *Paragraph 6:* Specific measures are implemented for Seveso activities and EMAS companies. Obligations are also requested through the permits system. Different newsletters are circulated.

46. *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°.
47. 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).
48. Information about dangerous products are more specifically available: <https://environnement.brussels/le-permis-denvironnement/les-conditionsspecifiques-dexploitation/produits-dangereux-stockes>. Also in relation with air quality (<https://environnement.brussels/thematiques/air-interieur/les-produitsdangereux>) and security/health. (<https://environnement.brussels/thematiques/sante-securite>).
49. A specific legislation also provides measures for pesticides (Ordinance of 20/06/2013 relating to a sustainable use of pesticides in the Brussels Capital Region).
50. *Flemish Region*: (f) European Regulation 1221/2009 (EMAS): companies must supply information on the environmental impact of their activities.
51. For certain categories of plants, an environmental audit and an integrated annual environmental report is obliged according to the “Internal Corporate environmental care”.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

52. (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.
53. 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: 108/13).
54. (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
55. 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

56. *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.
57. 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.

58. 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.

59. *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

60. *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.

61. The operators, manufacturers and service providers implementing high environmental protection standards can be awarded an eco-certificate EMAS: <http://emas.azo.hr/>. Register of products that MESD have awarded the environmental protection label EU Ecolabel and the national Environmental Friendly label is publicly available and is communicated via social media: <https://mingor.gov.hr/istaknute-teme/4928>. Information on EU Ecolabel products is also available through the common EU product database (<http://ec.europa.eu/ecat/>) but also to Croatian consumers through the consumer protection portal - green consumer (<https://www.szp.hr/all-consumer-themes-in-one-place/green-consumer/677>).

62. *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, 73,/17, 14/19, 98/19) and the Ordinance on Packaging and Packaging Waste (OG No. 88/15 and 78/16, 116/17, 14/20) are also relevant in this context.

63. 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 liquid petroleum fuels and the manner of monitoring and reporting and the methodology of calculation of greenhouse gas emissions in the life of the delivered fuel and energy (Official Gazette 057/2017) 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 are databases on, Volatile organic compounds in paints and varnishes", Emissions of volatile organic compounds (<http://iszz.azo.hr/hlap/>) and, Fuel quality at petrol stations and in fuel storage tanks" (<http://iszz.azo.hr/kago>) along with reports on products.

64. 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

65. *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.

66. 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

67. (f) with respect to Article 5 paragraph 6. Based on various regulations, polluters are obliged to report, for example, pollutants discharged into the environment (Act No. 25/2008, On the Integrated Pollution Register), or report their other operating data (waste records pursuant to Act No. 185/2001 Coll., On waste).

68. The reported information is also used by the public administration and, if necessary, is made available as part of active or passive access to environmental information.

69. Regarding the incentive of operators to directly inform the public about the impacts of their activities on the environment, the Ministry of the Environment, through CENIA, promotes the introduction of voluntary environmental instruments. The advantages of their use for businesses lie in improving the environmental reputation and profile of the company or organisation, which in turn represents an advantage in the market.

70. Voluntary environmental instruments fall outside the binding administrative instruments of environmental law. They lead to the reduction of the negative effects of production or operation on the environment and at the same time to the strengthening of the position of the company or organization on the market, to the increase of competitiveness and reputation.

71. Voluntary instruments include labelling (Eco-friendly product / service, EU Ecolabel, environmental labelling), management system (EMAS, environmental management and audit system), Cleaner Manufacturing (preventive strategies for the efficient use of resources), Eco-design, environmentally friendly public procurement, etc.

72. The Ministry of the Environment is also working to support green shopping (from 2021 it plans to introduce a financial bonus for selected products that contain a certain proportion of recycled plastics). The Ministry of the Environment also employs voluntary agreements with selected companies on the platform of the initiative "Dost bylo plastu" (Out with Plastics!).

73. (h) With respect to Article 5 paragraph 8. Informing the public about more environmentally friendly product variants is linked, for example, to the obligation to label electrical appliances with energy labels introduced by Act No. 406/2000 Coll., On energy management in accordance with the requirements of EU law.

74. The public can actively search for products with the appropriate label, which represents environmentally friendly products. Furthermore, in the area of organic production [Council Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products in conjunction with Act No. 242/2000 Coll., On organic farming], the terms *organic product*, *organic food* and *other organic product* are used, which allow the public to choose between different product variants.

Denmark

75. *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.

76. 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.

77. 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.
78. 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.
79. *Paragraph 8:* On the EPAs website there is a full catalogue of approved pesticides. In addition, the EPA provides good advice on a spray garden on the website godthavemiljø.dk and helps the garden owners who want to spray in the garden, to choose the least harmful pesticides.
80. 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.
81. 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.
82. 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

83. *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.
84. *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.
85. 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.
86. 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

87. *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). Information on products (goods and services) awarded with the EU Ecolabel is available in the EU Ecolabel Catalogue (ECAT). Public data on such products is available on the EU Open Data Portal.

88. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* In September 2020 the Commission published the Inception Impact Assessment on a Sustainable Product Initiative. The Initiative will focus on widening the scope of the Ecodesign Directive beyond energy related products; it will also address (among other things) the availability of information on sustainability along value chains related to products placed on the EU market with a view to enhance the ability of consumers to choose products with the lowest environmental footprint.

89. The EU adopted several legislative acts to ensure that producers make available to consumers information about 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.

90. 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, the Ecodesign Consultation Forum consults stakeholders (see http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/ecodesign/forum_en.htm).

91. Pursuant to article 12 of the [Energy labelling Regulation](#) (eu) 2017/1369, the Commission has implemented a database where any model of products to be placed on the Union market has to be registered (prior to placing on the market). The European Product Registry for Energy Labelling (EPREL) provides to national Market Surveillance Authorities a tool to streamline their compliance control activity, by making most if not all technical documentation to perform their duties ready-made on line. The system provides, moreover, additional information on top of what visible in the energy label, on all products in the scope of the Energy Labelling Regulation and of the Tyre Labelling Regulation 2020/740[20], available on-line[21].

92. Pursuant to the [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#), all EU Member States have established energy performance certificates for buildings. Such energy performance certificates include information about the energy performance of the buildings and recommendations how to improve it. They are obligatory for new buildings, buildings which are sold or rented and for certain large public buildings.

93. The European Business Awards for the Environment, which are presented every 2 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

94. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* Voluntary environmental management systems were introduced in the 1990s concerning environmental protection in industry. The systems also involve duties to provide information. All organizations have had the opportunity to apply the global ISO 14001 environmental management system since 1996. Moreover, the EU also has the voluntary Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), with the EMAS Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 in force since January 2010.

95. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* The authority supervising the safety and reliability of products and services is the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes). The Tukes website provides extensive information about requirements set for products and services. Tukes maintains the national chemical information resource (KemiDigi). The database provides

access to information about chemicals on the market that are classified as dangerous. The information is submitted to KemiDigi by the importer or manufacturer placing the chemical on the market. On the website, there is also a link to the ecodesign website (ekosuunnittelu.info), which is the official information channel assisting manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers.

96. The purpose of the EU Ecodesign Directive for energy-related products (2009/125/EU) is to reduce the environmental impacts of products and, in particular, improve the energy efficiency of products. Products that meet the requirements are within the scope of the CE marking.

97. The purpose of the energy label is to inform consumers about the energy consumption and other characteristics of products. An energy label must be attached to products for which product-group specific energy labelling regulations have been adopted. Provisions on the energy labelling framework are laid down at the EU level in the Energy Labelling Regulation (EU) 2017/1369.

98. Under EU Regulation (2008/1272/EC) on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, chemicals contained in products imported from third countries must be labelled in accordance with the requirements of the Regulation.

99. The Nordic Council of Ministers established the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in 1989. It aims to guide consumers to choose the alternatives in specific product groups that least burden the environment. The EU Ecolabel, or the EU Flower, is based on EU Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 on the EU Ecolabel awarding system.

100. The EU organic logo, the Euro Leaf, is compulsory for all pre-packaged organic food products produced within the EU. The logo may also be used optionally by other organic products and organic products imported from non-EU countries. In addition, the Finnish controlled organic production label (“Luomu Sun Sign”) complies with the conditions set in the EU Regulation and shows the product is supervised by the Finnish authority and produced, packaged or labelled in Finland. The label is awarded by the Finnish Food Authority.

France

101. *Paragraph 6:* Law No. 2020/105 of February 10, 2020 on the fight against waste and the circular economy aims to develop responsible consumption and support the durability and reparability of products. Article 15 establishes a voluntary environmental and social labeling system for consumers. Priority is given to the clothing textile sector, under conditions relating to the nature of the products and the size of the company (22).

102. Article L. 121-15-4 CC imposes the mention of the energy class in the advertisements of products subject to European energy labeling in a way that is as visible as the price of these products (23).

103. Art. L214-1 of the Consumer Code obliges producers voluntarily making an environmental communication or claim to jointly make available the main environmental characteristics of the products (law of August 17, 2015 relating to the energy transition for green growth) (24).

104. Article L1431-3 of the transport code imposes user information on the quantity of greenhouse gases emitted by the mode or modes of transport used (law no. 2010-788 of July 12, 2010 - known as Grenelle II - and law of 17 August 2015 on energy transition for green growth) (25).

105. Article L142-2 of the EC allows environmental protection associations to exercise civil remedies in the event of commercial practices and misleading advertisements containing environmental indications (26).

106. Paragraph 8: Pollutant emissions: The ministry in charge of the environment collects and publishes on its website each year the information necessary for the French register of pollutant emissions (27).

107. The order of 31 January 2008 relating to the register and the annual declaration of emissions and transfers of pollutants and waste requires the operators of classified installations subject to authorization or registration to submit a single declaration of polluting emissions from their installations. This declaration is made on the GEREPA website. This data is then made available to the public on the IREP/Géorisques website (<https://www.georisques.gouv.fr/risques/registre-des-emissions-polluantes>). In 2019, data from approximately 10,000 establishments were released. CO2 emissions are reported simultaneously (28).

Georgia

108. *Paragraph 6:* (f) National legislation contains no provisions offering incentives to enterprises operators. However, MEPA through electronic system of environmental information management - “Notifications System”, regularly and timely informs entrepreneurs about legislative changes and obligations.

109. *Paragraph 8:* (h) According to the legislation (The Food/Animal Safety, Veterinary and Plant Protection Code (2012), Article 10), “the consumer shall be given necessary/reliable/complete information about food/animal safety, animal/plant products, veterinary drugs, pesticides and agrochemicals that enables him/her to make right choice”. Additional requirements are set for labeling all types of food products, circulating on the territory of Georgia, aiming to ensure protection of consumers’ economic interests and possibility to make a choice (Pursuant to the Technical Regulation -Decree N301, 01/07/2016 of the GoG on Provision of Information on Food products to Consumers).

Germany

110. (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 BMU’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. Currently 86,116 products of 5,670 companies are registered in the eco-label database (as of 31 July 2020). 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. Companies which have introduced an environmental management system pursuant to the European Eco-Audit Regulation (EMAS) report on their environmentally sound and sustainable corporate management. They regularly publish their environmental declarations following assessment of the declarations by state-accredited environmental verifiers, and report on their targets and measures to improve their environmental performance. Mandatory key indicators which must be reported include the company’s greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption and resource consumption. Amendments to the EMAS Regulation in 2017 and 2018 introduced the option to extend the environmental management system to the sustainability aspects of relevance to the system. In October 2019, there were 12,664 sites registered under EMAS throughout the EU. By the end of 2019, 2,228 sites were registered in Germany.

Greece

111. *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) (109).

112. 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 (110).

113. 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 (111).

114. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which is accompanied by a Biosafety Clearinghouse (BCH), 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. The BCH is a mechanism set up by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to facilitate the exchange of information on LMOs and assist the Parties to better comply with their obligations under the Protocol. Global access to a variety of scientific, technical, environmental, legal and capacity building information is provided in the six official languages of the UN. Greece ratified the Protocol by law No 3233/2004 (GG 51/A/18.2.2004) and has nominated a National Focal Point (NFP) for both the Protocol and its BCH. (113).

115. Furthermore, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD is an international agreement which aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearinghouse (ABS Clearing-House) is a platform for exchanging information on access and benefit-sharing established by Article 14 of the Protocol, as part of the Clearinghouse of the Convention established under Article 18, paragraph 3 of the Convention. The ABS Clearing-House is a key tool for facilitating the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, by enhancing legal certainty and transparency on procedures for access and benefit-sharing, and for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources along the value chain, including through the internationally recognized certificate of compliance. By hosting relevant information regarding ABS, the ABS Clearing-House will offer opportunities for connecting users and providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Greece ratified the Nagoya Protocol by law No 4617/2019 (GG 88/A/10.6.2019) and became a Party to the Protocol on 14 May 2020 by nominating an ABS NFP (113).

Hungary

116. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* In addition to the mandatory reporting schemes, the objectives of Article 5.6 of the Convention are mainly served by participation in the EU Eco-label scheme, the national Eco-label product certification scheme and the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). The Eco-label scheme was created in 1993 to distinguish environmentally friendly products and services. The conditions for the use of the eco-label are regulated by the ministry responsible for the environment, but the Hermann Ottó Institute is in charge of the coordination and operation 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. The Hermann Ottó Institute, as a competent body, is also responsible for the coordination and operation of the eco-label certification.

117. All information on the Eco-label and EU Ecolabel schemes is available in Hungarian on the Hermann Ottó Institute website: <http://www.okocimke.hu>. The website also provides information on the national Eco-label and EU Ecolabel certification criteria, as well as details of organisations that have been awarded the Eco-label and EU Ecolabel. Upon EU accession, Hungary also joined the EU EMAS scheme. The Department of Environment and Nature Protection of the Pest County Government Office has been appointed as the Competent Body, while the National Accreditation Authority (NAH) has been appointed for the accreditation tasks. The National Accreditation Authority continuously publishes information on accredited EMAS verifiers on www.nah.gov.hu, while information on EMAS verified organisations can be found on the EMAS professional website(<http://emas.kvvm.hu/>) (89).

118. *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 Órség dödölle as well. Those visiting the areas of the National Park Directorates may use accommodation services with this trademark (90).

Iceland

119. *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

120. *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).

121. *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.

122. The [Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland](http://www.seai.ie) (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: <https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/schools/one-good-idea/one-good-idea-topics/>

123. 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. 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.

124. Energy labelling requirements for suppliers: https://www.seai.ie/publications/EPREL-Supplier-Guidance_Final-5.pdf

125. Energy labelling requirements for retailers: <https://www.seai.ie/publications/A-Retailers-Guide-to-Energy-Labelling-In-Store.pdf>

126. Retail outlets are regularly inspected for compliance with the energy labelling regulations.

Italy

127. *Paragraph 6:* (f, g) since 2010, MiTE has been promoting the National Environmental Impact Assessment Programme to measure and improve the environmental performance of the private and public sectors. The program is aimed at Italy's top companies as well as small and medium-sized companies belonging to the main sectors of the Italian production sector and public bodies including municipalities. The programme, which certifies both products (goods and services) and organisations, during its experimental phase focused mostly on an analysis of the carbon footprint of all the

various environmental indicators due to its dual nature as an environmental driver closely linked to climate change and added value to the competitiveness of Italian companies in international markets.

128. VIVA - The Sustainability of viticulture in Italy is the program of MiTE that since 2011 has promoted the sustainability of the Italian wine sector and represents the public standard for the measurement and improvement of the sustainability performance of viticulture in Italy. VIVA provides both a product and organisational analysis based on the use of four indicators: Air (climatic footprint), Water (water footprint), Territory (social and economic sustainability) and Vineyard (agronomic management of the vineyard), accompanied by the relevant technical specifications. The results obtained, certified by an independent third party, are accessible to the public thanks to the VIVA label issued by the Ministry that bears a QR code linking to a web page, ensuring communication with the consumer. More than 100 companies participate in the programme. In order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and to promote the issue of sustainability throughout the wine chain, an intense information campaign has been organised complete with a website, newsletters, sustainability education initiatives for schools, etc.

129. EU Ecolabel is the ecological label of the European Union created with the aim of promoting products that have a lower impact on the environment during the entire life cycle and offering consumers accurate, non-deceptive and scientifically based information on the environmental impact of products. In 2016 MiTE launched an information campaign with the aim of promoting the dissemination of correct information to the public/consumers, institutions and companies regarding the EU Ecolabel.

130. The competent Italian national body entrusted with the task of applying the Community initiatives is the Ecolabel and Ecoaudit Committee, established at the MiTE and composed of representatives of MiTE and the ministries of Economic Development, Health and Economy and Finance. It consists of two sections, Ecolabel and EMAS Italy. In addition to issuing certifications and participating in working groups of the European Commission, the Committee is entrusted with the important task of organising working groups with trade associations and implementing initiatives for the information and promotion of the two systems.

131. To meet the needs of the business world, EMAS and Ecolabel schools have also been established in Italy dedicated to the training of professionals, especially to support SMEs that want to adhere to the EMAS Regulation and/or brand their products and services with the EU Ecolabel.

132. With Italian Law no. 132 of 28 June 2016, SNPA was assigned an oversight function, with sampling, analysis, measurements, site visits and inspections of the sources and factors of environmental pollution and the pressures thereon deriving from man-made or natural causes, and the related impacts.

133. In its checks of the compliance of an industrial plant under IEA, ISPRA verifies not only general compliance with the law, but also with specific requirements established in specific administrative records: the authorisations.

134. Since Italian Legislative Decree no. 33/2013 on the "*Reorganisation of the rules on disclosure, transparency and dissemination of information by public administrations*" has greatly increased transparency, guaranteeing public access to environmental information, ISPRA, also pursuant to Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information, constantly publishes environmental information in periodic reports for the purpose of an active and systematic dissemination to the public of data obtained from its monitoring and the aforementioned oversight of IEA installations that have an impact on the environment, including the most critical plants.

135. In January 2021, ISPRA stipulated a Cooperation Agreement with MiTE and ANCI on the dissemination to the public of information on the safety of plants at risk of a major accident through the new Seveso Query digital portal.

136. [Seveso Query](#) contains the information on industrial plants submitted by the operators, together with the results of the evaluation of the safety reports and inspections. The data collected are already available by territory to all the administrations that need them through access to a reserved area. Those of a public nature are also now available, updated in real time. The Agreement also constitutes an important contribution to the principle of transparency of the PA, providing accessibility to data and documents managed by public administrations.

137. *Paragraph 8: (h)* In order to increase sensitivity and collective propensity towards more ecological and sustainable consumption, the Ministry has also invested in communications for the dissemination of the GPP through the distribution of a monthly newsletter and a quarterly magazine and through the production and dissemination of an informative video on the Ecolabel.

Kazakhstan

138. *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).

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

140. 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

141. *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.

142. 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.

143. 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.

144. *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

145. *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 (<http://www.vpvb.gov.lv/lv/ekomarkejums/informacija>) (124).

146. 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 (125).

147. Public reports are available at the LEGMC website www.videscentrs.lv/gmc.lv under the section "Environment" (126).

148. *Article 5, paragraph 8*: Choice of environmentally friendly products is encouraged by: EU eco-labeling; Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) has been implemented in several municipalities; also applicable are quality and management systems (ISO 9001 and ISO 14001), pure technologies, and various product labeling (132).

149. The website of the Food and Veterinary Service provides information about food products, novel food and food additives (133).

150. Article 26.1 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 (134).

Lithuania

151. *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 (88).

152. 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 (89).

153. 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 (90).

154. *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 (92).

Luxembourg

155. *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.

156. *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 *Naturflesch* meat mark).

Malta

157. With respect to paragraph 6: For certain operations (such as those falling under the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations), the operator has an obligation to disseminate information to the public relating to its activities. Furthermore, the applications for certain permits (such as IPPC sites) would include an identification of the impacts of such activity, and are made available online. In certain cases, actions were also taken to engage a monitoring committee to review the implementation of the environmental permit in conjunction with the operator, Local Council and ENGOs. In such cases, the local council representative is in a position to inform the public concerned about relevant issues discussed during such meetings. ERA also encourages the use of an Environment Management System, which in some cases (such as with the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) requires the dissemination of information on an organisation's environmental performance to the public.

158. *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 upon request. 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.

159. With respect to paragraph 8: 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 awards 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 Eco-label scheme, submit an application or ask any questions about the application process or the scheme in general.

160. *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

161. *Paragraph 6:* (f) Refer to the provisions of the Law on Environment, Article 43, regarding EMAS environmental management system, and the provisions of Article 44, regarding the ecological label. The eco-label is also established for less polluting products and services.

162. *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.

163. In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (formerly the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), in March 2017, Guidelines for distinguishing plant protection products from biocidal products were prepared and published on the website of the Ministry and the Nature and Environmental Protection Agency. In July 2017, as part of the IPA project Preparatory Measures for Chemical Management for Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates implemented by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), a translation of the ECHA document, i.e., a leaflet on chemical exports, was published on the Ministry website: <http://www.mrt.gov.me/rubrike/publikacije/174595/Brosura-o-izvoza-hemikalija-supstanci-smesa-i-proizvoda-na-trziste-EU.html>.

164. A brochure on chemical export was also submitted to the Nature and Environmental Protection Agency for further distribution to interested parties. Furthermore, through the mentioned project during 2018, informative leaflets were made:

- Guidance and tools for downstream users;
- Information on chemicals and
- Safety data sheets and exposure scenarios.

165. To be available to the public and all interested parties, these leaflets have been posted on the websites of the Ministry and the Agency. http://www.mrt.gov.me/organizacija/zivotna_sredina/184212/Informacije-o-hemikalijama.html and <https://epa.org.me/publikacije>.

166. As part of the project Comprehensive Environmentally Sound Management of PCB waste in Montenegro during 2018, a project website was created, in order to better inform the public about the activities on the project. In March 2019, as part of the TV show Eco vision, the public was informed about the export of PCB waste.

167. In 2017, the Nature and Environmental Protection Agency prepared and printed two manuals in order to raise citizens' awareness of the possible harmful effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: the Manual on Mercury and the Manual for Handling Materials Containing Asbestos Fibbers. These manuals can be found at <http://www.epa.org.me/index.php/agencija/publikacije>.

168. In May 2018, with the aim of providing information and professional guidelines, a Helpdesk was established for interested parties who place chemicals and biocidal products on the market and use on the Montenegrin market and the European Union market. Interested parties can ask questions to the e-mail address: help-desk@epa.org.me.

169. To improve the work of the National Helpdesk during 2019, a Helpdesk leaflet was prepared in which brief information on what the national helpdesk deals with is given, as well as the laws and regulations based on which permits for free trade of chemicals and biocidal products are issued. The leaflet can be found on the EPA website <https://epa.org.me/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/HelpDesk.pdf>.

170. A brochure Montenegro and EU regulations in the field of chemicals and biocidal products management was also prepared: <https://epa.org.me/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Crna-Gora-i-propis-EU-a-u-oblasti-upravljanja-hemikalijama-i-biocid.proizvodima.pdf>.

171. Aiming to raise awareness about chemicals and ways to minimize their harmful effects on human health and the environment, for the first time in 2019, the Nature and Environmental Protection Agency joined an action organized by The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, on the occasion of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, which was held in the period 20-26 October, 2019. <https://epa.org.me/2019/10/18/20-26-oktobar-medunarodna-sedmica-prevencije-trovanja-olovom/>

172. The Law on Protection from Negatives Impact of Climate Change provides the basis for the establishment of the National System for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Emissions Trading System and provides a sectoral division of efforts to reduce emissions outside the Emissions Trading System.

North Macedonia

173. *Paragraph 6:* Article 41 - Register for release and transfer of pollutants

174. (1) The state administration body competent for issues in the field of environment shall establish and maintain a Register for release and transfer of pollutants, which is an integral part of the Cadastre of environment.

175. (4) The legal entities and natural persons are responsible to establish data for the preparation and maintenance of the Register of polluters in accordance with this Law and in accordance with the issued integrated environmental permits. Operators of instalations that generate emissions and pollute one or more media in the environment and its areas are obliged, in accordance with special laws, to monitor the sources of emissions in the media of environment and submit the data to the National Environmental Information System.

176. Depending on their function, the entities are obliged to disseminate, to make available to the public and to maintain the information on the environment that they dispose of or that is held by others on their behalf, in forms and formats that can easily be reproduced and made available through the electronic communication networks.

177. The project “Strengthening at a central and local level of the administrative capacities for implementation and enforcement of the legal regulation on waste management”, funded by the IPA program established a National Information System for waste management. The information system is available on the Internet.

178. The National Information System for air quality was implemented as a part of the IPA funded twinning project “Strengthening the capacities at a central and local level for environmental management in the field of air quality”. The project established an efficient national system of environmental information in the field of air quality.

179. The information system is maintained and organized in a manner that provides a base of relevant data - comprehensive, accurate and publicly available information on the condition of nature, the state and the quality of environmental media and the other fields regarding the environment, noise, ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, including electromagnetic radiation, as well as predictions by using modeling techniques. The information system includes systematization, storage and use of data obtained from the state monitoring network, the local monitoring network, the monitoring performed by the operators, and they are legally obliged to do so, of the specific environmental media and areas and the data from the Registers of pollutants and substances, that is, the data from the Cadastres of polluters of the environment.

180. The owners i.e., the users of installations which are a source of emissions and pollute one or several media and environmental areas, are obliged, in accordance with a special law, to perform monitoring of the emission sources, in the environmental media, and to submit the data to the information system within the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning.

181. Furthermore, they are obliged to use devices and instruments that are approved in the procedure for verification of the measures, stipulated by law, and to maintain the monitoring devices and equipment in a functional condition.

182. The Macedonian Environmental Information Centre (MEIC), in collaboration with the other bodies, every year prepares a report of processed data on environmental quality, every two years it prepares an Indicator Report, and every four years it prepares a report on the state of the environment in the Republic of North Macedonia. These reports are available on the website of MoEPP and they are being sent to all relevant and interested institutions. In addition, in cooperation with the State Statistical Office, every second year the publication Statistics in the Environment is being prepared, which is available on the websites of both institutions. Also the Macedonian Environmental Information Center annually prepares popular brochures for the individual media for the environment (water, air, waste) and thematic brochures.

183. Reports are prepared in accordance with Rulebook on the content of the report on the state of the environment (Official Gazzete on RNM, Nb. 35/06).

184. Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) is a comprehensive database of national emissions and transmission of pollutants in the Republic of North Macedonia. The PRTR is a register of annually updated data on emissions of 91 pollutants in the environmental media (air, water, and soil) as well as their transfer outside the site of creation. The PRTR portal provides access to the PRTR register and contains information and data on the prevention and control of environmental pollution, pollutants, and their impact on human health. Macedonian Environmental Information Center (MEIC) is integrated in PRTR.

Norway

185. *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. Annually the Board receives approximately 10 to 17 cases. In 2019 thirteen appeals were received by the Board, one more than in 2018 and three more than in 2017, but four less than in 2015.

186. 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. Eco-lighthouse is Norway's most widely used certification scheme for environmental management in public and private undertakings, covering around 70 different sectors. Eco-lighthouse requires all certified undertakings to publish an annual climate- and environment report on their websites or to make it available on request.

187. 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.

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

189. The Authorities responsible for health, environment and safety in the workplace (the Labour Inspection Authority, the Environment Agency, the Directorate for Civil Protection, the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, the Industrial Safety Organisation and the Directorate of Health) have information on their websites to make it easier for enterprises and persons to find relevant legislation.

190. *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.

191. 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.

Poland

192. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* Article 21(2)(32) of the Act on Provision of Information about the Environment states that the data on environmental declarations, referred to in the Act of 15 July 2011 on the National Community Eco-management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) (Journal of Laws of 2020, item 634, as amended), shall be placed in the publicly available lists. On the other hand, Article 21(2)(23)(m) of the Act on Provision of Information about the Environment states that the data on environmental reviews (eco-audits), performed pursuant to the EPL, shall be placed in the publicly available lists (86).

193. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* Pursuant to Article 167 of the EPL, the entity placing a product on the market should ensure that the product meets the environmental protection requirements. The product should be provided with information concerning fuel or consumables consumption, emissions connected with the use of the product and environmentally safe use, dismantling, re-use, or disposal of the product. The seller of the product shall ensure that such information is also displayed at the points of sale of the product (90).

194. Pursuant to Article 80 of the EPL, advertising or any other type of promotion of goods or services should not contain content that promotes a consumption model contrary to the principles of environmental protection and sustainable development, and in particular use the image of wild nature to promote products and services that have a negative impact on the natural environment (91).

Portugal

195. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* For an environmental policy to be effective it is necessary, 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 promoted in Portugal by an environmental NGO, ABAE, with the support of countless government organisations, such as the Blue Flag of Europe (for beaches, pleasure boat ports and marinas, and pleasure craft), the ECO XXI Green Flag for municipalities, the ECOFREGUESIAS XXI Green Flag, and the Green Key (for hotel units), etc.

196. With regard to the ISO 14001:2004 standard, at the end of 2019, 1,202 certifications were awarded in Portugal by the eight existing certification bodies, accredited in the Portuguese Quality System.

197. Two registrations were made in Portugal under the EC Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) in 2017. At the end of this year 54 organisations were registered (which corresponded to a total of 93 registered activity sites). In 2018, two more registrations were made in Portugal; as such, by the end of this year 51 organisations were registered (which corresponded to a total of 98 registered activity sites). In 2019, four more registrations were made in Portugal; as such, by the end of this year 51 organisations were registered (which corresponded to a total of 90 registered activity sites). At the end of 2020, there were 49 organisations registered with EMAS (which corresponds to a total of 84 registered activity sites). One new registration was assigned. APA keeps updated information on organisations registered with EMAS on its website <https://emas.apambiente.pt/>.

198. 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 accordance with Order No. 15512/2006, concerning the implementation of the Community Ecolabel Attribution System, the DGAE is the competent national authority for the allocation of licenses permitting the use of the EU Ecological Label and respective management. 20 licences for the use of the EU Ecolabel were valid at 31 December 2019, in the following product groups: "Rinse-off cosmetic products" (1), "Hard surface cleaning products" (2), "Detergents for manual dishwashing" (2), "Interior and exterior paints and varnishes" (4), "Tissue paper products" (4), "Copy paper and graphic paper" (1) and "Textile products" (1) - which in total include a set of 4,650 trademarks - as well as 5 licences assigned to "Tourist accommodation" services.

199. The ecological design 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. They also cannot have negative impacts on health or increased costs for consumers. The Ecodesign Directive (Directive 2009/125/EC, of the EP and of the Council, of 21 October) is a framework directive, a fundamental component of European policy. By means of specific regulations for each product type, it has enabled the establishment of harmonised minimum requirements for energy efficiency and functional and environmental performance in energy-related products in the context of a temporary trend for increasing demand, thereby improving the environmental and energy performance of these products on the internal market. The Ecodesign Directive is complemented by Regulation EU 2017/1369 of the EP and of the Council, of 4 July 2017, which establishes an energy labelling regime. In this context, the European Commission has established a Work Plan for the 2016-2019 period – COM(2016)773 final, as part of the circular economy package – including a list of the 12 works in progress on the date of the plan's presentation (November 2016), together with 22 reviews of existing regulatory measures and identification of an additional set of 6 product groups to be considered for future work. As these are energy-related products, this matter is also dealt with on page 19 of this report, with regard to the activities of the DGEG.

200. Turismo de Portugal supports initiatives such as the National Tourism Award (with a Sustainable Tourism component) and establishes partnerships with other bodies to promote other such initiatives. An example of these is the "Chave Verde" / "Green Key" award, organised by the Blue Flag Association of Europe (ABAE), an environmental NGO which aims to distinguish businesses, local accommodation, restaurants and events in the field of tourism which promote good management practices and environmental education (cf. www.abae.pt/programa/chaveverde). TdP is part of the National Commission for this and other programmes promoted by ABAE: the international "Blue Flag" award, which aims to provide education towards the sustainable development of coastal and river beaches, recreational ports and marinas, and recreational and ecotourism vessels, which apply and adhere to a set of criteria relating to Environmental Information and Education, among other things (cf. <https://bandeirazu.abae.pt/>). Another is the "Green Flag" award -

which includes the ECOXXI programme for municipalities and Eco-Freguesias XXI. These aim to identify and acknowledge good sustainability practices, placing value on education, among other things, with a view to sustainability and environmental quality (cf. <https://ecoxxi.abae.pt/bandeiraverde>).

201. 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.

202. 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. A review of the classification requirements for tourism developments, which foresees a greater focus on environmental sustainability criteria, is currently underway.

203. With regard to green public procurement, Council of Ministers Resolution No. 38/2016 of 29 July was published, approving the National Strategy for Ecological Procurement (ENCPE 2020). The 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. It focuses, for this reason, 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.

204. A set of information initiatives was planned for the implementation of ENCPE 2020, namely:

- Development of a specific area for ecological public procurement on the APA website as a repository of information, dissemination of specifications and ecological, general and adapted criteria, using open standards, pursuant to Law No. 36/2011 of 21 June - the ecological public procurement portal can be found at <https://encpe.apambiente.pt/>
- Holding of an annual conference aimed at disseminating and sharing 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 - a final conference is planned for early 2021 in order to disseminate the results of the strategy; this will be held online.
- Carrying out training activities with entities covered by ENCPE 2020 and other stakeholders - for this purpose, APA joined LNEG, which was the organisation selected by the European Commission to carry out training activities in green public procurement in Portugal, as part of the GPP Toolkit (https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit_en.htm). Two training sessions were held, in Coimbra and Lisbon, in face-to-face and online formats, for a group of representatives from central and local government bodies.

205. Based on applicable legal and regulatory requirements and in order to maximise the reliability and objectivity of the data generated, IGAMAOT has implemented risk analysis systems (SAR) in the context of planning environmental inspections. These play an essential role in establishing the most appropriate strategies and methodologies, allowing the selection of targets on the grounds of objective criteria and with a view to those which will have the greatest impact on the environment and human health. The methodology used by the SARs to schedule inspection activities is based on the IRAM (Integrated Risk Assessment Method) tool developed by the EasyTools project, part of the European IMPEL network (European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law), and enables

classification of the risk associated with each industrial unit/infrastructure (the higher the rating, the greater the risk). Using this model, a classification of each unit as “significant risk/non-significant risk” can be obtained. This classification will objectively determine the establishment of the corresponding type and frequency of inspection. It is a high-quality, reliable tool that has the following advantages:

- Risk analysis tool which is harmonised throughout Europe;
- Uses mechanisms for control and adjustment: Weighting Factors and Terms for Criteria, Risk Category, Safety Net;
- Has an associated “rule” that calculates the category of risk based on the minimum number of higher Impact Criteria (CI) values associated with an operator; and
- Allows the frequency and effort of inspections to be determined on the basis of available resources.

206. Calculated on a probabilistic tendency method, it is based on the concept of risk as a function of the severity of its consequence (effect) and the probability of its occurrence. The Effect assesses the severity of the installation's impact on its surrounding environment and is measured by a set of Impact Criteria, each one graded from 1 to 5, where 1 has less effect and 5 has greater effect. Examples of Impact Criteria are the type of activities carried out at the facility and the location of the facility. Probability assesses the characteristics of the operator which can influence the probability of the effect occurring. It is measured by Operator Performance Criteria and its function is to increase a value, or maintain or decrease within a value, the value of the impact criterion, turning it into a risk. Examples of Operator Performance Criteria are the existence of Certified Environmental Management Systems, the installation having been the subject of complaints/reports, or compliance with the conditions of the environmental licence. Specifically, the following SAR have been designed and implemented in the IGAMAOT:

- Risk-PCIP (Industrial Emissions Regime / Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control);
- Risk COV (Industrial Emissions Regime / Installations and activities that use organic solvents);
- Risk-Seveso (Prevention of Serious Accidents – Storage of large amounts of hazardous substances);
- Risk-ETAR (Urban Waste Water Treatment Plants in areas with 2000 or more equivalent inhabitants);
- Risk-MTR (Transboundary Waste Movements).

207. A National Network (IMPEL) was created as part of the European Network for the implementation and application of current environmental legislation. IGAMAOT is responsible for coordinating its national representation, and it currently comprises the Attorney General's Office (PGR), General Secretariat of the Ministry responsible for environmental policy, Portuguese Environment Agency (APA), Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests (ICNF), Regional Environment Inspection – Azores (IRA Azores), Regional Directorate for Environment and Climate Change – Madeira (DRAAC Madeira), DGT, ERSAR, CCDR, Public Security Police – Environmental Protection Brigades (PSP/BriPA) and GNR, as well as the National Council for Sustainable Development (CNADS); the latter with the status of Observer). This network aims to contribute to a reinforcement of the implementation of European legislation in the field of environment and nature conservation, through the sharing of knowledge and organisation of joint action between Public Administration entities. A report on its activity will be published each year (cf. <https://www.igamaot.gov.pt/rede-nacional-impel/>).

208. For its part, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) <https://echa.europa.eu/pt/home> is the main vehicle for disseminating information among regulatory authorities on the implementation of European Union legislation with regard to chemical products, with the aim of improving health and the environment, as well as boosting innovation and competitiveness. ECHA includes, among other bodies, an Information Exchange Forum (Forum), which is a European network of authorities responsible for promoting the exchange of information on monitoring compliance with REACH, CLP and PIC, POP and Biocidal Products regulations in the EU, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Coordinated and harmonised enforcement across all Member States is a key factor in the success of the regulations and is, therefore, one of the Forum's main objectives. The Forum is composed of members nominated by Member States. Each Member State nominates a Forum member, chosen for their roles and experience in enforcing chemicals legislation. In Portugal, the Forum member is an inspector from the IGAMAOT's Multidisciplinary Environmental Inspection Team, which establishes the necessary contacts with the other competent national authorities. The Forum holds 3 plenary meetings each year, continuously developing various activities through different working groups, which seek to provide solutions

for specific areas of REACH, CLP and PIC, POP and Biocidal Products regulations, while at the same time putting inspection campaigns into place for monitoring compliance with specific provisions of these Regulations.

209. 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 coordinating 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.

210. 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).

211. With regard to public water supply, urban wastewater sanitation and urban waste management services, the "ERSAR Awards and Seals" initiative each year rewards utilities in mainland Portugal which have distinguished themselves with excellent provision of service. Through a rigorous evaluation system, consumers have the opportunity to find out which organisations are the best providers of services in the different areas in question. Indicators such as safe water, real water losses, occurrence of supply failures, recycling of waste from selective collection, replies to complaints and coverage of expenses are some of the parameters evaluated: <http://www.ersar.pt/pt/setor/premios-e-selos-de-qualidade>.

212. *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.

213. Reference should be made to the www.imtonline.pt platform provided by the IMT, which allows users to avoid unnecessary travel and thereby contribute to a reduction in pollutant emissions and greenhouse gases (between 2017 and 2020 the number of requests registered on the portal enabled the emission of around 851 tons of CO₂ to be avoided).

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

215. Environmental NGOs have also promoted extensive work in this context, such as Quercus (Eco-house Project <http://www.ecocasa.pt/> and daily items in the media: "Green Minute" on TV <https://www.rtp.pt/programa/tv/p21614>, and "One Minute for the Earth" on the radio <https://www.radio.pt/p/antena1minuto>), and Associação Natureza Portugal (ANP) (Project 'Fish Forward – for responsible consumption of fish and seafood and a future for the oceans' encourages responsible consumption of fish and seafood in Portugal and Europe https://www.natureza-portugal.org/o_que_fazemos_222/oceanos/fish_forward/).

Republic of Moldova

216. (f) In the framework of planned and unannounced checks, the environmental inspectors shall inform the operators/economic agents about the obligation to immediately notify the environmental authorities about accidental pollution.

217. According to the normative acts in force, for some permissive acts, to the application it is necessary to attach the proof that there were conducted public consultations regarding the activity that follows to be carried out. For example, the Law no.11/2014 on environmental impact assessment (EIA) provides the phase of public consultation and submission, upon the request of conducting the EIA, of the Report on public participation and notification in the decision-making process.

218. In the permissive acts issued in the field of environmental protection, as a condition there are specified the measures of informing the public about the activities carried out during the operation based on the permissive act, if such a requirement is established in the corresponding normative acts.

219. Moreover, the Environment Agency publishes the permissive acts issued to economic operators, and the interested public can always ask from them information regarding their activity and the impact on the environment.

220. (h) Through the EU4 environment programme AO EcoContact implements the project on the transposition of EC Regulation 66/2010 and the creation of the eco-labelling mechanism in the Republic of Moldova.

221. According to the provisions of point 36 of the technical Regulation "The organic agro-food production and labelling of organic agro-food products", approved by GD no. 1078 as of 22-09-2008 in cases where the organic agricultural raw material was grown in the Republic of Moldova the products bear the emblem "Organic Agriculture Republic of Moldova".

222. According to point 40 "The emblem of the Republic of Moldova for organic production can be used for labelling, presentation and promotion of products that meet the requirements set forth in this technical Regulation"

223. The national legal framework for awarding the eco-labels includes:

- Law on organic agro-food production
- GD no. 149 as of February 10, 2006 for the implementation of the Law on organic agro-food production
- GD no. 1078 as of 22-09-2008 on the approval of the technical Regulation "Organic agro-food production and labelling of organic agro-food products".

Romania

224. f) With respect to paragraph 6, 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.

225. Under Article 26 of GD No.878/2005, the operators whose activities have a significant environmental impact 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.

226. h) With respect to *paragraph 8*, 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, was published in the Official Journal of the European Union L342 of 22.12.2009.

227. In the period 2017-2018, following the publication of the third edition of the EN ISO 14001 standard (ISO 14001: 2015), the EMAS III Regulation was amended by Annexes I-IV by the adoption of the Regulation (EU) 2017 / 1505 and Regulation (EU) 2018/2026 by the European Commission.

228. 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.

229. 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.

230. 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.

231. The EU Eco-Label Commission consists of 3 representatives of the MEWP, two representatives (one for economy and one for tourism) of the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Business Environment, 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, tree representatives of environmental non-governmental organisations.

232. During 2013 - 2014 the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change organised a campaign to promote the European eco-label under the project "Research services to prepare a study on ways to promote the EMAS system and 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".

233. Such seminars were organised in all the 8 development regions of Romania.

234. The purpose of the seminar was 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.

235. In 2020, the draft Government decision amending and supplementing Government Decision no. 616/2015 on the approval of the financing from the budget of the Environment Fund of the multiannual actions necessary for the program "Collection, processing and creation of mechanisms and tools to promote data and information necessary for reporting to the European Commission, European Environment Agency and Secretariats of international environment conventions" carried out in the period 2015-2020, which is being adopted by the Romanian Government, extending the financing period until 2025 of the subprogramme in the field of EMAS and the EU eco-label, which aims to carry out starting with 2021 the "Study on the national dissemination of the method of elaboration of the dossier on the granting of the EU eco-label on different products / services, respectively Environment and Audit (EMAS). ", to provide the necessary technical support to the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests on the implementation of effective ways to promote the EMAS system and EU Ecolabel scheme.

236. 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. 1183/02.06.2020 on nominating the members 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.

237. The European Ecolabel is a voluntary scheme, established in 1992 to encourage businesses to market products and services that are kinder to the environment. Products and services awarded the Ecolabel carry the flower logo, allowing consumers - including public and private purchasers - to identify them easily. Today the EU Ecolabel covers a wide range

of products and services, with further groups being continuously added. Product groups include cleaning products, appliances, paper products, textile and home and garden products, lubricants and services such as tourist accommodation.

238. The European Ecolabel is a graphic symbol and / or descriptive text on the product or packaging, a brochure or other document accompanying the product information and provides necessary information to the criteria of the products offered on the market. It consists of two sections: section 1 contains the symbol Ecolabel flower; section 2 contains a short descriptive text – information on the reasons of the environmental label.

239. Consumers are increasingly becoming receptive to the environmental impacts of products and eco labelling is an effective way to assist them in choosing products compatible with environmental objectives. The primary benefit of environmental labelling, viewed from the perspective of manufacturers is an increase in consumer confidence and loyalty. Benefits of eco-label: contributes to strengthening the position of the company, improves company image, promotes economic efficiency, stimulates market development, encourages continuous improvement, promotes certification.

Serbia

240. (f) 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.

241. See also the Rule book on detailed conditions, criteria and procedure for obtaining the right to use the ecolabel, elements, appearance and manner of using the ecolabel for products and services (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No. 49/16).

242. 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.

243. 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.

244. The data obtained from the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Serbia, 1459 businesses have ISO 14001 certified systems.

245. (h) 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.

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

247. Law on Consumer Protection in Article 2, paragraph 1 prescribes the basic rights of consumers, of which point 8) prescribes the right to a healthy and sustainable environment - living and working in an environment that is not harmful to health and well-being of current and future generations, timely and full information on the state of the environment. - Article 10. Paragraph 1 Item 5 of the Law on Advertising prescribes that it is forbidden to advertising message encouraging behavior that endangers the health or safety of the recipient of the advertising message, especially encouraging or approving procedures prohibited by the regulations on environmental protection, as well as presenting false claims (eg by emphasizing the words "environmentally safe", "environmentally friendly", "eco food", "organic product" and similar words or symbols) that the goods or services have a positive or harmless impact on health or the environment. The behaviour violating Article 10 is defined as an offence in Article 70, Paragraph 1, Item 1.

248. 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

249. Ad f) Act No. 205/2004 Coll. on the collection, storage and dissemination of environmental information as amended.

250. 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.

251. Pursuant to Section 15 par. 1(k) of Act No. 137/2010 Coll. on air, as amended, operators of large sources and operators of medium sources are obliged to inform the public about air pollution from a stationary source and about the measures taken to reduce this pollution in the prescribed manner.

252. Pursuant to Section 15 par. 1(t) of Act No. 137/2010 Coll. on air, as amended, operators of large sources and operators of medium sources are obliged to provide the authorised organisation with representative data from automated air quality measurement systems in the specified time, scope and format for air quality assessment, informing the public about air quality in the vicinity of a stationary source according to Section 7 par. 1(e) and make real-time data from automated emission measurement systems available to the district office and the inspectorate.

253. Pursuant to Section 15 par. 1(ah) of Act No. 137/2010 Coll. on Air, as amended, shall send electronically the results of continuous emission measurement and information on the result of authorised measurement of data on compliance with emission limits, technical requirements and operating conditions to NEIS for the purpose of informing the public within a special regulation to the extent and format established by implementing regulations pursuant to Section 33(j) or communicate to the information system operator the address of the website where the protocols and information are made available to the information system and the public at a specified time, extent and format.

254. Ad h) 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.

255. 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 SEA is entrusted with the fulfilment of the above tasks.

Slovenia

256. *Paragraph 6:* f) 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/vsebine/ippc-register>; <http://okolje.arso.gov.si/ippc/vsebine/seveso-register>; http://okolje.arso.gov.si/onesnazevanje_zraka/vsebine/okoljevarstvena-dovoljenja.

257. 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.

258. 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/>.

259. 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, Nos. 51/17 and 64/19) 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.

260. *Paragraph 8: h)* 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 has been intended to promote the manufacture of products or the provision of services that have a less harmful 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 a 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, No. 8/14).

261. 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).

262. The control of the proper labelling of products is carried out by the Market Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia (<https://www.gov.si/drzavni-organi/organi-v-sestavi/trzni-inspektorat/>). 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

263. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* Further provision twelve of Law 27/2006 obliges public authorities to help ensure that economic actors, when so obliged, periodically inform the public about their activities or products that have or might have significant effects on the environment (69).

264. In this area, the national PRTR register, with the information provided by the Autonomous Communities, include data about the emissions and transfers of waste from the industrial complex and facilities with the greatest polluting potential. For its part, Regulation (EC) 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 25 November, makes it possible for public and private organizations, whether profit-making or non-profit, to voluntarily join the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). This EMAS environmental management system obliges the organizations implementing it to register on the EU EMAS Register, hence they make their environmental statement available to the public, which reflects the extent of compliance with the environmental objectives the organization has set for itself and also sets out the future actions the organization must undertake to enable continuous environmental improvement and minimization of its environmental impact. The EMAS Regulation of 2009 have been amended on two occasions, by Regulation (EU) 2017/1505, amending Annexes I, II and III to Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 and by Regulation (EU) 2018/2026 of 19 December 2018 amending Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 (69).

265. Eco-labelling and organic agricultural production allow for similar mechanisms for disseminating information about private activities and products that may have a major effect on the environment (69).

266. Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the EU Ecolabel, which is currently in force, is an important part of the EU's policy of voluntary instruments to help businesses

and consumers improve their environmental actions. The aim is to promote products that reduce adverse environmental impacts in comparison with other products in the same category, thus contributing to efficient use of resources and a high level of environmental protection. This aim is achieved by offering consumers accurate, non-deceptive and science-based guidance and information on such green products. In the EU Ecolabel Product Catalogue, also known as E-CAT, all the information about a product with this eco-label can be consulted, such as: the manufacturer's name, register number, countries where it is marketed, etc., hence it is quality information available to consumers (69).

267. At the regional level, initiatives have been adopted aimed at consumers and waste producers to promote a reduction at source and at urban users about good practice in energy and water consumption and waste separation, and in some cases financial support measures have been put in place for actions concerning implementation of environmental management systems (70).

268. Economic actors, especially major distributors, have reported on their contribution to reducing non-biodegradable single-use plastic bags through their own campaigns and those promoted by MITERD (71).

269. *Article 5, paragraph 8:* General food labelling is regulated by Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, which is directly applicable in all European Union Member States. This regulation is applicable to labelling of packaged products intended for the end consumer, including those delivered by mass caterers and those intended for supplying mass caterers. Furthermore, there are other European Union and Spanish regulations regulating various aspects of the labelling of specific foods (73).

270. An example of an EU standard for labelling specific foods is the labelling of food and beverages produced according to the ecological production method regulated by Regulation (EC) 834/2007, which shall be repealed from 1 January 2021 by Regulation (EU) 2018/84, and which provides for protection for terms such as ecological, biological, organic or their abbreviations, such that they can only be used in labelling, advertising or commercial documents, concerning the product itself, or its ingredients, that have been produced according to the organic production method set out in the aforementioned Regulation, unless they are not applied to agricultural products in food or feed or which are clearly unrelated to ecological production (73).

271. In Spain, the Autonomous Communities that are the competent authorities responsible for applying the regulations on production and labelling of ecological products, except in the case of importing from third countries where the competent authority is the SOIVRE inspection service of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism (73).

272. This labelling is a different area to that of the E.U.'s Ecological Labelling known as "Eco-label" (73).

273. Regarding the EU Eco-label (EEL), in 2013 a new Royal Decree was adopted, 234/2013, of 5 April, setting out rules for the application in Spain of the EEL according to the criteria of Regulation (EC) No 66/2010, replacing their theretofore applicable Royal Decree 598/1994 (74).

274. Likewise, labelling of fishery products, of hazardous substances, of noise in domestic appliances, of energy consumption, etc., have their own national regulations encompassing the information about environmental aspects (75).

275. Some Autonomous Communities carry out control actions on the labelling of electrical and electronic devices and integrated waste management system labels. Both they and many local governments have also prepared green procurement catalogs, disseminating sustainability criteria in public procurement of goods and services (76).

276. Royal Decree 110/2015, of 20 February 2015, on electrical and electronic device waste was passed recently; it provides for the creation of an online platform that, by systematizing information about waste, will count it and guarantee its traceability, thus allowing the participation of agents related to waste electrical and electronic devices (77).

Sweden

277. *Article 5, paragraph 6:* (f) 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. 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.

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

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

280. FSC Sweden 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. The control of compliance with the standards is performed by independent certification bodies.

281. 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.

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

283. Central government authorities covered by the Ordinance concerning environmental management at government agencies (2009:907) – there are now 186 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.

284. 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.

285. *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

286. *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 their use does not endanger human health or 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 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

287. *Paragraph 8:* With regard to the measures taken to develop mechanisms to ensure that sufficient information about products is provided to the public, the situation is as follows. The Law of Turkmenistan “On ensuring the safety and quality of food” (2014) establishes the main directions of state policy in the sphere of ensuring the safety and quality of food, which are as follows:

1) prevention of production and import of low-quality and dangerous food products, materials and products into the territory of Turkmenistan; 2) realisation of the right of citizens to eat safe and high-quality food; 3) legal regulation of relations in the field of ensuring the safety and quality of food products, materials and products; 4) implementation of state programmes to ensure the safety and quality of food products, materials and products; 5) implementation of state control in the field of ensuring the safety and quality of food products, materials and products; 6) implementation of state registration of food products and materials for food packaging; 7) organisation and implementation of certification of food products, materials and products; 8) improvement of the system of training and retraining of specialists engaged in activities related to the production and circulation of food products, materials and products; 9) provision of the population with information about food safety and quality; 10) improvement of 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 (Article 4). In addition, the authorised bodies inform citizens about the issues of ensuring the safety and quality of food products, materials and products (Article 7).

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

288. *Article 5, paragraphs 6 and 8:* The UK believes that changes to the way we produce, use and dispose of products and provide services can result in 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>. There have been a number of waste consultations with these target outcomes in mind. The second consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging and the Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers were launched on 24 March, with the Consistent Collections and recycling consultation to follow. These deliver on commitments in the 25 Year Environment Plan and the Resources and Waste Strategy 2018 (51).

289. 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 (<https://www.wrap.org.uk/category/initiatives/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 (52).

290. 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>);
- c) The Chartered Trading Standards Institute (<http://www.tradingstandards.uk/>);
- d) The Carbon Trust which helps businesses and the public sector cut carbon emissions (<http://www.carbontrust.com/>) (53).

IV. Conclusions

(a) General Remarks

291. Consumer product transparency, traceability and accountability of their impact on the environment are indispensable for achieving a number of sustainable development goals and advancing the transition towards green and circular economy. In recent years, most Parties have continued to develop regulatory and voluntary tools and measures to inform the public about the environmental impact of operators' activities and products, leveraging the benefits of digitalization and innovation, albeit at different speeds.

292. The current document demonstrated that these tools were applicable to wide categories of products (for example, food, textile, water, pharmaceuticals, plant protection products, chemicals and mixtures, biocidal products, organic products, motor vehicles, electric appliances and tourism, transport and other services).

293. Several voluntary domestic initiatives and campaigns at the national, subnational 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") and city district guides in Austria and initiatives that promote a reduction of energy and water consumption at source and non-biodegradable single-use plastic bags in Spain).

294. Some Parties established electronic information tools to support public access to environment-related product information throughout the life cycle and multi-stakeholder engagement in improving environmental performance and sustainable production (see national implementation reports of Albania, Croatia, European Union, Finland, Germany, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Sweden and the United Kingdom). The European Union has been paving a roadmap for digital product passports under the European Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP).⁶ 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.

295. The information on environmental impact of activities carried out by operators was mainly disseminated to the public through polluters' registers, pollutant release and transfer registers and reporting in accordance with environmental permits or legislation. "Green" public procurement based on the established minimum environmental criteria has been widened in several countries (see national implementation reports of Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, and Slovenia).

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

296. 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

⁶ Available from <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1583933814386&uri=COM:2020:98:FIN>

other means. For example, some Parties promoted national information system raising awareness of cleaner manufacturing, eco-design and environmentally friendly public procurement .

297. Some countries introduced incentive instruments to encourage the operators to make their products in an environmentally sustainable way and publish their products' information online. For instance, the Ministry of the Environment of Czechia supported green shopping by introducing a financial bonus for selected products that contained a certain proportion of recycled plastics and employing voluntary agreements with selected companies within the initiative "Dost bylo plastu" (Out with Plastics!).

298. Eco-labeling approaches vary across the region. Most of the European Union Member States continued promoting the European Ecolabel to identify and verify a wide range of 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 European Ecolabel. Some other countries established national certification and eco-labelling schemes. In Italy, the government invested in communications for the dissemination of "Green Public Procurement" through various channels, such as newsletters, magazines, and informative videos on the ecolabel.

299. Regarding the environmental audit, most European Union Member States encouraged companies to participate in the European Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and provided financial support as well as capacity-building support to assist the scheme's implementation. At the national level, many countries have established a specific national body to help implement the EMAS (for example, in Italy and Portugal). In Italy, EMAS schools have been established to train professionals on how to comply with the EMAS Regulation. This voluntary scheme encouraged 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.

300. 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.

301. 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.

302. Several Parties promoted the use of a voluntary system for the assessment and evaluation of the "environmental footprint" of products and services. 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)

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

- (a) In the European Union, the European Commission has implemented a database, the European Product Registry for Energy Labelling (EPREL), where any model of products to be placed on the Union market must be registered prior to their placing on the market; The EU organic logo, the Euro Leaf, is compulsory for all pre-packaged organic food products produced within the EU and optionally used by other organic products and organic products imported from non-EU countries; Pursuant to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, all EU Member States have established energy performance certificates for buildings. Such energy performance certificates include information about the energy performance of the buildings and recommendations how to improve it. They are obligatory for new buildings, buildings which are sold or rented and for certain large public buildings; Under EU Regulation (2008/1272/EC) on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, chemicals contained in products imported from third countries must be labelled in accordance with the requirements of the Regulation.
- (b) In Croatia, the producer 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;

- (c) In Finland, the authority supervising the safety and reliability of products and services (Tukes) provides on its website an extensive information about requirements set for products and services. Tukes also maintains a publicly accessible database on the national dangerous chemical information resource (KemiDigi), where importers or manufacturers must submit information about dangerous chemicals they place on the market;
- (d) 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;
- (e) 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.
- (f) 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.
- (g) 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.
- (h) 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.

304. Several Parties provide access to public lists of biocide products, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), fertilizer use accounts from farms, informative leaflets, Guidelines for distinguishing plant protection products from biocidal products, etc., and require the clear labeling of these products before they are allowed to enter the national market.

305. Many Parties continued applying a variety of labelling tools to promote ecodesign and enable consumers to make informed environmental choices. Such tools include:

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

306. 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.

307. In Portugal, through a rigorous online evaluation system with indicators, consumers have the opportunity to find out which organizations are the best providers of services in the different areas with regard to water supply, urban wastewater sanitation and urban waste management services.

308. 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, Serbia, and Spain).
