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Amendments to the legislation – Law 86/2014 on Environmental Impact Assessment

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Essential amendments:

- Ecological expertise opinion was **abrogated**.
- **Technical Commission** – new mechanism introduced to assess the EIA Report quality. The Technical Commission shall guide by the Manual/Guidelines for EIA Report Quality Assessment, approved by order of the Minister of Environment.
- **Post-project analysis** – If the Environmental Agreement provides for conducting a post-project analysis, the Initiator shall monitor the significant impact of the planned activity on environment.

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Essential amendments:

- **Biodiversity assessment** – new mechanism for assessing economic activities that could have a significant impact on Emerald sites.
- **EIA in transboundary context**: If the planned activity is going to be subject to EIA in transboundary context, an **initiation** session shall be organized to discuss: ways of collaboration for collecting the necessary information from the affected party, deadlines for communication and information delivery, language used in communication, how to carry out consultations, etc.

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Preliminary assessment:

- 1. (1) The Initiator planning an activity listed in Annexes No. 1 or No. 2, shall file a request to the Environmental Agency for the issuance of an Environmental Agreement, accompanied by information on the planned activity, in compliance with Annex No. 3.
- (3) The local public administration authority within the range of which the planned activity is intended to be implemented shall post the content of the request for the issuance of Environmental Agreement on its official webpage, as well as at their own office – **public consultation/information.**

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Preliminary assessment:

- (1) Following the preliminary assessment, the Environmental Agency shall issue a reasoned decision on the preliminary assessment, which shall provide for:
 - a) **for planned activities listed in Annex No. 1** – the preparation of EIA program;
 - b) **for activities listed in Annex No. 2** – determination of the need to perform an environmental impact assessment or the issuance of Environmental Agreement.

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Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Program

- EIA Program shall include the termination of:
 - a) justified and feasible alternative options for the planned activity to be considered;
 - b) environmental impact for different environmental factors, which should be described in the EIA Report;
 - c) EIA scope and assessment methods;
 - d) required qualification for the experts involved in the preparation of the EIA Report;
 - e) prevention measures that should be taken into consideration;
 - f) baseline studies required to characterize the current status of the environment.

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Preparation of EIA Report

- EIA Report shall identify, describe and assess, in each separate case, the likely significant environmental impact (**following the structure set in PREIA**):
 - a) population and human health;
 - b) biodiversity, paying special attention to protected species and habitats under Law No. 439/1995 on Animal Kingdom, Law No. 239/2007 on Vegetable Kingdom, Law No. 94/2007 on Ecological Network, and international conventions that the Republic of Moldova is a party to;
 - c) land, soil, water, air, and climate;
 - d) material goods, cultural heritage, and landscape;

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Procedure for conducting public debates

The Environmental Agency and local public administration authority within the range of which the planned activity is to be implemented shall post the announcement on public debates on their official webpages and in other public places. The Initiator shall also inform the public concerned, **observing the requirements** provided for by Law. (7)
The Initiator shall insure audio and video recording of public debate meetings. Audio and video recordings, as well as responses provided to enquirers by e-mail shall be attached to the minutes provided for in par. (5), and shall be submitted to the Environmental Agency. The Environmental Agency shall publish the minutes of the public debate meeting on its official webpage, sending a copy of it to the Technical Commission.

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Information on planned activity approval

- (1) The Authority issuing the approval of the planned activity for which an Environmental Agreement was issued shall inform the Environmental Agency in writing about the development approval within 10 working days from the issuance date of the latter.
- (2) The Environmental Agency shall post a copy of the planned activity development approval on its official web page. The Initiator shall inform the public within 10 working days about the planned activity development approval by publishing respective announcement in a local or national newspaper, as the case may be, or shall post it on its official webpage.

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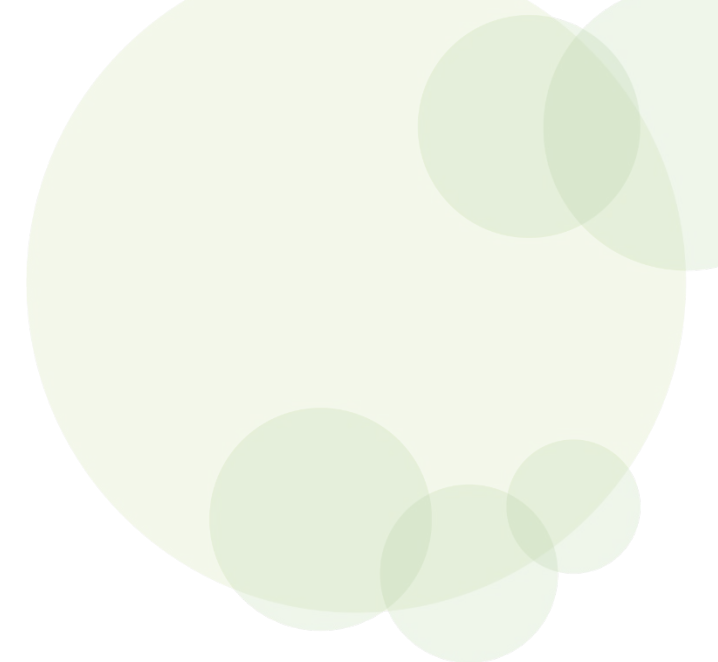
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