

EU environmental law

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Environmental Law*



The EU environmental policy

- Legislation (regulations, directives, decisions)
- Programmatic tools (Action Programmes)
- Financial instruments (LIFE, MED, etc.)
- Technical tools (eco-label, EMAs, EIA)
- Market instruments (environmental audits, emissions markets)
- Voluntary tools (voluntary agreements)

The EU environmental legal tools

- Legislation (art. 288 TFUE):
 - Regulations.
 - Directives.
 - Decisions.
 - Recommendations.
 - Opinions.

The EU environmental policy

	Period covered	Date approved	OJ reference
1st	1973–1976	22.11.73	C112 20.12.73
2nd	1977–1981	17.05.77	C139 13.06.77
3rd	1982–1986	07.02.83	C 46 17.02.83
4th	1987–1992	19.10.87	C328 07.12.87
5th	1993–2000	01.02.93	C138 17.05.93
6th	2002–2012	22.07.02	L242 10.09.2002
7th	2013-2020	20.11.2013	L354, 28.12.2013
8th	2020-2030	COM(2020)652	

The EU environmental policy

- The 7th EAP
- Covers the period 2013-2020
- Towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy
- “Living well, within the limits of our planet”
- 2020 timeframe - 2050 vision – 9 priority objectives
- 3 Thematic priority objectives:
 - Protecting nature and strengthening ecological resilience
 - Boosting sustainable, resource-efficient, low-carbon growth, and
 - Effectively addressing environment-related threats to health.

Environmental market-based instruments

- Tradable permits designed to achieve reductions in pollution (emissions of CO₂) or the use of resources (fish quotas)
- Environmental taxes
- Environmental subsidies and incentives
- Liability and compensation schemes

Environmental voluntary agreements

- Communication on Voluntary Agreements ([COM\(96\)561](#)): ‘agreements between industry and public authorities on the achievement of environmental objectives’
- Passengers cars, detergents

The EU environmental policy

- *Substantive* environmental standards applying to specific environmental media or sources of environmental interference (sectoral)
- *Procedural* environmental standards applying to conduct of environmental policy by public authorities and environmental rights of citizens (horizontal)

The EU environmental policy

Main areas covered (sectoral):

- Water quality
- Air quality
- Noise control
- Industrial pollution control
- Waste prevention and management
- Management of chemicals
- Management of GMOs
- Nature conservation and biodiversity

The EU environmental policy

Main instruments used (procedural):

- Integrated environmental permits (IPPC)
- Environmental impact assessment (EIA)
- Strategic environmental assessment (SEA)
- Environmental management and audit (EMAS)
- Freedom of access to environmental information
- Public participation in environmental decision-making
- Access to justice in environmental matters