



**MEETING OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM 3
“Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change”
26 November 2019 (Brussels, Belgium)**

Summary Record

The Eastern Partnership Platform 3 "Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change" convened for a third meeting in its current format on 26 November 2019. The meeting offered an opportunity to exchange on progress made in the different policy areas covered by the platform. Main focus was the vision of EU member states, partner countries and collaborating institutions in the context of ongoing reflection on the future of the Eastern Partnership. The participants adopted a revised and updated version of the work programme of Platform 3, extending it to 2020. After a session on decarbonisation, three subsequent sessions were dedicated to a discussion on strategic priorities and cooperation activities beyond 2020 respectively in the fields of environment and climate, energy, and transport.

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Overall information

The meeting of **Eastern Partnership Platform 3** gathered around 70 participants. **Representatives of all six partner countries** (including a **deputy minister** from Georgia) and twelve **European Union Member States** (**Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain**) were present. Representatives of the **Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum**, **EBRD**, the **Energy Community Secretariat**, the **Energy Charter Secretariat**, as well **UNDP** also took part in the meeting. From EU services, Heads of Unit **Anne Charlotte-Bournoville (DG ENER)**, **Davor Percan (DG ENV)**, **Harvey Rouse (DG MOVE)** as well as **Niels Schuster (DG CLIMA)** gave inputs. The meeting was chaired by **Audrone Perkauskiene (EEAS)** and **Vassilis Maragos**, later replaced by **Michael Rupp** (both **DG NEAR**).

Introductory remarks

The meeting opened with statements by **Audrone Perkauskiene (EEAS)** and **Vassilis Maragos (NEAR)**. Perkauskiene underlined that in the context of the structured consultation on the future of the Eastern Partnership, it was clear that this is considered a particularly successful policy by member states and partner countries, who are very interested in the work and sectors related to Platform 3. Specifically the expansion of the TEN-T network and the definition of indicative priority projects is acknowledged as a crucial achievement that may be replicated in other areas. She noted that many contributions asked to strengthen sectoral cooperation in the areas covered by the platform, including via more ministerial meetings. In general across sectors, she highlighted the call to focus on the green agenda, youth, digital and targeting the local level. For Maragos the framework for dialogue is a good basis to move forward together. Our work so far within the EaP lines up well with the wider agenda of the EU and the political priorities outlined by President von der Leyen. This includes the High-level Energy Efficiency Initiative, a work that needs to be intensified. In the area of transport, innovative investment plans are essential for prioritisation of investments in the future. Increased investments in climate change, renewable energy, and energy efficiency promise continued progress in these matters. However, progress in good governance and rule of law requires further commitment and attention. For the EaP to continue to be relevant, issues on the ground need to be addressed and the link between the multilateral and bilateral engagement needs to be strengthened. The proposals that come out of the consultations process are expected to help moving the policy forward and to reflect the aspirations of both governments and citizens.

Extension of the Platform 3 Work Programme for 2020

The participants of the Platform adopted a revised version of the **work programme for Platform 3** (see Annex 3), which included an updated list of activities. No objections or comments were made and the programme was thus extended to 2020.

Session 1: Decarbonisation of our economies – a common challenge in the Eastern Partnership

In his initial remarks, Vassilis Maragos pointed to the achievements of initiatives on energy resilience and energy efficiency that were developed in the context of the 20 Deliverables, notably through the Covenant of Mayors, the High-level Energy Efficiency Initiative with IFIs and ESP. **Anne-Charlotte Bournoville (ENER)** underlined the importance of the external dimension of energy and climate action and explained the core aspects of the European Green Deal announced by the new president of the Commission and which aims at making Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. A Commission communication outlining the European Green Deal is expected for December 2019. Relevant measures will include the extension of the Emission Trading System, the transformation of the EIB into a climate investment bank and the creation of a sustainable Europe investment market. It will also include a revision of the renewables and efficiency targets of the EU as well as a focus on smart transport and energy sectors (sector coupling). Other key aspects are a

just energy transition, digitalisation, research and empowering the consumer. Bournoville invited the Eastern partners to engage in the implementation of the agenda.

Davor Percan (ENV) added that a zero pollution goal and a new circular economy action plan are his DG's priorities in this regard. Cost efficiency scenarios have shown that a transition to circular economy can be part of a sustainable economy by 2050. Sustainable resource use by SMEs can both reduce emissions and improve profitability through savings. Percan also lauded the emission savings achieved so far through Eastern Partnership projects and recognised a need to integrate interlinkages between climate and environmental policies in the future.

Speaking on the challenge of decarbonising the transport sector, **Harvey Rouse (MOVE)** suggested a combination of long- and short-term policy options on all levels as well as increased awareness campaigns and incentive initiatives so that impacted citizens agree with new policies. DG MOVE plans to launch a comprehensive strategy on sustainable transport solutions and to work on sustainable fuels in the air, on the road, and on waterways. The recent extension of TEN-T represents a corridor approach where infrastructure that becomes more efficient is prioritised. In the future, the emissions trading scheme should be extended to cover the maritime sector reducing the allowances for aviation. To reduce delays and thus make air travel more efficient, a complete overhaul of the European airspace and air traffic management is envisaged. At the same time it is important that transport is affordable to low-income households.

Niels Schuster (CLIMA) reminded the audience that decarbonisation is not an option but a legal obligation. The commitment to go climate neutral by 2050 is now coming to the centre of attention. While climate action will support growth, Schuster reckoned that it will remain controversial as some regions will profit more than others. Just transition is therefore a priority for vice-president Timmermans and increased efforts on education and on changes at the individual level are planned.

In the general discussion, **Georgia** underlined her government's interest in the European Green Deal and suggested a discussion on how Eastern Partner countries could join in its implementation, analysing the potential of each sector and making concrete plans for each country. **Armenia** reported that its economy currently depends on fossil fuel imports, but that in order to reduce emissions and increase energy security, efficiency projects funded by the GSCF and the EIB are being implemented. The Armenian government is also promoting the use of electric vehicles. The **Energy Community Secretariat** argued for a cross sector approach in government regulation to limit emission. To harmonise regulations, the Energy Community's Council of Ministers decided to unify strategies and plans into Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans – a policy that Ukraine will soon adopt and Moldova and Georgia are preparing. It also warned against simply adopting emission trading schemes in Eastern Partner countries, as they would ruin economies. Instead he suggested to follow Ukraine's model and introduce a carbon tax that is gradually increased. To avoid that this tax becomes a factor of disintegration, a comprehensive governance approach would be needed.

The Eastern Partnership's **Civil Society Forum** proposed that the European Green Deal should go back to the ministries of environment and inquired about the financial sources for Eastern Partner countries stemming from a possible inclusion in Green Deal related policies. The **EBRD** reported from the Eastern Partnership Investment Forum that recently took place in London. The bank's future focus in the region will be on the implementation of NDCs through technical assistance and policy dialogue as well as assistance on green and circular economy. EBRD is planning to invest particularly in Belarus and Ukraine as well as in the decarbonisation of the transport sector. In addition, they plan to bring commercial banks to invest more in the region, particularly in the construction phase of renewable energy projects, where risk is often considered too high. Regarding the question of additional funding through the European Green Deal, Vassilis Maragos (**DG NEAR**) pointed to the ongoing discussions on the Multiannual Financial Framework, where a substantial amount is expected to be dedicated to investments in this sector. There will however be challenges in the context of programming and implementation.

Session 2: Strategic priorities beyond 2020 – environment and climate

Davor Percan (ENV) started the discussion off by suggesting to continue the work along past lines, but also see more cross-cutting action, e.g. also measures touching on people's health, agriculture, financing. He identified three focus areas for the future: 1. A transition to a circular economy which also contributes to Sustainable Development Goals DGs and should be linked to the economic and financial sectors, including supporting SMEs as they have a huge potential for resource efficiency. 2. Measures to reduce pollution, such as helping countries tackle industrial legacy and improve infrastructure and using synergies with transport, energy and agriculture. 3. Halt the loss of biodiversity through the creation of a post-2020 biodiversity framework built on best practice from the EU, as well as tackling land degradation through synergies with agricultural sector and water initiatives. An overarching goal is the improvement of access to justice in environmental areas and a good business environment as better well as working conditions for civil society. In the general discussion, **UNDP** reported that it is currently providing support in updating NDCs and formulating long-term strategies according to Yevgen Groza, regional manager for *UN for Climate*. The organisations goal is to support up to four out of six Eastern Partner countries. They also provide capacity building through three regional workshops so far – the next edition will be on climate finance. Niels Schuster (**DG CLIMA**) urged to put just transition on the agenda as well – not least in reaction to the global climate movement and France's "gilets jaunes". The goal is to not only raise awareness but also to extent the European Climate Pact to the region. A workshop next February will be dedicated to questions of awareness, education, and behavioural change to design concrete actions for different countries.

Azerbaijan underlined the importance of setting up a carbon taxation or emission trading scheme. Since Azerbaijan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, adaption measures are particularly important. Priorities are the fight against desertification and water pollution as well as improving solid waste management. An update of the NDC document is planned for next year, but it is not yet clear whether an increase in the amounts will be possible. **Armenia** reported on its work on reforestation and forest protection: 10 million trees will be planted in 2020, also creating green jobs. All stakeholders are invited to participate in the effort. **Georgia** suggested an integrated water resource management systems in Eastern Partnership countries. The government was able to strengthen capacities of laboratories and staff and draft legislation. However, environmental governance remains a challenge for Eastern Partner countries. Work on quality control for EIA documentation and on awareness raising needs to be done, so populations know how to engage. Regarding forestry, new laws to fight illegal logging are to be approved this year.

For **Belarus** sustainable energy generation is a priority. A new decree for the co-financing of energy efficiency measures has been issued with the help of international partners. The country's representatives also presented a youth initiative called "Energy marathon", where 5000 children developed models for energy saving (technology, activities) in schools and kindergartens. **Moldova** reported on achievements in waste management and transboundary water management. However there remains a need for assistance in capacity building and for the development and implementation of a monitoring and reporting system for the sector. For the future of the platform, Moldova suggested target-oriented objectives with a tailored approach. Moldova for example lacks monitoring and implementing, but has a solid legislative framework, while in other countries the opposite is the case. **Ukraine** reported that a national waste management action plan until 2030 has been approved this year and that a draft law for a monitoring and reporting system for pollution and greenhouse gases was recently adopted by parliament. Michael Rupp (**DG NEAR**) added on the question of water management that DG NEAR wants to distil the success of the current programmes into a new strong programme and formulate a new concept under the Regional Action Programme2020. The steering committee meeting of the SEIS East two weeks ago in Copenhagen concluded that each country has to take policies and best practices that have been developed in policy fields into their own legislation and to implement them at each level. **Germany** invited all partners to contribute ideas, including on priority areas of discussion, for the next ministerial meeting on Environment and Climate Change, which will be hosted by Germany under its presidency of the Council, tentatively in October 2020.

Session 3: Strategic priorities beyond 2020 – energy

Anne-Charlotte Bournoville (ENER) analysed the input to the public consultation for strategic priorities beyond 2020. It could be examined to which extent the TEN-T investment plan could serve as a model for energy interconnectivity. Further development of hydro energy needs to be looked at carefully. Partners are encouraged to join the Clean Energy Forum and other international fora, and to work towards an Eastern Partnership roadmap for sustainable energy. On energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, the Covenant of Mayors was recognised as a successful instrument and the improvement of the ESP fund was acknowledged together with Azerbaijan's signature joining the fund. Bournoville considered that LNG clearly has potential in the region and DG ENER is looking forward to expert recommendations on this topic. Many suggestions came in about the promotion of energy trade, which would help with energy security, diversification, and solidarity. DG ENER proposes to keep the heading of deliverable 14, but to change deliverable 15 to "transition to sustainable energy" to bring it in line with the European Green Deal. Future activities could also include further developing the energy markets in the Eastern Partner Countries, digitalisation, renewables in buildings, transport and heating, and to involve IRENA as a new partner. DG ENER lauded the plans of Lithuania to lead a potentially new sub-sectoral regional network on renewables. In the area of protection of vulnerable consumers, cooperation with the European Energy Poverty Observatory would be helpful. All new activities should lead to measurable results that can be communicated.

In the general discussion **Moldova** reported additional need for preparing secondary legislation regarding energy efficiency and for market surveillance instruments. In the future the Platform should consider if financial tools can be made more accessible. On the one hand Moldova needs to respect its ambition not to increase public debt, on the other hand it strives to achieve its energy efficiency goals which brings a burden to municipalities. Moldova therefore calls for support in reviewing the financing conditions with International Financing Institutions. Future cooperation should also encompass renewable energy, including water and waste management. **Lithuania** invited all Eastern Partner countries to be partners on a future renewable energies initiative, to collaborate on implementing pilot projects in this area, and to share best practices. The next steps on **Azerbaijan's** roadmap in the sector is new legislation aimed at unbundling the electricity market and the development of an energy strategy, especially for energy efficiency as well as legislation on renewable energy sources in power generation and on gas supply. The government is working to attract private investment in the power sector with a PPP model, considering privatisation of power plants. **Armenia** welcomed the energy efficiency measures financed under EU4Energy including in public and private buildings as well as the comprehensive support it receives from International Financing Institutions via the NIP. Armenia has started the implementation of the CEPA as regards electric vehicles and electric products and is planning to amend legislation on energy efficiency and energy savings. The representative from **Ukraine's** Agency for Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving described how her country recently achieved a reduction of its gas consumption by six million cubic metres and reimbursed 700 000 households for energy efficiency measures. Ukraine is cooperating with Austria and Finland on the use of biofuels and hopes to continue cooperation with European partners on technical assistance in the coming years. The country wishes continued cooperation in the areas of energy security, the implementation of the 3rd EU energy package and the integration of its energy market to the EU energy market. In line with the EU directive on energy governance, the government has also started to prepare the National Energy and Climate Plan 2030. The **Civil Society Forum** expressed concern over the reliance on some EU member states and Eastern Partner countries on single providers like Gazprom. They also called for making energy markets functioning in a transparent way in the Eastern Partner countries. The Civil Society Forum called on the EU to be consistent about agreements with outside suppliers and scrutinise the influence of companies like Gazprom on Moldova, Ukraine, and Georgia, where Russia is providing free energy to breakaway regions. When found guilty of abuse by EU authorities, these companies receive inappropriate penalties. The forum claimed that among EU member states, the Romanian government was identified as in breach of the energy package. It underlined that Germany should not follow this example regarding Nord Stream 2. Finally, the CSF called on the EU to be consistent in applying the future Green Deal when it comes to supply contracts with major CO₂ emitters.

Georgia welcomed the support received under EU4Energy for significant reforms in the field of energy efficiency, renewables and energy security. As a transit country, it considers regional cooperation as an essential asset and a must regarding the seasonal dependence on water for power generation stemming from hydro energy. This could also include working towards more interconnectors and harmonisation of energy trading rules in the region. **Moldova** stressed its wish for support for any new Caspian or Central Asian initiative in relation to energy infrastructure, especially regarding an underwater cable to increase energy security in the EU and partner countries. Internally the government is working on a number of legislative initiatives, e.g. on energy market liberalisation, and a new energy development fund to promote investment in renewables. The **Energy Community Secretariat** assessed that further market integration would require the adaptation of commercial and technical rules on both sides of the border. Particularly Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus would need technical assistance to be able to further integrate their electricity markets. New financing could be triggered by blending loans and grants.

Session 4: Strategic priorities beyond 2020 – transport

In an opening statement **Harvey Rouse (MOVE)** lauded recent achievements under deliverable 13, but regretted the lack of progress on certain actions under this deliverable. In the past year, the Commission focussed on three areas: 1. Priority investment projects in the Neighbourhood Investment Plan (not least to achieve politically important quick progress in a usually slow sector). 2. Preparation of a package of financial support mechanisms with IFIs. 3. Progress on reforms to support investments. Rouse pointed to the wealth of experience gained in the twenty years of TEN-T implementation (in contrast to China's *One Belt One Road* initiative) and its contribution to Europe-Asia connectivity. Prioritising infrastructure investment provides the predictability financial institutions seek. Future investment needs of the Eastern Partnership are estimated at EUR 12.5 billion until 2030, some of which will be financed through the NIP, which is part of the EIP and includes new guarantees for private investment. In addition, Commission services are working on technical assistance facilities to support partner countries in project development. In regards to road safety, Rouse welcomed the Regional Road Safety Declaration, adopted by the six partner countries in April 2018 in Ljubljana. The key deliverable here is the Road Safety Observatory. Many inputs during the consultations put the accent on building roads and motorways, but rail must be prioritised for long distances, as it is more sustainable. A proposal on the greening of municipal public transport was considered promising. In maritime transport, EU support should not be limited to the Caspian Sea, but include the Black Sea. Beyond 2020, DG MOVE sees three key areas: 1. Connectivity in a broad sense; 2. road safety; 3. sustainable transport. Rouse suggested further engagement with the six partner countries under the EU-China Connectivity platform. To attract private investments and ensure quality, intermodal and multimodal connection points interoperability and upholding EU standards in the Eastern partnership is key. The priority in aviation lays in signing of pending aviation agreements with Ukraine and Armenia and conclusion of negotiations with Azerbaijan.

In the general discussion **Ukraine** reported that regarding TEN-T, main railway networks and airports have been identified. For the investment plan, the government is working on concessions of railway networks, ports, and PPPs on other infrastructure areas. Ukraine hopes that inland waterways will be included in the TEN-T network. **Vassilis Maragos (NEAR)** proposed national workshops on TEN-T investment with IFIs. In **Moldova**, the renovation and construction of infrastructure that is part of TEN-T has commenced. Assistance would be useful in the programming of Moldova's new transport and logistics strategy. According to Moldova, the EU and Eastern Partner countries would also need to ensure synergies between the transport panel and *EU4Digital*, especially on e-trade. There is also a lack of Black Sea connectivity, with no projects addressing this issue. **Azerbaijan** underlined its role as a gateway between East and West through the Baku international trade seaport. The government also recently adopted legislation on a special trade zone that makes joint ventures between local and international companies possible. **Georgia** underlined the importance of the Black Sea connection – a feasibility study on possible ferry/container feeders will soon be finalised. More technical assistance for a road safety strategy and improved data collection will be needed.

For **Belarus** the shift from internal combustion engines to electric mobility is a state priority. Measures include supporting domestically produced electric municipal transport and a legal framework on charging stations and electric cars, modelled on Ukraine's laws. The government would like to do a feasibility study on the sectors potential and plans an electrified highway to Poland and Lithuania. Concluding the session, **MOVE** suggested that partner countries also work with EU delegations for financing. The DG will also reach out to EaP countries for input for a study on the most sustainable connectivity corridors (primarily rail-based, but also including waterways where needed) between the extended TEN-T network (not just EU) and China. On alternative motors, hydrogen should not be neglected. Sending out experts on these issues could be discussed with DG NEAR and DG GROW.

Annex 1: Agenda of the Platform 3 meeting on 26 November 2019

- 09:00 – 09:30** ***Registration and welcome coffee***
- 09:30 – 10:00** **Introductory remarks and adoption of the agenda**
A. Perkauskiene, Head of Division, Eastern partnership – regional cooperation and OSCE, European External Action Service (EEAS)

V. Maragos, Head of Unit, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Eastern Partnership, DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR)
- 10:00 – 10:15** **Extension of the Platform 3 Work Programme for 2020**
- 10:15 – 11:30** **Session 1: Decarbonisation of our economies - a common challenge in the Eastern Partnership**
Introduction by Commission services
Discussion (tour de table)
- 11:30 – 11:45** ***Coffee break***
- 11:45-12:45** **Session 2: Strategic priorities beyond 2020 – environment and climate**
Introduction by the Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) and the Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA)
Discussion (inputs from 6 EaP countries)
- 12:45-14:15** ***Lunch***
- 14:15-15:00** **Session 3: Strategic priorities beyond 2020 - energy**
Introduction by the Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER)
Discussion (inputs from 6 EaP countries)
- 15:00-15:45** **Session 4: Strategic priorities beyond 2020 - transport**
Introduction by the Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Discussion (inputs from 6 EaP countries)
- 15:45-16:00** **Concluding remarks**

Annex 2: Discussion Paper and guiding questions

This year, the Eastern Partnership (EaP) reached its **10-year milestone**. A dedicated **high-level conference**, organised in Brussels on 14 May, brought together key actors which have shaped Eastern Partnership policy over the last decade. The conference confirmed the success of the Partnership in achieving concrete **results for citizens**, but also recognised the **challenges** that remain.

After 10 years of close cooperation, the joint work of all partners is not finished. Implementation of reforms and delivery of tangible results for citizens building on the **“20 Deliverables for 2020” agenda** will remain a key priority. However, with 2020 approaching, it is equally important to look critically at the challenges and to reflect on how to ensure that the **EaP remains relevant and inclusive beyond 2020**.

In view of this, President Jean-Claude Juncker and Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn announced a **broad and inclusive structured consultation** process to reflect on the future strategic direction of the Eastern Partnership and a – post 2020 – generation of deliverables. In addition, the European Council has invited the Commission and the HRVP to present by early 2020 a set of long-term **policy objectives in the Eastern Partnership**.

In this context, the EaP Platform meetings scheduled to take place in November and December this year will **take stock of progress**, present the preliminary results of the consultation process, its possible implications for the post 2020 Eastern Partnership policy and jointly brainstorm on the **future agenda beyond 2020**.

The main objective of this Platform 3 meeting is thus to have an **open discussion** with main counterparts, based on the results of the consultation process and the current agenda of 20 Deliverables, on possible **activities beyond 2020 that will continue to deliver to citizens**.

The discussion should be guided by the following **guiding questions**:

- What works and should be continued?
- What should be avoided or can be improved?
- What we should do that is new?

The outcome of the Platform 3 meeting will contribute to the **development of objectives and activities** pertaining to connectivity, energy, environment and climate change **beyond 2020** in form of a Joint Staff Working Document. This will later feed into the discussions at the EaP Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), Foreign Affairs Council and the EaP Annual Foreign Affairs Ministerial meeting, in view to prepare the **Eastern Partnership Summit** expected to take place under the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Session 1: Strategic priorities beyond 2020 – environment and climate change

This session will be dedicated to a discussion about environment and climate beyond 2020.

Guiding questions:

- What were the **main achievements** under Deliverables 15-16 and **key lessons learned**?
- What were the **key issues you raised in the consultation** on environment and climate change?
- How to best **address deliverables that still need further push**, especially by strengthening existing efforts to develop and implement the necessary legislation on the aspects of monitoring and implementation of the reduction of CO2 emissions as well as on the transboundary dimension?
- What can we do more and/or better together **on cross-cutting issues** to effectively address the environment and climate change challenges that we are facing?
- What are your **post-2020 expectations and vision** in these areas?

Session 2: Strategic priorities beyond 2020 – energy

This session will be dedicated to a discussion about energy beyond 2020.

Guiding questions:

- What were the **main achievements** under Deliverables 14-15 and **key lessons learned**?
- What were the **key issues you raised in the consultation** on energy?
- How to best **address current deliverables that could continue after 2020 and that need further push**, especially by strengthening existing efforts to develop and implement the necessary legislation on energy efficiency and renewable energy as well as on the unbundling of the gas transmission system operators in those partners who are Energy Community Contracting Parties?
- How to best address the effective use of **technology/digital in the energy sector**?
- What are your **post-2020 expectations and vision** in these areas?

Session 3: Strategic priorities beyond 2020 – transport

This session will be dedicated to a discussion about transport beyond 2020.

Guiding questions:

- What were the **main achievements** under Deliverable 13 and **key lessons learned**?
- What were the **key issues you raised in the consultation** on transport?
- How to best **address deliverables that still need further push**, especially by strengthening existing efforts to remove the bottlenecks in the logistics chain, through smaller-scale projects with high benefit?
- What can we do more and better together to **effectively address the environment and climate related challenges in the domain of transport** that we are facing?
- What are your **post-2020 expectations and vision** in these areas?

Annex 3: Inputs from the structured consultation on the future of the Eastern Partnership – Summary of main elements related to Platform 3¹

ENERGY	TRANSPORT	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE	Additional or cross-cutting elements
<p>- Developing hydro energy (there is scope for greater hydro electricity generation that EU can support in a sustainable planned way which will have long term benefits)</p> <p>- Supporting infrastructural reforms (i.e. electricity and broadband connectivity) and harmonisation of regulatory framework principles (i.e. standards to meet safety regulations, quality control)</p> <p>- Supporting introduction of the 3rd EU Energy Package, including unbundling and the establishment of an independent energy regulator to promote competitive practices</p> <p>- Developing stimulating financial facilities for energy efficiency projects in residential buildings, public sector buildings and production processes in industry and agriculture.</p> <p>- Implementing energy exchange among countries to optimise load and generation capacities and improve the environmental output of the region and ensures security of supply</p>	<p>- Focusing on connectivity and quality infrastructure between the EU and EaP countries, in line with the EU's overall EU-Asia connectivity strategy.</p> <p>- Prioritising funding and investments that enhance the development of core transport networks and links among the EaP countries and with the EU. Support investments in infrastructure to address the needs of the green economy.</p> <p>- The TEN-T network extension to the East is a flagship initiative in this sense. It would be a great achievement, if at the next EaP Summit first investment projects in transport infrastructure will be announced and become priority in the post-2020 period</p> <p>- Identifying Flagship Infrastructure EaP projects</p> <p>- Establishing Special EU/EIB Agenda to connect EU Motorways with EAP in Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and finish</p>	<p>- Implementing a Green Agenda for the EaP. Urging the implementation of Agenda 2030.</p> <p>- Enhancing Eastern Partners' ambitions to addressing the global challenge of climate change. Support reporting on GHG emissions and determining NDC</p> <p>- Opening up the Commission's Green Deal to the EaP region</p> <p>- Mainstreaming environment and climate change across all post-2020 Deliverables and establishing environmental targets for each Deliverable</p> <p>- Introducing a new cross-cutting deliverable: Climate</p> <p>- Setting a target of 100% access to potable water</p> <p>- Establishing a separate platform on cooperation on environmental and climate change between AA countries.</p> <p>- Strengthening the implementation capacity of EaP countries' environmental institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Include good environmental governance requirements into the conditions of financial, economic and sectoral support to the EaP countries </p>	<p>- Creating respective platforms at all levels where the EU and the EaP countries can cooperate in coordination of their decarbonisation strategies, in accordance with their commitments set out in Paris Agreement</p> <p>- The EU's EaP multilateral framework beyond 2020 should boost regionalisation by dedicating special resources facilitating cooperation in sectors that require cross-border cooperation and solutions – such as transport, interconnectivity, energy security, environmental protection, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. This can be achieved with more conspicuous support to existing programmes with a cross-border dimension.</p> <p>- Ensuring that the European Neighbourhood Instrument will account for increasing the expenses in</p>

¹ *This Summary reflects the views submitted by stakeholders during the structured consultation process. It was prepared ahead of the platform meeting on 26 November 2019 and has not/will not be updated afterwards. It is neither exhaustive nor comprehensive; some elements may be contradictory. The summary does not represent or prejudice any official position, including from the European Union, on the future of the Eastern Partnership.*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving connection between energy systems and energy grids - Investing more in energy interconnectors in EaP countries - Working further towards energy diversification to decrease the energy dependency of the region - Creating national agencies (where absent) which will deal with energy security issues - Increasing the affordability of energy and its clean share for the households - Creating a common roadmap towards the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal #7 (access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy) - Taking necessary lobbying efforts for the EaP countries to join the most important global clean energy forums with the support of the EU, such as Clean Energy Ministerial Conference - Supporting the projects aimed at increasing energy efficiency of the partner countries and better use of renewable energy potential - Implementing the extended TEN-T Indicative Investment Action Plan, adopting a similar pipeline of energy connectivity investment projects and deploying adequate resources for their meaningful follow-up - Scaling up the "green energy" portfolio, incl. energy efficiency - Continuing the work on energy resource diversification: the EU needs to complete the Southern Gas Corridor project - Facilitating the building of strategic gas and electricity interconnectors 	<p>these missing highways inside EU territory by 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Starting a process of accession of EaP countries to the Transport Community. - Exploiting the connectivity potential on the Black Sea (<i>The initiative to develop reliable feeder/ferry operations on the Black Sea between Georgia, Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine will enhance trade and economic cooperation. Black Sea Undersea Electricity Transmission Line project goes hand in hand with the high priority of security of electricity supply</i>) - Extending the Trans-European networks to the EaP countries and progress towards the Common Aviation Areas - Launching EaP Connectivity Partnership - Building on OSCE's Project on Promoting Green Ports and Connectivity in the Caspian Sea Region promotes sustainable connectivity in the Caspian Sea region - Modernising railways - Engaging Turkey to build Highway links to EAP Members in Southern Caucasus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Establishing a monitoring mechanism on the implementation – not only on the adoption – of environmental laws within the EaP Environment and Climate Change Panel including regular reporting o Providing more support for raising environmental awareness o Financing environmental measures on combating pollution and halting natural resources overuse, with domestic public environmental funds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enrolling ENI Annual Action Programmes in a climate strategy: 50% of European funding allocated to EaP countries must contribute to climate and environmental objectives - Developing effective financing models - Increasing green growth mentality, using environment friendly technologies - Involving EaP Civil Society Forum WG3, EaP Environmental Ministries and other relevant governmental stakeholders in the formulation of new deliverables at the very beginning of the process - Establishing an "EaP Year of Environment and Climate Change" - Strengthening national policies, EU projects and authorities to act as trend-setters and promote environmental-friendly actions - Launching joint competitions - Developing financing facilities for greening of municipal public transport through introduction of low and zero emission vehicles - Supporting transition to modern solid waste management systems with recycling components. - Addressing bad environmental and climate conditions (they are also a reason for migration) - Promoting ratification and implementation of UNECE multilateral environmental agreements 	<p>training and transfer of best practices in R&D in the sphere of connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boosting more leadership programs in ecology and energy - Creating an investment framework for the EaP bringing together all the actors concerned: EC, EIB, EBRD, ECB and bilateral donors. Such an investment framework for the Eastern Partnership would make it possible to finance crucial investments to provide these countries with sustainable and quality infrastructure (transport, energy, environment, and digital) and thus contribute to the growth and development of the EaP private sector. It would also offer the partner countries an alternative to the funding offered by other powers increasingly present in Eastern Europe in the field of infrastructure. - Cooperation in the areas like environment, energy, transportation could be strengthened into Partnership spaces. - EaP – either all or associated partners – attendance to some sectoral EU Council meetings (environment, energy) - EaP Ministries of Environment still lack adequate capacity to implement AA provisions, and therefore ensure proper environmental protection and fight climate change. Similarly,
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<p>- Strengthening cooperation on energy matters in particular through the Energy Community</p> <p>- Continuing LNG workshops organised for the EaP countries</p>		<p>- Promoting the establishment of Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) to support a regular process of environmental assessment</p> <p>- Continuing ECE Environmental Performance Review Programme, which is an effective and practical policy tool to support the achievement and monitoring of SDGs in the pan-European region</p> <p>- Making EaP Summits more environmental friendly, ensuring their ISO 20121 certification</p> <p>- Developing and enforcing sustainable forestry laws and improving forest governance</p> <p>- Increasing substantially environmental fees, fines and taxes to stimulate environmentally conscious behavior</p> <p>- Strengthening the implementation of reforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In cooperation with EaP governments, establishing a monitoring group on the implementation of the environment and climate change deliverables and involve EaP CSF WG3 representatives ○ Actively promoting reforestation in EaP countries ○ Promoting renewable sources of energy other than hydropower <p>- Strengthening the cooperation and assistance in the area of water resources management</p> <p>- Preserving the environment of the Black Sea coast and waters (the Black Sea and rivers flowing into the sea are all threatened by serious <u>plastic pollution</u>. This is a societal matter where EU has experience and can offer to encourage and support)</p> <p>- Support strengthening environmental and social standards in the mining sector to mitigate risks and improve sustainability and competitiveness of mining operations</p>	<p>environmental compliance and enforcement institutions remain inadequate.</p>
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