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Third Environmental Performance Review of Bosnia and Herzegovina: recommendations

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present document provides recommendations of the third Environmental Performance Review of Bosnia and Herzegovina agreed upon by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance at its meeting held in Geneva on 23-27 October 2017.

The Committee is invited to adopt these recommendations.

Chapter 1: Legal, policy and institutional framework

Recommendation 1.1:

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District, should:

- (a) Develop and adopt a sustainable development strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and sustainable development goals;
- (b) Promote harmonized approach towards achieving common guidelines on planning investments in environmental field and sustainable development;
- (c) Establish a multi-sectoral multi-stakeholder body entrusted with promoting sustainable development.

Recommendation 1.2:

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic Srpska and Brčko District, should:

- (a) Assume the ownership of the SDG process;
- (b) Identify the political level body to guide the SDGs implementation and monitoring;
- (c) Proceed with setting up aspiring and measurable national targets;
- (d) Ensure that SDGs are integrated in future planning documents;
- (e) Ensure the preparation of reports on SDGs implementation.

Recommendation 1.3:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska, and the Department of Urban Planning and Property Affairs of Brčko District should enhance efforts to harmonize the respective legislation of the entities and Brčko District by:

- (a) Focusing the activities of the Inter-Entity Coordination Body for the Environment on harmonization of the legislation of the two entities and Brčko District;
- (b) Setting clear time-bound objectives to be attained in terms of harmonization of the legislation, in line with the Environmental Approximation Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- (c) Regularly reviewing progress achieved in terms of harmonization of the legislation in the framework of the Inter-Entity Coordination Body for the Environment;
- (d) Making the meeting reports of the Inter-Entity Coordination Body publicly available.

Recommendation 1.4:

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska, and the Department of Urban Planning and Property Affairs of Brčko District should ensure the integration of environmental requirements into sectoral policies and legislation by:

- (a) Strengthening cooperation with sectoral ministries and proactively commenting the drafts of sectoral legal and policy documents;
- (b) Enabling active use of the SEA instrument;
- (c) Seeking, as necessary, the assistance of other governments and relevant international organizations in sharing knowledge and information on the integration of environmental requirements into sectoral policies and legislation.

Recommendation 1.5:

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska, and the Department of Urban Planning and Property Affairs of Brčko District should develop the procedures for transboundary notification and consultations and submit them to the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District for adoption.

Recommendation 1.6:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina should:

- (a) Ensure the adoption of detailed legislation on SEA, referring to the scope of SEA, competent authorities, procedural steps, content of SEA report, public participation, monitoring and follow-up, and other requirements;
- (b) Raise awareness of sectoral authorities on SEA and facilitate their training on this issue;
- (c) Ensure that all documents subject to SEA undergo an SEA.

Recommendation 1.7:

The Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska should:

- (a) Improve legislation on SEA, in particular by adopting subsidiary legislation detailing public participation and consultation procedures;
- (b) Raise awareness of sectoral authorities on SEA and facilitate their training on this issue;
- (c) Ensure that all documents subject to SEA undergo an SEA.

Recommendation 1.8:

The Department of Urban Planning and Property Affairs of Brčko District should:

- (a) Ensure the adoption of detailed legislation on SEA, referring to the scope of SEA, competent authorities, procedural steps, content of SEA report, public participation, monitoring and follow-up, and other requirements;

- (b) Raise awareness of sectoral authorities on SEA and facilitate their training on this issue;
- (c) Ensure that all documents subject to SEA undergo an SEA.

Recommendation 1.9:

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District, should establish:

- (a) A system of training and in-service training of staff in the institutions responsible for environmental issues to ensure regular and comprehensive coverage of environmental and sustainable development issues;
- (b) Schemes of training and in-service training on environmental issues for civil servants in sectoral ministries.

Recommendation 1.10:

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District should develop and adopt a state law to formalize the framework for implementation of international agreements and other international obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina related to environment.

Chapter 2: Regulatory and compliance assurance instruments

Recommendation 2.1:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District should:

- (a) Simplify environmental permitting procedures in order to avoid overlapping and achieve better efficiency;
- (b) Take first steps in applying integrated approach to environmental permits and abolishing separate permits;
- (c) Consider extending the five-year period of validity of permits when applicable.

Recommendation 2.2:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District should:

- (a) Translate relevant Best Available Technics (BATs) conclusions and parts of Best Available Technics Reference Documents (BREFs) into official language;
- (b) Increase capacity of environmental inspectors in terms of staff and training.

Recommendation 2.3:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District should consider establishing accredited laboratories to support inspections, in particular those related to environment.

Recommendation 2.4:

The Administration for Inspection Affairs of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Administration for Inspection of Republika Srpska and the Inspectorate of Brčko District should introduce a switchboard telephone number of environmental inspectorate to help the public to report on the violations of environmental regulations, and the inspectorate to distinguish which notifications to forward to health and safety inspectorate, veterinary inspectorate or any other authority to respond.

Recommendation 2.5:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District should:

- (a) Review environmental fines for non-compliance of permit holders since the fine amounts are too small to motivate the permit holders to take action;

(b) Encourage competent ministries to conclude time-bound agreements with operators allowing them to invest in environment sound technologies without being fined.

Recommendation 2.6:

The Administration for Inspection Affairs of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Administration for Inspection of Republika Srpska and the Inspectorate of Brčko District should perform joint inspections when applicable.

Recommendation 2.7:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska, and the Department of Urban Planning and Property Affairs of Brčko District should

(a) Ensure that the conclusions of the reports on environmental impact assessment are reflected in the permits' conditions;

(b) Establish a common publicly accessible database on the environmental permits and associated environmental impact assessments.

Recommendation 2.8:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska, and the Department of Urban Planning and Property Affairs of Brčko District should update the legislation on environmental liability and compensation for damage.

Recommendation 2.9:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska, and the Department of Urban Planning and Property Affairs of Brčko District should promote voluntary eco-labelling and corporate social responsibility programmes.

Chapter 3: Greening the economy

Recommendation 3.1:

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District, should strengthen its role in:

(a) Monitoring and coordinating economic instruments design and implementation and in planning coordinated and effective projects within international cooperation framework;

(b) Elaborating legal framework for data reporting and accounting rules and supporting the establishment of databases;

(c) Promoting studies and analysis on the effects of economic instruments and green economy.

Recommendation 3.2:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina should:

(a) Organize the collection of detailed financial and technical data and elaboration of significant performance indicators and establish exhaustive databases of economic instruments implemented for environmental protection and green economy;

(b) Reduce privileges and pursue the efficiency principle in public enterprises and gradually opening natural resources management to private operators;

(c) Introduce incentives (e.g., tax reduction/exemption in the first years of activity or financial subsidies, grants and microcredit) for the starting-up of sustainable economic activities (e.g., sustainable tourism, fishing and fish farming, hunting, forest food production, organic agriculture);

(d) Reinforce the use of economic instruments for environment protection in a context of fiscal reform, which is to move the fiscal burden from "good inputs" to "bad inputs"

to improve the trade-off between environmental protection and socio-economic issues by keeping in mind to compensate increases of fees and tariffs on natural resources by a reduction of the current high level of social contributions;

(e) Strengthen efforts to promote flows of international funds for investments in the most pollutant traditional sectors and, given the role of forests as carbon sink, in forest management and for rehabilitation of mined forestlands.

Recommendation 3.3:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, should gradually:

(a) Improve accounting rules (in particular local governments, public enterprises, PUCs and industrial wastes consortiums) to increase transparency of revenues and expenditures and to be able to calculate performance indicators for each entity and for the different sectors (water, wastes etc.);

(b) Fix fees and tariffs considering total costs, including capital costs;

(c) Better link fees structure to the actual use or pollution of natural resources;

(d) Eliminate cross-subsidization between different users and improvements in metering systems (e.g. water consumption, emissions) and strengthen incentives towards rationalization of natural resources consumption;

(e) Introduce regular revisions of tariff rates accounting for inflation and efficiency improvements.

Recommendation 3.4a:

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District, should strengthen efforts to attract foreign investments for technological innovations and infrastructural improvements related to forestry and forest management, through participation to international projects and exploiting the opportunities offered by international mechanisms.

Recommendation 3.4b:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, should:

(a) Stimulate the introduction of financial incentives for private forestlands owners as, e.g., public grants and microcredit; amendments to the tax systems to incentivize start-ups, particularly in green economic activities; and payments for ecosystem services provided by forests;

(b) Incentivize the use of biomass for energy production, providing further financial resources for forest management and infrastructural investments and for economic forest-related activities;

(c) Promote private forest owners associations.

Recommendation 3.5:

The Governments of Republika Srpska and Brčko District should introduce a tax on industrial air pollution.

Recommendation 3.6:

The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina should:

(a) Approve the Law on Forests;

(b) Introduce tariff digression in feed-in tariff design in order to account for decreasing costs of renewables technologies.

Recommendations 3.7:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina should:

- (a) Introduce or extend the use of revolving funds and incentives mechanisms for the private sector, both for households and for businesses, in particular for the use of biomass, waste and biofuels as energy sources and for investing in cogeneration plants;
- (b) Incentivize (and/or make investments) for spurring the utilization of geothermal water as energy source, in particular in aquaculture, agriculture and heating of settlements;
- (c) Address energy-efficiency in the housing sector by applying new technologies and tax incentives;
- (d) Strengthen efforts to attract foreign capital, through donors and international projects, opening to private enterprises and exploiting the opportunities offered by environmental international instruments.

Recommendation 3.8:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic Srpska and Brčko District in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, should introduce:

- (a) Economic incentives to spur forces towards circular economy developments, modifying behaviors and fostering separate collection and treatment of waste to stimulate its reuse and recycle and use of best available options for energy production;
- (b) Extended producers responsibility;
- (c) Adequate enforcement measures (fines and controls) to contrast illegal landfills and to provide resources for their remediation.

Chapter 4: Environmental monitoring, information, public participation and education

Recommendation 4.1:

In line with the provisions of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina should:

- (a) Enhance legislative and institutional frameworks as to ensure effective access to information, public participation and access to justice;
- (b) Conduct trainings for relevant authorities to build their capacity for organizing effective public participation procedures.

Recommendation 4.2:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, should:

- (a) Establish integrated environmental monitoring systems based on a harmonized methodology, including all missing media, such as forests, land use, soil, and environmental noise and make data publicly available;
- (b) Assess social, economic and health impact from environmental pollution and make results available.

Recommendation 4.3:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of the Republika Srpska, the Government of Brčko District in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as other relevant public authorities, should:

- (a) Establish a joint programme for environmental monitoring and information management;
- (b) Adopt a common set of environmental indicators in compliance with international methodologies;

- (c) Extend open-access to environmental data and information in line with the principles of Shared Environmental Information System;
- (d) Continue the implementation of a Shared Environmental Information System to decrease the segregation of information systems and data flows;
- (e) Strengthen capacity for the collection of data for the state of the environment;
- (f) Establish a data validation system that would be used to check all the collected environmental data and information, as well as the way in which they have been collected;
- (g) Strengthen cooperation with relevant environmental NGOs to enhance data collection capabilities.

Recommendation 4.4:

The Ministry on Foreign Trade and Economic Relation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and all other relevant authorities at the entity and cantonal level should increase the relevance of awareness development about environmental protection and conservation in the educational sector and educational strategies for sustainable development in the country.

Chapter 5: Implementation of international agreements and commitments

Recommendation 5.1:

The Ministry on Foreign Trade and Economic Relation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Physical Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska and the Government of Brčko District should:

- (a) Set up an institutional mechanism to ensure coordination between all administration levels with regard to implementation and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, which should also serve as a platform for donor coordination on environment and sustainable development issues;
- (b) Ensure the appointment of national focal points for all multilateral environmental agreements.

Recommendation 5.2:

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina should proceed with the country's accedance to the following multilateral environmental agreements:

- (a) Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds;
- (b) Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization;
- (c) Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses;
- (d) 1995 Amendments, amendments concerning the four protocols already endorsed; and the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean;
- (e) Protocol on Pollutants Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters;
- (f) GMO amendment to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.
- (g) Convention on Mercury;
- (h) Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone and its 2012 amended version, Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and its 2009 amended version, and Protocol on Heavy Metals and its 2012 amended version to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.

Recommendation 5.3:

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the Governments of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska should engage actively in the intersessional process to develop recommendations on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Recommendation 5.4:

The Ministry on Foreign Trade and Economic Relation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Physical Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska and the Government of Brčko District should:

- (a) Ensure access through their websites to the texts of global, regional and bilateral environmental agreements, including translations into the national language;
- (b) Make the information on the status of participation of the country in global, regional and bilateral agreements and on the implementation of those agreements (in particular, national reports on implementation) available to the public through their website;
- (c) Enhance the involvement of NGOs in development of national reports on implementation of multilateral environmental agreements;
- (d) Further involve NGOs in international decision-making processes on environmental matters, including on accession to and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, through organizing effective public consultations and integrating NGOs in coordination groups dealing with international matters and ensuring their effective participation in such groups.

Chapter 6: Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Recommendation 6.1:

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District should integrate and apply the results of studies of the current impact of anthropogenic climate change on components of environment, social and economic situation and health sector in policy formulation and implementation.

Recommendation 6.2:

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District should:

- (a) Develop and implement policies and measures that can bring the best results in terms of making the country more resilient to not only impact from climate change, but also other natural and anthropogenic hazards;
- (b) Ensure that human settlements are included in the considerations about climate change adaptation and therefore included in future studies and strategies to be implemented in the country;
- (c) When feasible, foresee district heating for new and existing neighborhoods and buildings;
- (d) Ensure that climate change adaptation and mitigation measures are included in spatial and urban planning.

Chapter 7: Air protection

Recommendation 7.1:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District in coordination with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina should further improve the legal framework; make necessary institutional arrangements, develop

technical capacity, and allocate and train staff required for an effective pollutant release and transfer register systems.

Recommendation 7.2:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina should ensure that:

- (a) The respective PRTR systems are harmonized and data are reported according to the international obligations;
- (b) The reporting mechanisms are in place and in force.

Recommendation 7.3:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina should amend the legislation to fully transpose the Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions and ensure that the legislation at entities and district level is harmonized.

Recommendation 7.4

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina should:

- (a) Introduce economic incentives to facilitate the renewal of the country's aging fleet with a view to improving the situation regarding motor vehicles;
- (b) Support municipalities to abate air pollution from transport by improving their public transport system, in particular by promoting the use of clean and energy efficient transport modes;
- (c) Promote active (non-motorized) mobility in cities and assess the possible benefits of such a transformation.

Recommendation 7.5:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina should:

- (a) Implement the measures for energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings that are and will be proposed in the second and third national energy efficiency action plans in order to realize the 9 per cent improvement in energy efficiency in 2018 compared with the base year 2010;
- (b) Promote use of low carbon technology (heat pumps, renewables) and cleaner fuels like natural gas instead of liquid and solid fuels for individual households;
- (c) Seek financial support from international institutions to support these measures.

Recommendation 7.6:

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District should improve the monitoring and reporting system to the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution.

Recommendation 7.7:

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina should invest in acquiring twinning- and other projects with EU countries and other parties and institutions to get the guidance and expertise that is necessary to ratify and implement the protocols to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution as an important step in the direction of the achievement of the EU Acquis on air protection.

Chapter 8: Water management

Recommendation 8.1:

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republika Srpska and the Government of Brčko District should:

- (a) Develop a common water plan that will provide straightforward basin-wide water vision and embrace a coherent and harmonized long-term water strategy for the whole country by merging information from river basin management plans that are now reaching the final approval stage after preparation by Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District authorities, absorbing the programmes of measures related to water management;
- (b) Reach a full coherence in legal procedures regarding water issues in the country, by endowing the Inter-Entity Coordination Body for the Environment with such mission and boosting river basin councils role in decision-making processes at river basin district level;
- (c) Reinforce water agencies competences and endure efforts to increase their technological infrastructure, staff skills and financial self-sustainability.
- (d) Charge existing river basin organisations to share knowledge and information among them, as well as with analogous institutions in riparian countries.

Recommendation 8.2:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republika Srpska and the Government of Brčko District in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina should:

- (a) Hold on current efforts regarding construction or rehabilitation of wastewater treatment plants, considering appropriate technologies and operational costs;
- (b) Aim at a coordinated construction or rehabilitation of sewage systems;
- (c) Consider sludge biotreatment/valorisation from the design phase;
- (d) Require that drinking water safety plans are developed by drinking water suppliers following WHO guidelines, increase monitoring reliability and quality control and disclose all results.

Recommendation 8.3:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republika Srpska and the Government of Brčko District should implement water sensitive land measures regarding drought and flood risks (e.g.: aquifer protection from contamination, non-structural measures and non-aedificandi areas regarding flood mitigation) and early warning systems and contingency plans.

Recommendation 8.4:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republika Srpska and the Government of Brčko District in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina should ensure that respective water agencies:

- (a) Carry out strategic environmental assessment procedures regarding new water resources projects for agriculture and/or hydroenergy purposes;
- (b) Implement a monitoring programme on ecological flows and to enforce them where they are not applied.

Chapter 9: Adriatic sea protection

Recommendation 9.1:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina should enforce the Dumping and Emergency protocols of the Barcelona Convention.

Recommendation 9.2

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska should prepare:

- (a) A national integrated coastal zone management strategy;
- (b) A contingency plan on marine pollution; and
- (c) A state of environment report on the part of Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Adriatic Sea.

Recommendation 9.3:

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska, should implement the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region and its Action Plan.

Recommendation 9.4:

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton should develop a state law on use and protection of Adriatic Sea.

Recommendation 9.5:

The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Government of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton should:

- (a) Enforce the existing laws on spatial planning and construction;
- (b) Develop a system of small coastal protected areas along the Adriatic coastline.

Recommendation 9.6:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina should enhance the development of marine research.

Chapter 10: Waste management

Recommendation 10.1:

The Ministry of the Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Physical Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska should extend and improve their respective system of operators in order to accelerate and ensure the better fulfilment of the goals set by the adoption of these systems.

Recommendation 10.2:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District should involve their respective administration for inspection in enforcement activities as important part of implementation of the system of operators.

Recommendation 10.3:

The Government of Brčko District should adopt a system of operators for selected waste streams similar to those that operate in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Republika Srpska in order to start with the systematic separate collection of waste, enhance the recycling and reuse of the waste generated.

Recommendation 10.4:

The Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Government and Office of Statistics of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its cantonal authorities, the Government and Institute of Statistics of Republika Srpska, the Government of Brčko District should improve data reporting and information collection on all types of waste in order to provide the basic information needed for the development of sound waste management mechanisms, ensuring the efficiency of waste data collection and consolidation, as well as consistency and correspondence to actual waste flows.

Recommendation 10.5:

The Ministry of the Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Physical Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska and the Government of Brčko District in cooperation with other competent institutions should scale up and promote materials recovery from waste through separate collections, reuse and recycling, and foster business development based on circular economy principles.

Recommendation 10.6:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its cantonal authorities, Republika Srpska and Brčko District, in cooperation with municipalities, should

- (a) Accelerate the construction of regional sanitary landfills and the establishment of financially, socially and environmentally sound municipal waste management systems;
- (b) Close open dumpsites, which are currently being used and remediate their territory.

Recommendation 10.7:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District should apply international best practices in order to improve medical waste management.

Recommendation 10.8:

The Ministry of the Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the cantonal authorities, the Ministry of Physical Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska, the Government of Brčko District in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other partners, should:

- (a) Raise public understanding and awareness of sustainable waste management to facilitate further progress on the development of regional landfills, prohibition of illegal dumping of waste, separation of waste, and minimizing the generation of waste in households;
- (b) Make efforts to distribute information widely on waste generation and management, relevant policy documents, and the development and establishment of legislation.

Chapter 11: Biodiversity and protected areas

Recommendation 11.1:

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska and the Government of Brčko District should uphold adopted national biodiversity targets as key strategic goals for the country with regards to conservation and support their timely implementation within all relevant administrative levels.

Recommendation 11.2:

The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina should establish an institute on nature protection to deal with tasks related to biodiversity and protected areas in order to reach the protected areas coverage targets set by the Spatial Plan of the Federation.

The Government of Republika Srpska should strengthen the capacities of the Institute for Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage in terms of staffing and budgetary allocations in order to reach the protected areas coverage targets set by the Spatial Plan of Republika Srpska.

Recommendation 11.3:

The Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina should :

- (a) Formalize the cooperation of the institutions dealing with tasks related to biodiversity and protected areas on sharing biodiversity data and linking relevant databases

(i.e. PA registers) to enable effective international reporting and national monitoring of biodiversity.

(b) Ensure the inclusion of biological diversity concerns into policies of the economic sectors at the highest level of management, and the initiation of coordination activities among the different levels of management, in order to achieve the national targets set out in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2015- 2020.

Recommendation 11.4:

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska and the Government of Brčko District should make available the database compiling the distribution of species of habitats in the selected 122 potential Natura 2000 sites and their conservation status to the conservation authorities and academia.

Recommendation 11.5:

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska should prioritize finalization of the process of the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol to meet the country's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Chapter 12: Forestry and environment

Recommendation 12.1:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources of Republika Srpska and the Government of Brčko District should:

- (a) Facilitate certification process for private forests;
- (b) Provide institutional support such as establishment of advisory services for private forest owners and financial support for the development of private forests;
- (c) Improve silviculture of low forests and shrubs in private forests.

Recommendation 12.2:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina should:

- (a) Promote the adoption of the draft law on forests as a matter of priority and subsequent adoption of a forestry strategy;
- (b) Undertake activities to raise awareness of the importance and potential of forests for decisions makers and public;
- (c) Strengthen participation of academia, non-governmental organizations, media and civil society in the formulation of forest policy document.

Recommendation 12.3:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources of Republika Srpska should consider harmonization of data processing and improve and maintain forest database system.

Recommendation 12.4:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources of Republika Srpska and the Government of Brčko District should harmonize methodology of data reporting with the current practice of international processes on forests and forest management.
