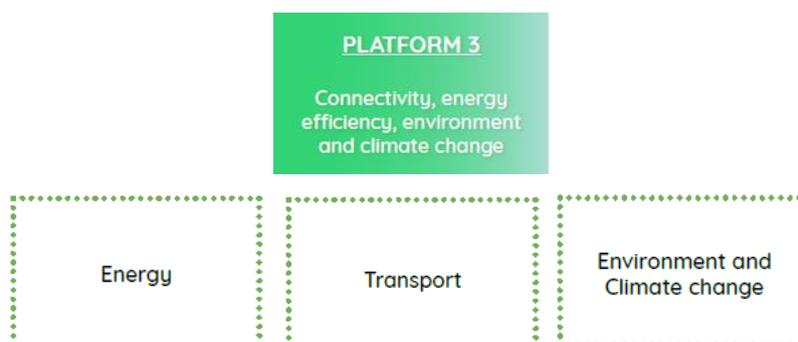


WORK PROGRAMME – PLATFORM 3 (2018-2019)

Version as of 29 May 2018



The Brussels Summit adopted the **revised Eastern Partnership multilateral architecture** to contribute to the goals of the Eastern Partnership, particularly by supporting the **implementation of the "20 Deliverables for 2020"** as endorsed by the **2017 Eastern Partnership Summit Declaration**¹. The revised architecture will take into account the provisions of the EU **Global Strategy** and of the reviewed **European Neighbourhood Policy**, as well as the key global policy goals set by the **Sustainable Development Goals** of the UN 2030 Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement and the European Consensus on Development.

The revised architecture aims to refine the process of consulting, steering and enabling policy implementation in order to jointly and effectively work towards reaching the "20 Deliverables for 2020"². The revised architecture facilitates closer inter-Platform/Panel cooperation, enhanced engagement with relevant stakeholders and strategic, result-oriented activities. The priorities of the Eastern Partnership regional and bilateral multiannual programming documents will also be reflected in order to improve the **link between policy dialogue and financial assistance**.

Overall objectives and role of the Platforms

The Eastern Partnership **Platforms** correspond to the four key priorities for cooperation:

- Economic development and market opportunities;
- Strengthening Institutions and good governance;
- Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change;
- Mobility and people-to-people contacts.

¹ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/11/24/eastern-partnership-summit-joint-declaration/>

² https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/swd_2017_300_f1_joint_staff_working_paper_en_v5_p1_940530.pdf

The Platforms are tasked with **ensuring and monitoring progress** of the implementation of the "20 Deliverables for 2020", while **exploring synergies and cross-fertilisation** across the architecture to effectively support comprehensive reforms. In this context, while Panels advance the work at technical level under each of the "20 Deliverables", the Platforms steer and monitor them, notably with a view of reporting to the Foreign Affairs Ministerial, with the active engagement of the Senior Officials Meetings. Each Platform will approve a **yearly report** on the basis of inputs from the Panels, including political messages to feed high-level political discussions such as sectoral Ministerial meetings, Informal Partnership Dialogues and, ultimately, the Foreign Affairs Ministerial.

This Work Programme translates the objectives of the revised architecture and the "20 Deliverables for 2020" document into **concrete steps for delivering results**. The work of the Platform and the Panels will be in line with the objectives pursued through the cross-cutting Deliverables on civil society, gender equality and strategic communication. Expert Working Groups will provide relevant input to the Panels and Platforms as appropriate, including on horizontal topics such as statistics.

Communication will be mainstreamed in all the activities of the Platform, Panels and Expert Working Groups to ensure results focus on delivering tangible benefits to the lives of citizens in the region. All communication should also be in the framework of the priority area of cooperation to ensure a comprehensive communication approach.

The **gender perspective** will be taken into account across all activities.

The Platform will strive to ensure **ownership, engagement and exchanges** with relevant stakeholders in Partner Countries and EU Member States at all levels: Ministers, representatives of the national Parliaments through EURONEST, local and regional authorities through CORLEAP, civil society organisations through the Civil Society Forum, International Financial Institutions, business representatives as well as experts and specialised organisations when relevant.

PLATFORM 3 – Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change

Core objectives

This Work Programme translates the objectives of the "20 Deliverables for 2020" into **concrete steps for delivery**. In particular, the core objectives of Platform 3 reflect the following Deliverables:

- Promote progress on the **extension of the TEN-T core networks** to Partner Countries;
- Increase the **security of energy supply** via enhanced gas and electricity interconnectivity;
- Enhance **energy efficiency**, improve the use of **renewable energy** and **reduce Greenhouse Gas emission** in Partner Countries;
- Support **environment** and adaptation to **climate change** in Partner Countries.

Main goals and actions

Since the Riga Summit in 2015, progress has been made in areas that enable the achievement of the 23 Milestones relating to Deliverables 13 to 16. For example, all countries ratified the Paris Climate Agreement and many new cities joined the Covenant of Mayors. Policies and institutional

structures have been put in place to promote green economy. High-level policy dialogue is on-going in several countries on energy efficiency. Maps defining the extension of the TEN-T network to the east have been politically endorsed. The new External Investment Plan has been established including, besides blending, now a new European Fund for Sustainable Development Guarantee (EFSD) primarily aimed at attracting private investments. A minimum share of 28% of the financing under the EFSD is to be devoted to climate action, renewable energy and resource efficiency. Challenges remain, however, in setting a framework that would unlock finance and support more effective policy implementation. Hence, policy action needs to be re-invigorated if costs of inaction are to be avoided and citizens' expectations translated into practice.

In 2018-2019, the Platform will focus on issues common for all Panels, including:

- **Investment priorities for improving sustainable connectivity:** policy priorities, financially viable pipelines of investment projects (considering each country's fiscal space), the role of the EU External Investment Plan and other existing financing facilities;
- **Connectivity and environmental sustainability:** use of Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, in particular as concerns transport and energy sector strategies and the integrated development of urban areas, as well as mainstreaming environmental and climate action into sectorial policies;

In order to ensure **cross-sectoriality** among the Deliverables under the Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change sector and across the four Eastern Partnership key priorities, Platform 3 will also **explore synergies** with the other Platforms whenever needed or useful, namely when dealing with cross-sectorial topics. Also **coordination** with relevant international initiatives and processes will be ensured.

Sectoral Ministerial meetings may be recommended, when Ministerial level intervention would help to strengthen the implementation of the objectives pursued.

Within the core objectives of the four Platforms, the **Work Programme can be reviewed and adapted**, as appropriate, on the occasion on future Platform meetings.

Panel on Transport

The Panel on Transport will contribute to the implementation of **Deliverable 13**, leading the technical discussion on the **extension of the TEN-T core networks**, including roads, rails, ports, airports, inland waterways and rail-road terminals, as well as promoting road safety. In 2018 and 2019 the Panel will mainly focus on the following:

2018

- Preparation and endorsement of a transport and logistics investment action plan to complete the core TEN-T network by 2030;
- Introducing TEN-T corridor concept in EaP regional transport strategy formulation by selecting a pilot corridor (incl. extension of mandate of respective EU TEN-T coordinator/ definition of a new mandate);

- Elaboration and endorsement of national Road Safety Action plans with indicators to measure progress on road safety;
- Establishment of the Regional Road safety action plan, endorsed at high level;
- Regional EaP Road Safety Observatory agreed and its set up initiated.

To achieve the above the following **activities** are planned:

- Panel on Transport to meet twice, with a particular focus on investments on the extended core TEN-T network, the necessary institutional and regulatory reforms in the transport and logistics sector and road safety;
- Meetings of the three Experts Working Groups on road safety established in December 2017.

2019

- Monitoring progress on the investment action plan + update;
- Strategy formulation/implementation of selected TEN-T corridor;
- Assessment of non-infrastructure barriers and setting up of a plan to remove non-infrastructure obstacles by end of 2019 on a selected corridor, such as the East-West or South-West corridor linking the Caspian Sea to the Black Sea;
- Inclusion of inland waterways into indicative TEN-T network;
- Achieve concrete actions on road safety, including monitoring road safety indicators and reporting on progress; establishment of road safety agencies/platforms in all Partner Countries; improved and accessible national crash data systems made fully operational; vehicle technical inspection services operational according to EU standards; institutionalized/regular speed enforcement in partner countries; road safety enforcement and communications campaign(s) in each partner country; road design standards in line with EU road safety standards; implementation of directive 2008/96 (Road Infrastructure Safety Management); Black Spot treatment and audit/inspection programs initiated.

To achieve the above the following **activities** are planned:

- Panel on Transport to meet twice, with a particular focus on investments on the extended core TEN-T network, the necessary institutional and regulatory reforms in the transport and logistics sector and road safety;
- Meetings of the three Experts Working Groups on road safety established in December 2017.

Panel on Energy

The Panel on Energy will contribute to the implementation of **Deliverables 14 and 15**, leading the technical discussion on the **security of energy supply**, on fostering **energy efficiency** and the production, integration and use of **renewable energies** in the energy system, as well as on how to help Partner Countries **reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**. Working towards **approximation of the regulatory framework** will be important in all sectors and notably in view of establishing **functioning electricity and gas markets**. In 2018 and 2019 the Panel will mainly focus on the following:

2018

- Monitor state of play of ongoing interconnectivity projects;
- Agree on criteria and methodology for interconnectivity project pipeline and roadmap, in cooperation with the EU4Energy project;
- Oversee implementation of the Covenant of Mayors East and discuss options for further support to implement the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP);
- Follow-up on HiQSTEP study on increasing energy efficiency in industry;
- Support countries to implement energy efficiency legislation, including legal and institutional changes and the enacting of national plans on sustainable energy.

To achieve the above the following **activities** are planned:

- Panel on Energy to meet twice, with a particular focus on a roadmap towards the identification of a pipeline of key regional energy interconnectivity projects in the context of the Eastern Partnership by 2020 (Deliverable 14), energy security, energy efficiency and renewable energy (Deliverable 15);
- Working Group of EaP Energy Regulatory Bodies to meet once.

2019

- Report on concrete progress in key interconnectivity projects in the region: Southern Gas Corridor and its extension to Central Asia, the Ungheni-Chisinau and Hermanowice-Bilche Volytsia gas pipelines, the potential of electricity projects between Moldova and Romania, and the back-to-back electricity interconnection between Georgia and Armenia and the potential of a new electricity interconnection between Georgia and Turkey;
- Further integrate energy efficiency and renewable energy into national and local legislation, planning and programming;
- Support to the development of mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies to put Partner Countries on-track with the Paris Agreement requirement to communicate those strategies by 2020;
- Take stock of progress of the High-Level Energy Efficiency Initiative with International Financing Institutions and advice on the way forward for the initiative;
- Further improve the investment environment to increase investment in energy efficiency in all sectors including the municipal, residential, and commercial; Identify measures for sustainable financing options and for stimulating the private market in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- Prepare guidance on coherence, complementarity and coordination of different instruments to facilitate implementation of the Paris commitments.

To achieve the above the following **activities** are planned:

- Panel on Energy to meet twice, with a particular focus on the long-term decarbonisation of the energy system in a safe, efficient and secure way including nuclear safety, and follow-up on energy efficiency targets for instance in cities and industry, renewable energy;
- Working Group of EaP Energy Regulatory Bodies to meet once.

In addition, in the context of the energy transition, special attention will be paid to the increasing role of the consumer in the energy transition and protection against energy poverty, the role of the

regulators and transmission operators in the tariff design, new technologies and digitalisation as well as continuity and quality of energy supply.

Due to thematic synergies cooperation will be sought with the Panel on Environment and Climate Change, the Panel on Research and Innovation under Platform 4 as well as the Panel on Harmonisation of digital markets under Platform 2.

Panel on Environment and Climate Change

The Panel on Environment and Climate Change will contribute to the implementation of **Deliverable 16**, leading the technical discussion on how to help Partner Countries improve the **sustainable management of key natural resources**, develop **sounder environmental governance**, enhance **environmental awareness** and become more **resilient to climate change**. In addition, it will be responsible for the implementation of Deliverable 15 insofar as work on this Deliverable falls outside the scope of the Panel on Energy (reduction of non-energy related greenhouse gas emissions). The First Eastern Partnership Environment and Climate Change Ministerial, convened in October 2016, defined priorities for joint work, which were spelled out in its Declaration. In 2017, an Action Plan was developed by the Panel on Environment and Climate Change to implement the Declaration. The Plan and the targets under the Deliverable 16 were aligned in a way to provide a comprehensive and coherent framework for action. In 2018 and 2019 the Panel will mainly focus on the following:

2018

- Strengthen environmental governance systems through exchange of experience and identification and implementation of measures needed at all levels of governance;
- Move towards higher resource efficiency, circular economy, and green economy promotion by improving the investment in circular economy and resource-efficiency in all sectors, including in issues of water management;
- Promote implementation of water sector policies and uptake of the river basin management planning in line with the EU Water Framework Directive applying the ecosystem approach and taking account of transboundary aspects of water management;
- Support further adoption and use of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Support the next Eastern Partnership Ministerial meeting on Environment and Climate Change with circular economy and the international climate negotiations amongst its themes;
- Identify and promote measures that would improve forest and ecosystems protection;
- Support the development and implementation of climate-related policies which contribute to their low emission, climate resilient development and their commitments to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

To achieve the above the following **activities** are planned:

- The Panel on Environment and Climate Change will meet once, with the particular focus on circular economy and climate action – and the links between the two areas;
- A workshop on Green Cities to be organised back to back with EU Green Week which is held in Brussels on 22 to 24 May 2018;

- As an input to the ministerial communication material to be prepared to highlight common environmental challenges in the region and best practices to address them as well as EU support in this area;
- A workshop on Talanoa Facilitative Dialogue on Paris Agreement Implementation.

2019

- Further promote climate action investment, both for mitigation and adaptation;
- Further address policy and institutional bottlenecks in achieving the transition to a green and circular economy;
- Promote the role of civil society and improve public access to environmental information and broader participation in decision-making in line with the Aarhus Convention, and relevant EU Directives and Regulations.

To achieve the above the following **activities** are planned:

- One meeting of the Panel on Environment and Climate Change;
- Actions, including workshops or other activities, to address priorities identified by the 2nd Ministerial meeting;
- Workshop with IFIs on effective use of climate action investment facilities.