

**EUROPEAN UNION – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**8th Meeting – 19 June 2025**

**Venue: Sarajevo (Hybrid)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

	<b>1 - Environment</b>
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	<b>1.2 Horizontal issues and international conventions</b>
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- **Overarching recommendations for Environment and Climate:** BiH is urged to fully implement the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, and to strengthen efforts to move towards a circular, climate-neutral, resource efficient and competitive economy.
- Under the lead of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MoFTER), and on the basis of an agreed single integrated plan (Q4/2025), BiH should urgently start implementing the BiH Environmental Approximation Strategy (EAS), adopted in May 2017. This should align with EU acquis developments and accordingly ensure revision, transposition and implementation of environmental legislation, countrywide. There should be annual reporting on progress.
- Complementing the countrywide BiH Environmental Approximation Strategy, BiH should then adopt the consolidated countrywide Environmental Protection Strategy and Action Plan (Q1/2026), to ensure sound strategic planning in the environment sector and that implementation will take place in a coordinated and harmonised manner.
- BiH needs to ensure harmonised countrywide alignment with the Directives on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) (Q2/2026) and considerably strengthen their enforcement, as well as implementation of provisions related to public access to environmental information and public participation in the decision-making process.
- To make progress in the area of environment, enhancing environmental protection and aligning with the EU acquis, BiH needs to strengthen its administrative capacities and monitoring systems and clearly improve inter-institutional coordination among relevant authorities.
- BiH needs to provide the - currently lacking - clear, consistent and consolidated information on progress made, to avoid fragmented or separate uncoordinated actions.
- To enhance the implementation of environmental conventions to which BiH is a signatory party and in order to ensure undisputed representation and systematic reporting on behalf of BiH, BiH should urgently formalise a procedure for appointment of the National Focal Point for BiH (Q2/2026).

	<b>1.3.2 Water management</b>
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- BiH is encouraged to improve its existing legislation (including the Water Laws) to further align with EU water related acquis, including on urban wastewater treatment, drinking water and floods. This

should be done in a countrywide coordinated and harmonised manner, also to ensure sustainability of investments, such as on Wastewater Treatment Plants.

- BiH needs to commit to and implement the necessary reforms in this area to complement donors' efforts and enable sustainability and sound management of the water sector.

### **1.3.3 Waste management**

- BiH should adopt a countrywide strategy on waste management (Q1/2026) to provide a coordinated approach to addressing the country's priorities and to ensure harmonised alignment with the EU acquis, which is of particular importance in the context of circular economy and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.
- BiH should increase efforts to apply the waste hierarchy principles, including efficiently addressing various waste-streams, and begin preparations (Q2/2026) for legislation to align with the EU Plastic Strategy and Single Used Plastics Directive.

### **1.3.4 Air quality - including an update on the status of the draft Decision on liquid fuels quality in order to comply with the Sulphur in Fuels Directive**

- BiH should develop a countrywide strategy to systematically and efficiently combat air pollution and to align its legislation with the EU acquis, in close coordination between all levels of government (Q1/2026).
- BiH should accelerate the establishment of a coordinated and well-functioning countrywide air monitoring network, to provide for reliable data for BiH government and citizens.
- BiH should align with the EU Directive on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (Directive (EU) 2016/2284) notably by accelerating improvement of the emission inventories, enabling functioning of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register and the related work on full ratifications and implementation of the Air Convention and its protocols (Q1/2026).

### **1.3.5 Industrial pollution (National Emission Reduction Plan – compliance with Large Combustion Plants Directive), state of play of Tuzla 4 and Kakanj 5**

- BiH should further align with the Industrial Emissions Directive (Q4/2025) and establish a functioning countrywide Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (Q4/2025), enabling public access and the transmission of collected data to the EU institutions.
- BiH should proceed with the ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention (Q1/2026).
- BiH shall ensure compliance with the Decision of the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community.
- BiH should ensure the implementation of the National Emission Reduction Plan and adopt the technical and financial measures necessary for that purpose (Q2/2026).

### **1.3.7 Nature Protection**

- In light of its importance under the EU Green Deal and BiH high potential in this area, BiH needs to make progress in the area of nature protection / Biodiversity. For that, BiH needs to step up alignment with EU relevant acquis (including the above-mentioned EIA and SEA Directives) and enforce mechanisms for nature and biodiversity protection (Q2/2026).

### **1.3.8 Noise**

- BiH should undertake significant efforts to align and implement countrywide the EU acquis on environmental noise (Q1/2026).

#### 1.4 Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)

- As a participating state of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), BiH should continue to actively participate in the activities under the Mechanism (trainings, exercises, meetings of the expert working groups, applying for projects).
- BiH should continue implementing its internal procedures to coordinate sending international assistance via the UCPM (ongoing).
- BiH shall implement the European Single Emergency Number 112 (Q4/2026).
- BiH should continue forming emergency response unit at the national level in line with requirements for the civil protection modules of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and in line with provisions of the Framework Law on Protection and Rescue of people and property against natural and man-made disasters in BiH (Official Gazette BiH 50/08) (Q4/2026).
- BiH should start discussions at the national level to connect to Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations (TESTA) which is a prerequisite for connecting to Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS).

## 2 - Climate

- To ensure a strategic approach on systematic alignment with the climate *acquis* and its effective implementation, BiH should draft (Q3/2025) and adopt (Q4/2025) a state-level Climate Law.
- BiH should urgently draft a Long-Term Strategy covering the period until 2050 and submit to UNFCCC
- BiH should urgently fully align and implement the Governance Regulation in line with the obligations under the Energy Community.
- BiH should urgently adopt and implement legislation on Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Accreditation –in line with the obligations under Energy Community.
- BiH needs to urgently adopt the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) by 30 June 2024, taking into consideration the Energy Community's recommendations.
- BiH should urgently report on the implementation of the updated National Determined Contribution (NDC) 2020-2030 under the Paris Agreement (continuous – Q2/2026).
- BiH should start preparing and submit a new NDC to the UNFCCC (Q4/2025).
- BiH should urgently invest in human resources to handle climate policy (continuous – Q2/2026).
- BiH should initiate awareness raising activities (continuous – Q2/2026).

## 3 - Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments

- BiH needs to ensure reinforcing of the institutional and administrative capacity in terms of programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU funds to improve its level of preparedness to implement the EU Regional Policy (continuous / Q2/2026).
- BiH needs to appoint the NIPAC as a matter of urgency to address the obligations of the Financial Framework Partnership Agreement ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina on 20 September 2022.
- BiH needs to finalise the proposal for establishment of the financial management and control systems for the EU funds in consultation with the European Commission and adopt it by Q4/2025 with the

objective to reinforce the institutional and administrative capacity for programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU funds in line with the EU Regional Policy.

- BiH has to finalise the sector project pipelines for Energy, Human Capital and Digitalisation sectors and adopt the single project pipeline by Q4/2025 based on well-established sector project pipelines in the sectors of Transport, and Environment.
- BiH should urgently adopt the overdue countrywide Regional Development Strategy to valorise the development potential of all regions and to reduce the regional and local disparities in BiH (Q2/2026).
- BiH should embed the two EU macro-regional strategies (EUSAIR and EUSDR) into its national and regional development strategic documents and implement them by all available sources of funding (Q4/2025).

## 4 Transport

### 4.1 Connectivity agenda

- BiH should intensify its efforts to implement the agreed connectivity reform measures in the areas of transport and energy (continuous).
- BiH should increase the efforts to close the financing gap for the Corridor Vc motorway. A plan shall be developed by end of 2025.
- BiH should continue efforts to achieve a Rail Border Crossing Agreement and Protocols in negotiations with Croatia by Q1/2026.
- BiH should adopt an ITS strategy (Q4 2025).
- BiH still should transpose the ITS Directives in road, rail and inland waterway sectors, establish a countrywide system for road crash data collection and secure sufficient budgetary resources to address the maintenance needs of both rail and road core network (continuous for the maintenance / Q2/2026).
- BiH should increase efforts to deliver on the commitments contained in the Transport Community Treaty and its Annex I (continuous).

### 4.2 Strategic framework of transport in BiH and action plans – update

- BiH should continue, as a matter of urgency, implementing the Framework Transport Strategy and its Action Plans in close coordination between all stakeholders and share its annual implementation reports with the Commission (continuous / Q1/2026).
- BiH should adopt the updated **BiH** Framework Transport Strategy (Q1/2026).

### 4.3 Road transport

- BiH should strengthen road safety management through the establishment of a lead Road Safety Agency (Q4/2025) and fully implement the other actions set out in the Road Safety regional action plan, including a comprehensive national road safety strategy for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety (Q4/2025).
- BiH should fully align its legislation with the EU acquis on transport of dangerous goods (Q1/2026).

### 4.4 Rail transport

- BiH should make the best use of the technical assistance provided in view of bringing the BiH Law on Railways in line with the 4th package EU Railway Directives. The regional rail action plan developed

in the framework of the Transport Community should be instrumental to conduct the reform process in BiH at national level (Q1/2026).

- In the view implementation of EU technical specifications for interoperability (TSIs), BiH should continue reviewing against TSIs and cleaning up of national rail technical and safety rules in line with the EU acquis and the prerogatives of the EU Agency for Railways (ERA) (continuous / Q1/2026).
- BiH should increase efforts to improve the independence of the Railway regulator, the National Safety Authority and the National Investigation Body by end 2025.

#### **4.5 Maritime and Inland waterways transport**

- BiH should adopt its state-level legislation on inland waterways navigation in compliance with the EU acquis and proceed with implementing the cross-border Framework Agreement for improving the Sava river navigability (Q1/2026).
- BiH should update the law on Maritime Transport (by Q2 2026).
- BiH should start work on the new law on inland waterways to improve the regulatory framework for the navigation in Sava River and start the transposition of the EU Acquis in Annex I.5 of the TCT (as soon as possible).

#### **4.6 Air transport**

- On aviation, BiH should continue to ensure adequate organisation and allocation of sufficient resources to the Civil Aviation Authority for safety oversight and security, to take up findings of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency.
- BiH is also encouraged to speed up drafting and adopting its Aviation Law to align with the EU aviation acquis in accordance with the European Common Aviation Area Agreement by Q4/2025.

#### **4.7 Passenger rights (all transport modes) – update (BiH) about progress in transposition and implementation of the EU acquis**

- BiH should make further progress towards the implementation of the EU acquis on passenger rights in all modes of transport by Q4/2025.

#### **4.9 Multimodal and intermodal (including combined) transport**

- BiH should transpose the electronic freight transport information (eFTI) regulation and work closely with EU4Digital project in implementation of eFTI framework.

### **5 Energy**

#### **5.1 Energy Community Treaty obligations**

- BiH should finalise the complete legal transposition of the Electricity Integration Package and implement actions set out in the legislation to enable market coupling with the EU, including opening of energy markets, unbundling and certification of the Transmission System Operator, the appointment of one Nominated Electricity Market Operator (NEMO) and establishing a day-ahead and intraday electricity markets (Q2/2026).

- BiH should urgently align its legislation at State level in the field of gas with the Third Energy Package and Clean Energy Package (Q1/2026).
- BiH needs to rectify all identified violations of the EU and Energy Community Treaty acquis and in particular persistent breaches of the Large Combustion Plants Directives (by proceeding with planned upgrade of relevant thermal power plants/decrease of their production) and finalise the Just Transition Roadmap to accompany and accelerate coal phase out in electricity production (Q5/2025).
- BiH needs to finalise and start to implement a comprehensive building renovation strategy to improve energy efficiency and demand reduction measures. (Q2/2026).
- BiH needs to align with and implement the Risk-preparedness Regulation and additional relevant acquis to increase resilience in the event of energy crises (Q4/2025).

## **5.2 TEN-E and Connectivity**

- BiH should proceed, in coordination across levels of government and in consultation with civil society, with implementing the state-level and entity action plans under the countrywide framework energy strategy, reflecting the goals of energy transition (Q2/2026).
- BiH should advance on ongoing and planned investment projects on electricity grid upgrade and interconnections (including those in PMI (projects of mutual interest) - PEI (projects of Energy Community interest) list) (Q2/2026).
- BiH should bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions to comply with the new TEN-E Regulation by Q1/2026.
- BiH should reconsider and preferably cancel the gas interconnector project BiH-Croatia (southern interconnector) as it runs counter to its decarbonisation commitments enshrined in the (soon to be adopted) NECP and in the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (Q2/2026).

## **5.3 Internal Energy Market**

- BiH should without further delay complete legal and functional unbundling of distribution system operators across all entities (Q4/2025).
- BiH needs to implement deregulated electricity prices for all categories other than microenterprises and households in line with the Electricity Integration Package (Q2/2026).
- BiH should finalise the remaining missing appointments in the management structures of BiH Electricity Transmission Company (TransCo), including management and supervisory boards (Q4/2025).

## **5.4 Renewable energy**

- BiH should implement laws on Renewable Energy Sources introduced at entity level, while ensuring sufficient coordination at state level as regards data collection, guarantees of origin (GOs), authorisation, and licensing procedures (Q4/2025).
- BiH should swiftly proceed to plans for large expansion of renewable generation capacity and, residually, invest in hydropower in a responsible manner, in constructive dialogue with civil society, and in compliance with EU rules on environment, transparency, and accountability, with a view to firstly decarbonise domestic electricity consumption (rather than for export) (Q2/2026).

## **5.5 Energy efficiency**

- BiH should prioritise the adoption of the National Energy and Climate Plan that will include energy efficiency targets and measures (Q4/2025), prioritise the adoption of the long-term building renovation strategy, ensuring sufficient coordination at state level (Q2/2026) and complete alignment with the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Framework Energy Labelling Regulation (Q1/2026).