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COHERENCE OF THE CLIMATE POLICIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND UKRAINE

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Abstract. *Environmental policy and regulation are key to promoting a green transformation of the economy that is essential for Ukraine in the framework of significant technogenic load as the urgency of post-war reconstruction. When developing measures to overcome / adapt to climate change, a stable regulatory support and basis is important, and Ukrainian legislation should ensure approximation to the European Union law and policy in the field of environmental protection. The legal basis for European integration processes in the field of climate policies and actions is the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union. Climate policy and protection of the ozone layer in Ukraine in accordance with European legislation in this context should be carried out, including the adoption of a number of new framework laws and reforms of public administration, sustainable use of natural resources, implementation of plans to improve atmospheric air quality, efficient waste management system functioning, operational monitoring system development, public notification and risk management etc.*

Keywords: *environmental policy, environmental safety, climate solutions, low-carbon development, climate change.*

Introduction.

The climate of each country is its natural resource. The main cause of climate change is the intensive burning of coal, oil, and gas; industrial processes; reduction of forest and green areas. The consequences of climate change were already felt in Ukraine in the pre-war years; and according to estimations they will intensify in the future. It can already be stated that military actions caused an ecosystem catastrophe, therefore it is necessary to develop effective and modern ways of improving the ecological state of the state. Among the main potential negative consequences of climate change that can manifest in Ukrainian cities are heat stress, spontaneous hydrometeorological phenomena, flooding, disruption of the normal functioning of the city's energy systems, reduction of areas and disruption of the species composition of urban green zones, a decrease in the quantity and deterioration of the quality of drinking water, an increase in the number of infectious diseases and allergies.

The legislative framework of Ukraine for combating climate change began to be created in 1996. In particular, these are the laws of Ukraine on ratification of the United Nations framework convention on climate change, on ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, on environmental impact assessment; resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on validating the Concept for the implementation of the state policy in the field of climate change for the period up to 2030, on validating Energy Strategy of Ukraine up to 2035 “Security, energy efficiency, competitiveness”, on some issues of regulating activities in the field of ozone layer protection and others. The Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union (EU) of 2014

contains a wide list of measures to be implemented [1]. Ukraine is working to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, guided by national priorities, which will ensure maximum efforts to achieve the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 31-34% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels [2]. The recent decision of the European Council to grant Ukraine the EU candidate status creates a necessity to accelerate the alignment of the Ukrainian legislative framework with the EU legal system and to improve regulatory activities. The war has caused significant and serious damage to the environment and has had both temporary and long-term consequences for human health, ecosystems, and the economy of Ukraine and other countries [3].

Main text.

The European Commission's proposal for an EU regulation on nature restoration is a unique opportunity to strengthen biodiversity and climate change action [4]. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted that all scenarios that limit climate change to 1.5 °C rely heavily on land-use mitigation measures. Natural climate solutions, which cover a wide range of land management practices that conserve, restore, or sustainably manage natural ecosystems and lands, as well as enhance carbon storage, can limit warming to a further 0.3°C by the end of the century, but only if they are implemented together with the rapid decarbonization of other sectors needed to achieve the IPCC emissions scenario that meets the Paris Agreement targets.

Nature restoration can also deliver important benefits for human health, well-being, and employment. Green spaces can reduce people's vulnerability to climate change's impacts by increasing physical health by promoting physical activity, reducing stress, and reducing heat, noise, and air pollution. Restoration can help adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change on job markets. It is estimated that restoring degraded EU ecosystems could create a lot of "green" jobs.

According to the Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group, during 4 months of the war, the fire destroyed 36,154 hectares of forests and 10,250 hectares of grass ecosystems. In total, the fire covered more than 100,000 hectares [5]. Nowadays the Ukrainian Government is developing a Post-War Reconstruction and Development Plan that is based on the principles of a green economy and low-carbon development [6]. The Plan includes short-term and long-term priorities that reflect the results of an extended stakeholder consultation process. In the context of environmental security five priority areas were established:

- i) reform of public administration in the field of environmental protection;
- ii) climate change mitigation and adaptation policy;
- iii) environmental safety and efficient waste management;
- iv) sustainable use of natural resources;
- v) conservation of natural ecosystems, preservation of biodiversity, restoration, and development of protected areas.

Post-war development efforts must be based on the ownership of Ukrainian actors: relevant state authorities, experts, the business sector, and civil society. In addition, it is necessary to establish close cooperation with supporting countries, international organizations, and international financial institutions to attract the essential expertise and financial resources for reconstruction following the above-

mentioned environmental priorities.

The Low Carbon Development Strategy of Ukraine, which contains a plan until 2050, defines an agreed vision of national stakeholders on separating further economic and social development of the country from the growth of greenhouse gas emissions [2]. At the national level, the Strategy is a tool for public administration and the formation of climate-responsible behavior of both citizens and businesses, and at the international level, it supports the global goal of stabilization of greenhouse gas concentration by keeping the global average temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. The Strategy includes sections on the strategic vision of a low-carbon future for Ukraine, prerequisites for the development of emission reductions, legislative and institutional framework, decarbonization of the energy sector, prerequisites for the development of emission reductions, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions other than CO₂, carbon sequestration and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the land use, change of land-use and forestry sector of Ukraine.

Global emissions reductions can be achieved through land-based solutions by 2030, including the protection (of forests, wetlands, and grasslands), improved management (of timberlands, croplands, and grazing lands), and restoration (of forests and wetlands) [4]. Natural climate solutions in order to reduce carbon dioxide emission are shown on fig. 1.

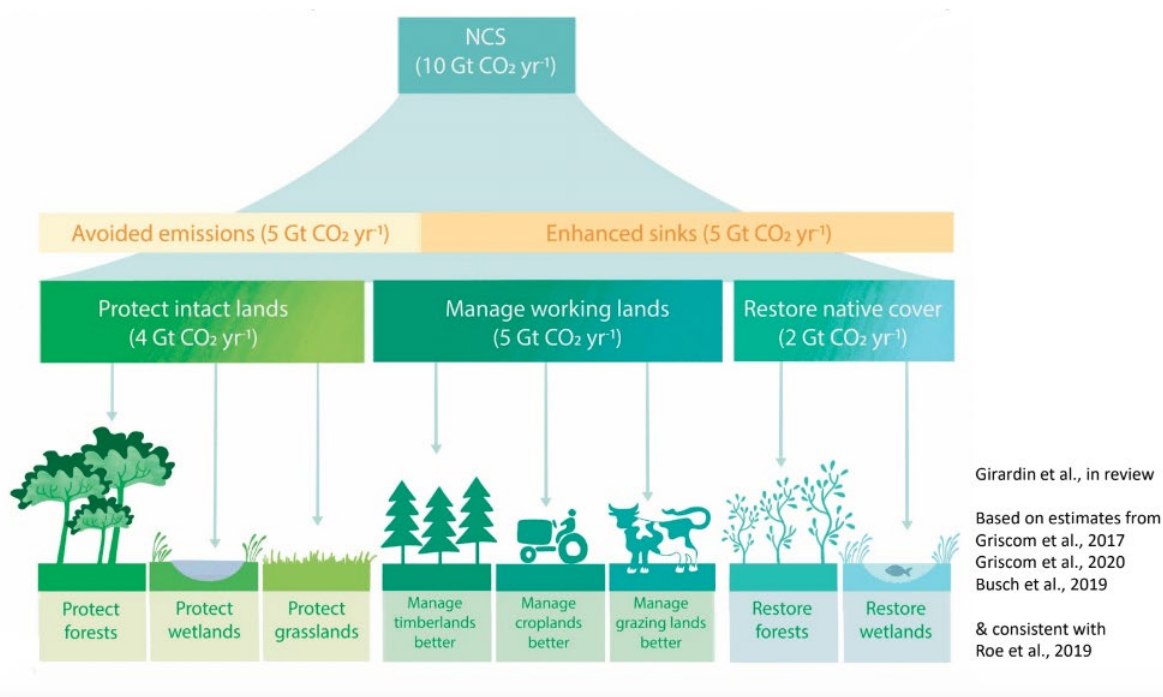


Figure 1 - Clean energy: natural climate solutions

A source: [7]

An important step towards increasing energy and resource efficiency and reducing pollution will be the reformation of building and operational standards and norms, especially for the biggest polluters, by following the best practices of the European Union and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries [3]. The comprehensive use of simplified environmental assessment procedures, such as the Strategic Environmental Assessment of policies,

plans, and programs and the Environmental Impact Assessment of individual projects, can help to develop alternatives with less environmental impact; strong oversight and enforcement of regulations are also necessary to ensure effectiveness.

Reformed technical regulations should be supported by market mechanisms in line with the OECD “polluter pays” principle. Priority should be given to the implementation and reformation of existing environmental taxes and levies, elimination of environmentally harmful fossil fuel subsidies, and introduction of emissions trading schemes and other market-based instruments that create economic incentives for compliance and, where it is possible, exceeding environmental requirements. OECD studies and recommendations on the use of market-based instruments (“green” investments) can be a useful benchmark in this regard. Developing a set of bankable green investment projects can help mobilize public and international financial resources. Revision of the regulatory framework, appropriate use of economic instruments, and capacity building for investment project preparation can contribute to achieving this goal.

Summary and conclusions.

Ukraine has a long time ago determined the direction of its foreign policy - integration into the European Union. The priority component of the integration process is the improvement of national legislation, as well as legislation on environmental safety, for its alignment with the legislation of the European Union, as stated in the Law of Ukraine “On the National Program of Adaptation of Ukrainian Legislation to the Legislation of the European Union” [8]. Cooperation between Ukraine and the EU is aimed at preserving, protecting, improving and restoring the quality of the environment, protecting public health, rational use of natural resources, encouraging measures at the international level for solving regional and global environmental problems.

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