

Management Plan 2026

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENVIRONMENT

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PART 1. Introduction

The Directorate-General for Environment's (DG ENV) **key mission** is to contribute to a fair clean transition that enables EU citizens to live well, within the planet's ecological limits, based on a resilient, competitive circular economy, where biodiversity and natural ecosystems are protected and restored, pollution and environment-related health risks are minimised. Environmental objectives are projected in international action. In a time of global instability, fierce geopolitical competition for resources and in the face of growing inequalities, supporting multilateralism and building coalitions with like-minded countries, reducing excessive dependencies and increasing security are also part of the DG's mission.

The **integration of environmental considerations** across EU policies and activities is mandated by the Treaties and is instrumental to reduce pressures on the environment and to ensure that **EU spending programmes** provide sufficient investment in the green and clean transition, at EU and international level. DG Environment is also involved in the governance of the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

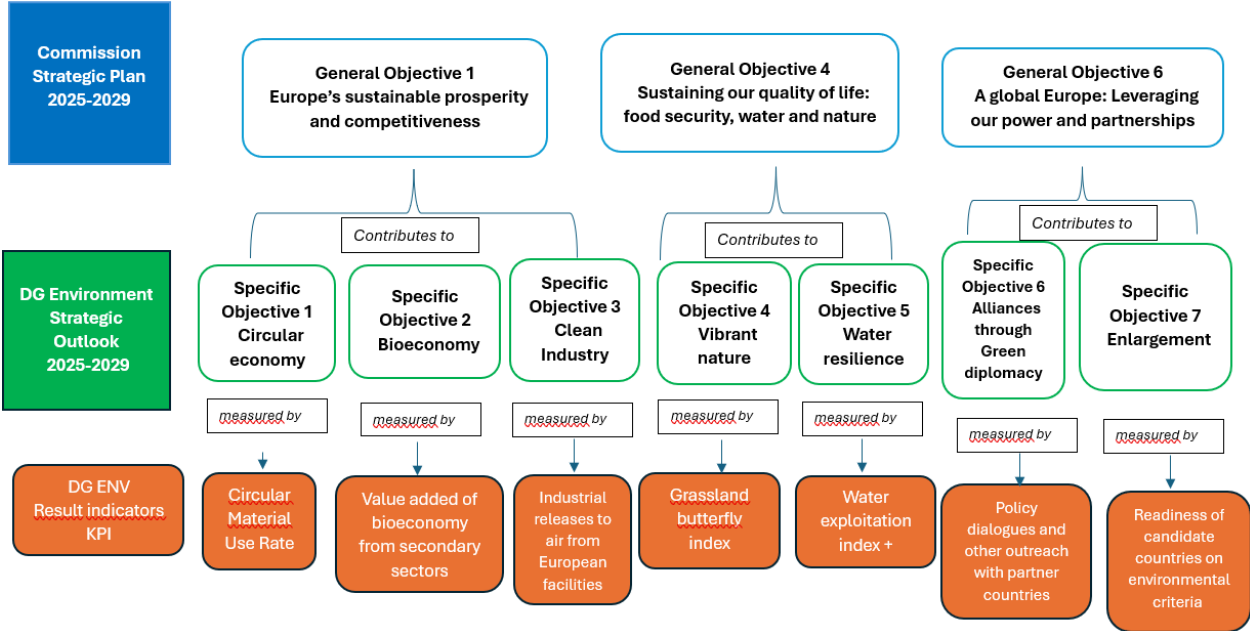
The DG works in **close collaboration with many other Commission departments**, as well as the European Environment Agency (EEA). **Knowledge and data** are fundamental for the development and implementation of impactful, efficient and just environmental policy. The **role of the co-legislators** in the design and implementation of environmental policies and legislation will remain key during the mandate, including through shaping the next multiannual financial framework, which should underpin clean transition reforms. Full implementation of the recently adopted environmental legislation is essential for the EU to deliver on the high expectations of Europeans, underlining the importance of **close cooperation with Member State authorities**, and of enforcement action where necessary. **Consultation, collaboration with and support to public and private stakeholders, including civil society representatives**, are essential along the chain from policy conception through to implementation and revision or evolution, both for policies to achieve the desired impact and to enable stakeholders to adhere to them as easily as possible.

Strategic planning and programming is the cornerstone of the **Commission's performance management framework**. The [Commission's strategic plan for 2025-2029](#) translates the [political priorities](#) set in the [Political Guidelines of President von der Leyen](#) into general objectives. This process ensures institutional coherence, enhances accountability, and aligns the actions of all Commission services with the strategic vision of the mandate.

Within this framework, each Commission service has developed a **strategic outlook for 2025-2029** in its [2025 Management Plan](#). This outlook defines a set of multiannual objectives and indicators to measure progress towards their achievement. These will be used for planning and reporting on performance throughout the period.

The **2026 management plan** sets out what DG Environment intends to deliver this year to contribute to these multiannual objectives (part 2). It also describes how DG Environment will contribute to the common objective of building a modern and sustainable public administration (part 3). The main outputs with their indicators and targets are presented in [Annexes 1](#) and [2](#).

The chart below illustrates the performance framework for DG Environment.



PART 2. Delivering on the Commission's priorities in 2026

The performance tables in [Annex 1](#) list the main outputs in 2026 under each specific objective.

General Objective 1: Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness

DG Specific Objective 1: The EU circular economy optimises the value of resources thanks to a well-functioning single market for waste and secondary raw materials, increasingly sustainable products and services

The EU's economy relies on 8 billion tonnes of raw materials each year, but recycled materials accounted for 11.8% of materials used in 2023, an increase of just 1.1 percentage points from 2010. The Competitiveness Compass and the Clean Industrial Deal emphasise the circular economy's relevance for the Union's economic security, competitiveness and decarbonisation.

In 2026, DG ENV, together with DG GROW, is the lead service preparing the **Circular Economy Act (CEA)**. The CEA will constitute the second step following the ResourceEU Action Plan focusing on critical raw materials and the Circular Economy package to boost circularity in plastics, adopted on 3 December and 23 December 2025 respectively. The CEA will aim to improve the integrity of the Single Market for secondary raw materials, increase the supply of high-quality recycled materials, and stimulate demand for these materials in the EU – contributing to the ambition set out in the Competitiveness Compass and the Clean Industrial Deal. It will involve a revision of the legislation on **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment** to extend its scope and capture more secondary resources, including critical raw materials, contained in this waste stream. It is responding to calls, input and recommendations from industry (e.g. the Antwerp Declaration), Member States (Budapest Declaration) and the European Parliament. Simplification through reduction of administrative burdens and single market harmonisation will also be part of the proposal.

To take into account the needs and views of young people regarding major new legislation, DG ENV will do a **Youth Check as part of the preparation of the Circular Economy Act** in early 2026, consisting of a targeted survey of youth stakeholders and a discussion event to follow up on specific issues from the survey.

DG ENV, together with DGs Internal Market and Industry (GROW) and Energy (ENER), will continue implementing the **Work Plan for the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation** adopted in April 2025. Ecodesign rules will target distinct product groups (including intermediate products) with the greatest potential to reduce energy consumption and environmental impacts. Such harmonised rules will also raise competitiveness potential and strengthen consumer rights. Textiles will be one product group work will focus on in 2026.

Based on the 2025 **New European Bauhaus (NEB)** Communication DG ENV will, together with DG Joint Research Centre (JRC), support Member States with scaling-up and mainstreaming innovative resource-efficient, circular and bio-economy-based solutions into their construction sectors. Besides increasing the industry's competitive edge, this strengthens local climate and water resilience.

DG ENV will continue working on the implementation of the acquis related to waste. It will prepare a number of **implementing and delegated acts** in 2026 that will enable effective application of circular economy legislation such as the Waste Framework Directive and the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, provide investment certainty, and simplify existing rules and practices. Important examples include calculation and verification of recycled content in batteries and in packaging, sustainability criteria for plastic recycling technologies, and harmonisation of packaging and battery labels. DG ENV will also update the European List of ship recycling facilities and update exemptions from the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive according to the technical progress in the electrical sector. The expected adoption of the **Regulation on End-of-Life Vehicles**, after co-legislators' provisional agreement in December 2025, will also necessitate the first secondary acts for its implementation in 2026.

Enforcement action to support achievement of this specific objective will focus on tackling systemic non-compliance of Member States with the waste recycling targets, as well as on landfilling practices not conforming to EU waste legislation. Aside from presenting serious risks for human health, such practices hamper the integration of the EU secondary material market.

External communications will accompany implementing work for sustainable products and packaging waste, explaining the measures and countering development of false narratives among business and consumers. Communication action will prepare the ground for the adoption of the Circular Economy Act later in 2026.

DG Specific Objective 2: A more circular bioeconomy enhances resource efficiency and resilience in the EU by leveraging the potential of innovation, secondary bio-based materials, and the sustainable production of primary resources.

The growth of the European bioeconomy sector has outpaced that of the overall economy in the last decade (18% 2022-2021). It valorises biological resources through a strong industrial base and innovation capacity, providing solutions that advance decarbonisation, circularity, and livelihoods, thereby also fostering Europe's economic security. To sustain the sector's growth and innovation potential the **Bioeconomy Strategy** presented at the end of 2025 focuses on four aspects: scaling up innovation and investments, developing lead markets for bio-based materials and technologies, preserving ecosystems' capacity to supply biomass for the sectors' value chains, and pursuing global partnerships on standards, supply and market access for a sustainable bioeconomy

DG ENV will start implementing the strategy in 2026. It will establish a European **Bioeconomy Regulators and Innovators' Forum** where authorities and businesses exchange practices and engage in early discussions on novel bio-based solutions in development. This will include coordination of authorisations and tackling of regulatory barriers. The Commission will also provide technical support for SMEs scaling innovative biobased products. At regional level, the set-up of **Industrial Symbiosis Valleys** will improve feedstock availability and the valorisation of by-product and waste streams in existing production processes. To foster lead markets, the Commission will launch the **Bio-Based Europe Alliance**, in which EU companies will be encouraged to commit to collectively purchase bio-based materials, products and applications worth EUR 10 billion by 2030.

Communication activities will address the **lack of awareness of the benefits** of bio-based products, which is a significant obstacle to their adoption. In addition, they will stress the

importance of sustainable biomass supply and its relation to the wider circular bioeconomy. Where relevant, communication will support the EU bioeconomy dialogues with Member States and mobilize key stakeholders, for example through the **Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Stakeholder Platforms** and the **EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors Programme**.

DG Specific Objective 3: Industrial emissions into air, soil and water are reduced through the effective application of EU environmental acquis, supported by innovation and investments for the use of best available techniques.

The revised **Directive on Industrial and livestock rearing emissions** promotes innovation, helps reduce emissions and raw resource use, and streamlines industrial permitting processes. It extends these harmonised rules to metal ores mining, battery manufacturing, waste landfills, and intensive pig and poultry farms. The first implementation phase includes **identifying best available techniques** for those newly covered activities. Several implementing acts will support this process in 2026, among others on Uniform Conditions for Operating Rules for livestock rearing, on the methodology to assess compliance with Emission Limit Values, as well as to adopt Best Available Techniques (BAT) Conclusions for the ceramics industry. DG ENV is assisting Member States during the transposition period with a number of guidelines, notably on addressing emissions from livestock rearing and how to achieve the objective of global environmental protection with respect to products placed on the Union market (Article 73.3) by it. To keep implementation of the **Industrial Emissions Portal** simple and streamlined, the Commission will adopt a delegated act on the covered pollutants and their thresholds, and an implementing act setting out the modalities of Member States' reporting.

To **tackle pervasive PFAS pollution** (perfluoroalkyl substances) DG ENV, in collaboration with DG GROW, is working with the European Chemicals Agency on wider but targeted PFAS restrictions under the REACH regulation. Deployment of best available technologies under IED, better management of PFAS in waste, and water and soil remediation will further help address this challenge. Together with DG GROW, DG ENV will prepare a **proposal to simplify and modernise the REACH Regulation**. Jointly, both DGs will continue effective implementation of REACH and the **Regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Chemicals** by further harmonising classifications, restrictions and authorisations.

The **review of the Zero Pollution Action Plan** will give an updated picture on the progress towards the respective 2030 targets. To advance clean air progress, DG ENV plans to present five implementing acts in 2026 under the **Ambient Air Quality Directive**. DG ENV will also engage with Member States to support timely transposition of the directive.

Enforcement action will focus on tackling systemic non-compliance with Emission Limit Values, quality standards and prohibitions, and provisions on public participation, as well as measures to tackle emissions of key pollutants (SO₂, NO_x, NMVOC, NH₃, and PM_{2.5}).

Communication activities under this specific objective will emphasise the **links between pollution reduction and improvements in human health**, capitalising on the high public attention and concern for this nexus. DG ENV will **monitor the news coverage of REACH** and **react to possible disinformation**.

General Objective 4: Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

DG Specific Objective 4: Europe's ecosystems and nature are restored and protected through efficient implementation of the EU environmental acquis, supported by incentives for nature-positive actions and private investment.

Natural ecosystems provide crucial health and social benefits, drive economic growth and bolster food and water security. **Nature-based solutions** enhance societal preparedness cost-effectively regulating climate and supporting biodiversity.

The EU plans to double global biodiversity finance by 2030 as agreed under the **Global Biodiversity Framework**, and public funds must be complemented by other sources of funding. Work on building and scaling up innovative markets for **Nature Credits**, following the 2025 roadmap, will help structure emerging markets for nature finance, attract private investment, create new economic opportunities, and bolster the EU's leadership in nature-positive finance. This potential is also underlined in the **Vision for Agriculture and Food**.

DG ENV will contribute to the **new Common Agricultural Policy** by co- assessing the environmental aspects of Member States' agriculture programming documents and their envisaged schemes to remunerate farmers for nature-positive actions.

Soil and forest ecosystems are essential to mitigate climate change, maintain biodiversity, uphold food security, and for disaster prevention. In 2026 DG ENV will prepare various measures, implementing acts and guidance documents in cooperation with JRC, EEA and Member States to support the **transposition and implementation of the Soil Monitoring Law** adopted in late 2025. Jointly with the DG for Civil Protection (ECHO), DG ENV will explore options to improve **wildfire risk management** and its links to nature-based solutions and nature restoration, including through a **policy initiative on integrated wildfire management**. DG ENV will follow up on the implementation of the Forest Strategy.

Implementation of the **Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR)** is ongoing, and DG ENV provides support to national authorities for the development of their draft National Restoration Plans, for which intensive **stakeholder engagement** remains crucial. Together with the EEA, DG ENV will start assessing these draft plans in the second half of 2026. Based on the 6-yearly reports by Member States on the implementation of the Birds and Habitat Directives, the Commission will present by the end of 2026 its landmark **State of Nature Report**, whose data provides the indicator baselines for the National Restoration Plans. Implementation of the **Invasive Alien Species Regulation** will move forward with the analysis of Member States' reports and further rollout of the Rapid Response Fund. DG ENV will also implement into EU legislation the outcomes of the Conference of Parties of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species**.

DG ENV will continue **promoting compliance and offer simplification** options through exchanges at the Nature Directives Expert Group, clarifications for a streamlined implementation of the obligations under the nature directives, and Nature Dialogues with Member States. **Enforcement action** will ensure that Member States provide complete information on the conservation of habitats and species and complete the Natura 2000

network (especially the marine sites). Where necessary, enforcement action will also be taken to protect species and habitats in decline.

As outlined in the Water Resilience Strategy, the evaluation of the **Nitrates Directive** is planned to conclude in early 2026. Follow-up measures to better implement the Directive will contribute to lowering nutrient pollution to non-harmful levels for biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to reducing the implementation burden for farmers and authorities.

External communication will support the biodiversity agenda through the 2026 edition of the **European Green Week dedicated to nature, investment and growth**. The conference will raise awareness, tackle polarisation and showcase nature-positive business opportunities. The **For Our Planet campaign** will continue to engage citizens in nature-positive actions, also through the activities around the Natura 2000 Day on 21 May 2026. The **Youth for Pollinators Assembly** will complete its work and issue recommendations to policy makers.

DG Specific Objective 5: Access to clean water is increasingly secured thanks to better water management practices and infrastructure, improved water efficiency and more sustainable water use

Floods, droughts and water scarcity affect an increasing share of the EU's territory and population, exacerbated by climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Water availability is becoming a constraining factor in strategic sectors such as battery production, data centres and the energy sector. The **Water Resilience Strategy** adopted in June 2025 focuses on three specific objectives: restore and protect the water cycle; build a water-smart economy in a way that supports EU competitiveness and attracts investment; and secure clean and affordable water and sanitation for all. It will contribute to the implementation of several other Commission priorities including the EU Vision for Agriculture and Food, the Clean Industrial Deal, and the European Ocean Pact. It also **complements the upcoming European Integrated Framework for Climate Resilience** planned for 2026, and will strengthen the resilience of Europe's critical infrastructure also towards other physical and cyber threats.

In 2026 DG ENV will press ahead with the implementation of the strategy. **Structured Water Dialogues** will be organised with Member States to accelerate implementation of the water legislation. Among others, DG ENV will work with Member States on the development of a joint methodology to set **water efficiency targets**, implementing the related Commission Recommendation. It will launch a **Sponge Facility** to enhance the use of EU regional funds for initiatives to increase water retention on land. The **Digital Action Plan for the Water Sector** will help simplify water supply management and pollution prevention and control, further boosting the water sector's competitiveness. The Plan will provide funding and knowledge sharing to build digital skills and encourage technology transfer. It will also spur development of national data portals that make water data easier to access, share, and reuse. The new **Water Resilience Platform** will bring together all relevant stakeholders for continued exchanges starting in early 2026. Finally, DG ENV will prepare the launch of a **Sustainable Water Management Advisory Facility** with the European Investment Bank.

DG ENV will step up work to implement the revised **Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive** with various implementing and delegated acts, support to Member States for transposition, and dialogue with stakeholders on the new system of **extended producer responsibility** funding

wastewater cleaning of micro pollutants. Implementation work of the recast **Drinking Water Directive** will focus on water access, reducing water leakages, and consider setting new limit values for PFAS if appropriate.

Enforcement action to deliver on pollution reduction will complement this, focusing strategically on non-conform transposition or systemic infringements of the water acquis.

In 2026 DG ENV will revise the Water Framework Directive, targeting bottlenecks in permitting for access to critical raw materials in the EU. To further ensure that EU marine waters are clean, healthy, resilient, and productive, DG ENV will present a proposal to revise the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)**. It will be developed in coherence with the work on the European Ocean Act and make the directive clearer, stronger, more easily enforceable, and better aligned with the EU nature and freshwater acquis. The revision will also reduce administrative reporting burden and improve marine data management and governance.

External communication will support Commissioner's visits to Member States and Commission Representations by showcasing available solutions in the WaterWiseEU campaign.

General Objective 6: A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships

DG Specific Objective 6: The EU builds coalitions with strategic partners and like-minded countries, through leading progress on global environmental issues and close cooperation with partner countries impacted by EU environmental policy

With multilateral governance frameworks currently facing growing challenges, the EU needs to adapt to a highly volatile international geopolitical context which influences environmental policy. The EU needs to build and strengthen coalitions with like-minded powers to reinforce its international position and strengthen environmental governance frameworks. One example where the **EU will seek to build such coalitions** is in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. DG ENV will prepare the EU's 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It will also seek to **maximise the impact of the 2026 Global Review of Implementation** of the Global Biodiversity Framework and support other countries with capacity building and technical cooperation. The new Bioeconomy Strategy will provide opportunities to strengthen global policy approaches to a sustainable bioeconomy. The EU will also strengthen **Water Partnerships** with strategic partners countries and regions (e.g. Water as the theme of the African Union in 2026) and facilitate **transboundary cooperation**, including by scaling up water investments, to foster regional peace, stability and security.

The EU will continue to support international negotiations on a **global agreement on plastics** and work towards building broad-based international support for an ambitious and balanced agreement. DG ENV will **defend sound scientific input for policy making**, including through the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Following the establishment in 2025 of the **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemical, Waste and Pollution**, the EU will join the Panel and support its work. The EU will promote its priorities at the Conferences of Parties of the UN **Desertification and Biodiversity Conventions**, as well as the 70th meeting of the **International Whaling Commission**.

The EU will continue to advance environmental issues in **United Nations processes** such as the UN General Assembly, the UN Environment Assembly and the UN Economic and Social Council, including implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals. At the **2026 UN Water Conference**, the EU will work to advance mainstreaming of water issues in regular multilateral processes and establishing a regular intergovernmental process on water. DG ENV will also continue engaging in relevant **G7 and G20 negotiating tracks** to support ambitious outcomes on circular economy, sustainable products, biodiversity, deforestation, water resilience, clean industrial production, and combatting environmental crime. On the latter, DG ENV will engage in relevant UN processes and prepare the EU signature of the new **Council of Europe Convention on the protection of the environment through criminal law**.

Bilateral and regional cooperation with strategic partners such as China, India, Brazil, ASEAN countries, and the United Kingdom will continue to support the Commission's political priorities in global environmental policy. Outreach will focus inter alia on water scarcity and resilience, the Circular Economy Package, and bioeconomy. Supporting the implementation of the EU Deforestation-free Products Regulation through clear communication to stakeholders in third countries remains a priority, as well as targeted support to adjust to and benefit from these rules. DG ENV will contribute to the effective negotiation and implementation of the relevant trade and sustainable development chapters in EU Free Trade Agreements.

External communication will support green diplomacy efforts during Commissioner's missions or international negotiations, focusing on **priority partner countries and policy areas suitable for proactive communication**.

DG Specific Objective 7: The EU supports the preparations of candidate countries to assume obligations under the environmental acquis

DG Environment is engaged in **continuous exchange and support with candidate countries** on technical and political levels, in particular in the context of accession negotiations in relation to chapter 27 of the acquis. A high-level setting for this will be the Enlargement Ministerial meeting envisaged for the second half of 2026, which will convene environment ministers of the Western Balkan countries, Ukraine, and Moldova. This will also apply to early preparation for new initiatives on circular economy or water resilience, among others, as resilience can only be the result of local and joint, coordinated action based on tight-knit transboundary cooperation between Member States and neighbouring countries, including as part of the EU's enlargement process. **Countries and candidate countries associated to the LIFE programme** (Iceland, Ukraine, Moldova, Montenegro and North Macedonia) will benefit from the development and implementation of LIFE projects in their territory.

DG ENV will continue to provide enhanced assistance and **support in environmental matters to Ukraine** in view of the environmental damages caused by Russia's war of aggression and future reconstruction and recovery. In particular, work will continue, together with other Commission services, on **Ukraine's accession to the EU** in view of its candidate country status and the opening of Chapter 27 (environmental acquis) negotiations. The DG will work closely with other Commission services on the Ukraine Plan and its implementation, and DG ENV will **provide support to the implementation of the Ukraine Facility**.

Stress-testing of environmental acquis, simplification and digital approaches

With the **environmental simplification package** of December 2025, DG ENV has acted on the first conclusions from stress-testing the respective elements of the environmental acquis. It put forward a set of legislative proposals which aim to reduce administrative obligations and reduce complexity in the fields of industrial emissions, circular economy, environmental assessments and geospatial data, leading to a total estimated reduction in administrative burdens of around € 1 billion per year. Specific measures include, among others, the repeal of the Substances of Concern in Products (SCIP) database, suspension of the relevant obligations to appoint authorised representatives for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for EU producers and a harmonized approach for third country producers, and simplification of Environmental Management Systems in the scope of the Industrial Emissions Directive. Streamlining and accelerating environmental assessments will facilitate the transition to a clean and digital EU economy. The Commission will foster pilot projects with Member States to promote digitalisation of environmental assessments in the context of permitting, and will also develop further guidance to Member States on the implementation of the relevant legislation.

Stress-testing is also part of the preparation of the Circular Economy Act and the insights will be reflected in the proposal (see Specific Objective 1). During 2026, DG ENV will continue to carry out the **stress-testing measures identified in its stress-testing plan**, with one immediate focus on the Water Framework Directive (see above), followed by comprehensive stress-testing of the Birds and Habitats Directives, as well as the EU water acquis more broadly. This work will be supported by respective Implementation Dialogues.

Evaluations and their follow-up are an essential tool for stress-testing and identifying simplification potential. Several evaluations and fitness checks were completed in 2025. Two **evaluations** are underway addressing the legislation on **single-use plastic items** and on **access and the sharing of benefits of genetic materials** in the field of biodiversity. The results of the **fitness check on the EU's seal products trade regime** will be published in 2026. The impact assessment supporting the **revision of the MSFD** will build on the recent evaluation from 2025 and assess significant simplifying elements.

DG ENV's **study to identify potentially burdensome administrative obligations in environmental legislation** will conclude in Q1 2026. It will include interviews with stakeholders, of which some may be developed into fully-fledged **reality checks** that provide detailed input for stress-testing. Meanwhile, ENV will continue the start-up and scaling of the **European SME Sustainability Service Programme (ES3P)** in partnership with DGs Eurostat (ESTAT), Climate Action (CLIMA), Single Market and Industry, Joint Research Centre, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and others. ES3P will provide SME with free and value-driven environmental impact information that supports entrepreneurial efforts to enhance the resilience and competitiveness of their business models.

The use of **digital tools** such as digital identification tools and wallets, the Digital Product Passport, a one-stop-shop for extended producer responsibility as part of the Circular Economy Act, as well as the re-use of already collected data can substantially facilitate reporting and compliance. To fully map and exploit this potential, DG ENV will develop a comprehensive **strategy for digitalization in environmental policy**. Such integrated approach to the digital transformation of environmental policies will for example support due diligence

compliance of companies, in particular SMEs, and reduce reporting burden. Moreover, a holistic digitalisation strategy will help Member States invest in those digital infrastructures that are most effective in making data and resources usable efficiently across sectors and lowering the cost of further digital process innovation. A DG ENV study in 2026 will explore where environmental legislation could benefit from a more **systemic application of the ‘digital-by-default’ and ‘once-only’ reporting principles**. It will also explore how ‘digital green tech’ companies, which offer a diverse portfolio of digital solutions, help their customers not only meeting green legislation requirements but create value beyond compliance.

The 2026 **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement** will highlight key achievements and ongoing actions, including enforcement efforts, to ensure the effective application of EU environmental legislation for tangible benefits. It will highlight progress in ongoing initiatives to simplify the environmental acquis, streamline processes, and outline future avenues for continued simplification and impactful implementation.

Other cross-cutting activities: finance and investment, rule of law, communication

DG ENV will work on enhancing sustainable investment in order to tackle the EU's annual €122 billion green investment gap, as identified in the 2025 Environmental Implementation Review. In 2026, the focus will be on **further integrating environmental objectives into EU economic governance**, including the European Semester, and supporting preparations and negotiations for the **2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework**. DG ENV plans to intensify its **evaluation of opportunities and barriers for private investment**. Additionally, DG ENV aims to strengthen engagement with the private sector and boost private investments by facilitating the **implementation of the sustainable finance framework** and by leveraging both regulatory and non-regulatory measures to mitigate risks and attract private investment.

DG ENV will continue its technical assistance to EU Member States for quality implementation of EU environmental policy through peer-to-peer exchanges via the **TAIEX-Environmental Implementation Review tool**, in close cooperation with DG Enlargement (ENEST).

DG ENV will support Member States in effective environmental governance and upholding the environmental rule of law. This enforcement brings tangible environmental and social benefits while supporting economic prosperity and competitiveness. A central instrument for it is the **Environmental Compliance and Governance Forum**, which for instance provides national judges with up-to-date environmental policy information. Enforcement action will ensure that national legislation is in line with the rulings of the European Court of Justice on **access to justice in environmental matters**, an essential contribution to the protection of citizens and civil society rights. It will also tackle systemic breaches of the **Environmental Crime and Liability Directives**, and the Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Directives.

External communication will **highlight the benefits** for citizens, communities and businesses of environmental law's **effective implementation as well as its simplification**; among others through recognised brands such as “The Road to Green”.

PART 3. A modern and sustainable public administration: outputs in 2026

The internal control framework supports sound management and decision-making. In particular, it ensures that risks to the achievement of objectives are addressed and reduced to acceptable levels through cost-effective controls.

The Director-General of DG Environment has established an internal control system tailored to its particular characteristics and circumstances. The effective functioning of this internal control system will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the year and will be subject to an annual assessment covering all internal control principles.

A. Human resource management

In 2026, the DG ENV human resources team will focus on: monitoring DG ENV's job quotas and oversee all staff allocation decisions, ensuring that the resources are used efficiently and according to the DG's priorities. It will aim at high levels of staff engagement in terms of staff's emotional, cognitive and physical connection to the job and organisation, and at timely recruitment of people with the necessary expertise in line with evolving needs. To enhance cohesion of its staff, DG ENV will pursue existing actions aiming to improve internal communication and staff engagement: maintain regular all-staff meetings dealing both with policy issues and human resources; further develop and maintain networks among peers, particularly the newly created ENV AST network, and organise "legacy talks" with the aim of transmitting knowledge, for example by colleagues leaving the DG. An all-staff away day will be organised by the new Director-General in view of discussing the policy priorities and working methods of the DGs.

DG ENV will continue to offer support and tailor-made programmes in the field of learning and development to help staff develop skills and knowledge that contribute not only to the DG's work but also to personal development. Teambuilding and tailor-made coaching sessions will be encouraged. Furthermore, DG ENV will promote mobility inside and outside the DG to allow staff to renew motivation and work in areas where they can best put their talents to use. The HRC team will also focus on revamping the onboarding programme for newcomers, including twice a year dedicated welcome sessions, mentoring schemes, "on the job coaching", and introductory meetings with the senior management and the HRC team. DG ENV will continue making the necessary adjustments to achieve the corporate 2% redeployment target for 2026.

On 1/11/2025, 43.5% of middle managers in DG ENV were female. To ensure equal opportunities, DG ENV will continue to observe gender balance during the recruitment process, with a special focus on first appointments to management positions. [Annex 2](#) gives an overview of the main outputs for 2026 related to human resource management.

B. Digital transformation and data management

Digital Culture: In 2025, 23 % of staff in DG ENV had followed at least one IT training, which the DG aims to increase in 2026. DG ENV will focus on advancing digital skills and cybersecurity awareness. This includes ongoing general IT training and digital workplace awareness sessions. The "Digital Pills" sessions will continue throughout the year targeting all the staff, while specific periodic "cybersecurity awareness" programmes will be crafted for newcomers, fostering a robust digital culture across the organisation.

Digital-ready Policymaking (DRPM): After establishing the digital-ready policymaking local support in 2025, DG ENV's IT, digital and data teams are intensifying their role in the DG's digital transformation for 2026. The goal is to conduct thorough interoperability assessments of policy initiatives with digital impacts, as mandated by the Interoperable Europe Act, to ensure digital requirements are appropriately embedded into legal texts and properly aligned with EU digital frameworks. Digital-by-design policy making will be part of the Circular Economy Act proposal and the revision of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Throughout the year, DG ENV will host DRPM awareness-raising activities for policy officers.

Digital transformation at DG ENV is business-driven, with the IT team focused on enhancing business processes through digital modeling and automation. Development of tools like DECLARE and the ENV Data platform, both hosted on DIGIT-managed services, will accelerate innovative approaches and increase AI integration from several existing sources. This will help consolidate and align efforts with corporate digital principles such as digital-by-default and the once-only initiative, while increasing interoperability through the implementation of more APIs. Designated AI champions within the DG will continue to support and encourage colleagues to integrate AI into their daily work, making use of corporate AI solutions like GPT@EC. An emphasis will remain on flagship projects like EUDR and the Waste Shipment Regulation, with the aim to boost DG ENV's capabilities in managing large-scale, data-driven legislative solutions.

Seamless Digital Environment: With cloud migration initiated in 2025 (*increased to 23% of IT systems*), the goal for 2026 is to have major DG ENV-managed IT systems integrated into the EC Cloud. This will modernise the DG's IT architecture, phasing outdated platforms in favour of more efficient local or corporate solutions. DG ENV is committed to leveraging and enhancing existing DIGIT cloud solutions, including the secure deployment of new cloud workloads in line with the new EC Cloud Security Controls Baseline (CSCB) and the principles and rules concerning outsourcing of Cloud Infrastructure Services and the EC Managed Landing Zone. In the case that DG ENV chooses to onboard any SNC data into the cloud, it will adhere to the Cloud Council's recommendations regarding the management of SNC data in IaaS and PaaS, while continually improving the security posture of current cloud deployments.

Green, Secure, and Resilient Infrastructure: DG ENV's efforts to enhance a green, secure, and resilient infrastructure include promoting any relevant corporate or local campaigns on greening and security. The DG aims to preserve its 2025 above-average cybersecurity maturity, with security awareness seamlessly embedded across all activities. Through the regular monthly and quarterly Local Information Security Officer (LISO) Reports, both the DG and LISO will continue to play significant roles in implementing the EC Cybersecurity Strategy, ensuring

alignment with the broader goals of the European Commission's cybersecurity objectives. Its legislative initiatives are generally sustainability-focused and often involve the setting up or operation of digital elements, such as the digital product passport and waste recycling.

Data management and protection

The data management approach in DG Environment covers the four dimensions management, ownership, quality, and skills. In 2026 it will continue to focus on **integrating corporate requirements** within the existing data, information and knowledge governance of the DG. Ad-hoc meetings of the group of Data, Information and Knowledge (DIKM) correspondents will continue to take place to discuss **strategic aspects** and new initiatives in data management, looking in particular at potential solutions for information currently ungoverned, how to handle new data flows and how to maximise the potential and reach of existing information management tools.

DG ENV's data maturity level is overall "established", with some aspects in need of further development (to keep pace with the fast developments in this field). Practices are established for data management, ownership and responsibilities, and data quality. Data skills in DG ENV are robust and developing continuously. DG ENV systematically collects information on data sets, including on the data owners and stewards, relevant for recurring corporate exercises such as the update of the EC Data Catalogue, or the calculation of the indicator on data maturity. Metadata is recorded for a number of datasets, and the tendency is expected to increase. Staff has been encouraged in the past to take corporate training on data management. DG ENV will continue to showcase best practice solutions in discussions and exchanges with other DGs.

Further steps will be taken to raise awareness and ensure full **compliance with the Personal Data Protection Regulation**. The DG Data Protection Coordinator will be consulted in case of data subject rights requests and the DG's Controllers will document their operations. DG Environment will regularly review and improve, in cooperation with the Data Protection Officer, the DG's data protection records and privacy statements. An inventory of external processors agreements has been established and kept up to date.

Local training and coaching sessions on records management, personal data protection and information security will continue to be organised, with particular attention to the correct use of the sensitive personal data flag for documents registered in Ares. The DG will also encourage staff participation in the Commission's centrally organised in-depth trainings. [Annex 2](#) gives an overview of the main outputs for 2026 related to digital transformation and data management.

C. Sound financial management

DG Environment ensures close collaboration with and supervision of the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency**, which implements around 85% of the LIFE Programme 2021-27, as well as the legacy of the previous LIFE programme. The funds administered directly by DG Environment are implemented in direct or indirect management mode, through procurement, contributions to the European Environment Agency and the

European Chemicals Agency, grants and contribution agreements with international organisations. **The risk of payment-related errors is considered very low** given the nature of payments, the ex-ante controls in place and the historical error rates observed.

In 2026, DG Environment will continue implementing the LIFE Multiannual Work Programme for 2025-2027, in collaboration with the other LIFE implementing partners (DGs Climate Action and Energy). In view of preparing the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034, DG ENV will contribute to the cost-benefit analysis for the implementation of programmes in direct management, under the lead of DGs Budget, Human Resources, and the Secretariat-General. New IT tools will continue impacting workflows and training needs, with the growing use of **My Workplace**, the corporate IT tool for procurement, which will be fully used for open calls from 2026 onwards.

DG Environment's control systems are primarily audited by the **Internal Audit Service**. The **European Court of Auditors** also performs checks of financial transactions and accounts and carries out performance audits which assess whether EU-funded programmes, policies, and institutions achieve their intended results in an effective, efficient, and economical manner. As regards the follow-up of the European Court of Auditors recommendations, a new IT tool called **RESPOND** will be rolled out by DG Budget in 2026. [Annex 2](#) gives an overview of the main outputs for 2026 related to sound financial management.

D. Fraud risk management

DG Environment has developed and implemented its **anti-fraud strategy (AFS)** since 2013, based on the methodology provided by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). It is updated every three years and was last updated in November 2024. The AFS is in line with the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy and contributes to the implementation of the related action plan of 2023 ⁽¹⁾. It contains several actions, among them: increasing fraud awareness and trainings, use of IT tools to avoid plagiarism, reinforcement of cooperation with the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) on anti-fraud matters, further cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor, inclusion of anti-fraud issues in the recruitment policy and reinforcement of anti-fraud in indirect management. The updated AFS also includes the development of a fully-fledged policy on conflict of interests. By 2024, 70% of actions included in DG ENV's AFS had been implemented.

For the year 2026, DG ENV wants to follow the same path and keep on advancing on fraud awareness and in particular the full implementation of the AFS.

DG ENV will continue reinforcing cooperation with CINEA on anti-fraud matters and following up recommendations from OLAF and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (including reporting on their implementation). It will again organise trainings for both DG ENV and CLIMA to raise awareness of the AFS and ensure its full implementation. Anti-fraud awareness measures will be included in indirect management and a policy on conflict of interests will be further developed. [Annex 2](#) gives an overview of the main outputs for 2026 related to fraud risk management.

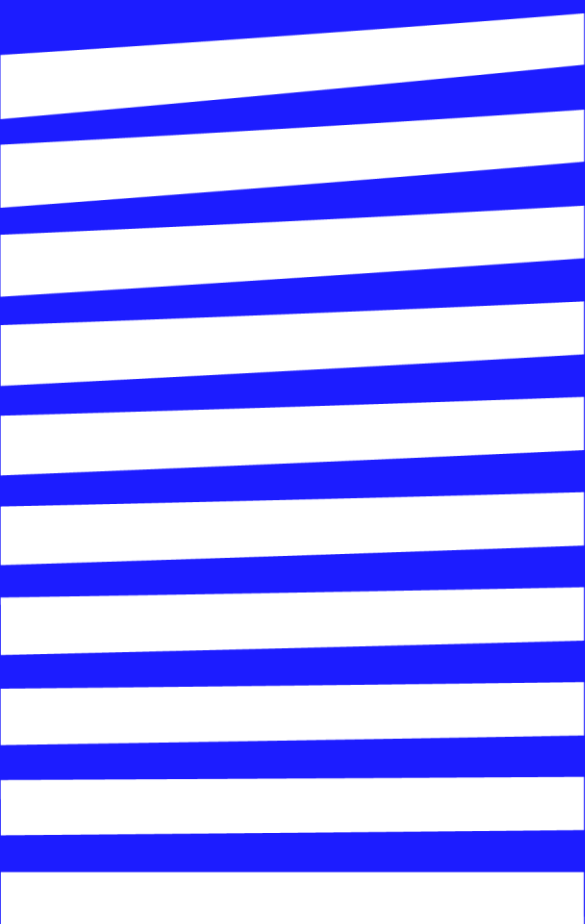
E. Sound environmental management

Emissions from staff travel have been reduced from 751,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2019 to 291,000 tonnes in 2025. While this figure is preliminary, DG ENV is thus already close to the 2030 target of 50% reduction. DG ENV plans to reduce them by a further 5 percentage points each year. It will continue implementing the local **EMAS action plan** adopted in 2019, raising awareness and providing staff with adequate equipment to reduce their footprint (see Annex 2 Section E). Further actions to increase staff awareness will include calls to participate in the Velomai bike to work campaign, a call for volunteers for **Greener Travel Ambassadors for sustainable business travel**, and a spring-cleaning litter removal in the building's surroundings and neighbouring parks. DG ENV will continue greening of its building's courtyard with more trees.

In 2026, the DG will further exploit the environmental management possibilities offered by the **dynamic collaborative space**, focusing on further paper and waste reduction and recycling, and promoting the use of tap water. With regards to missions, the DG will continue opting for virtual meetings, where appropriate. To help reduce the Commission's digital footprint through email traffic, DG Environment will further promote document sharing on the corporate collaboration platforms under M365. In line with the **2022 Public Procurement Vademecum**, DG Environment actively promotes greening its procurement by including sustainability aspects in its procurement procedures, while also looking to increase the number of procedures using green award criteria. Event organisers and partners are encouraged to use environmentally friendly materials before and during the event, respecting the paperless and plastic-free guidance. [Annex 2](#) gives an overview of the main outputs for 2026 related to sound environmental management.





ANNEXES



ANNEX 1: Performance tables – delivering on Commission priorities in 2026

Initiatives in the 2026 Commission Work Programme are denoted with this icon: 

General objective 1: <i>Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness</i>		
Specific Objective 1: <i>The EU circular economy optimises the value of resources thanks to a well-functioning single market for waste and secondary raw materials, increasingly sustainable products and services</i>		
<i>Related to spending programmes: LIFE, Single Market Programme</i>		
Main outputs in 2026:		
New policy initiatives		
Output	Indicator	Target
Circular Economy Act 	Adoption	Q3 2026
Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction		
Output	Indicator	Target
Circular Economy Act 	Adoption	Q3 2026
European SME Sustainability Service Programme	Launch	Q2 2026
Evaluations and fitness checks – part of the stress testing of the EU acquis		
Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluation of the Single-use Plastics Directive	Conclusion	Q2 2026
Major implementation activities and enforcement actions		
Output	Indicator	Target
Delegated Regulation for methodology for calculation and verification of recycled content in industrial batteries, electric vehicle batteries, LMT batteries and SLI batteries	Adoption	Q3 2026
Implementing Act on the methodology for the calculation and verification of recycled content in packaging	Adoption	Q4 2026

Output	Indicator	Target
Delegated Regulation for methodology for calculation and verification of recycled content in industrial batteries, electric vehicle batteries, LMT batteries and SLI batteries	Adoption	Q3 2026
Delegated Act on sustainability criteria for plastic recycling technologies.	Adoption	Q4 2026
Implementing act on harmonized labels for: 1. sorting of packaging waste and for waste receptacles. 2. Deposit and Return Systems. 3. Resuable packaging. 4. Recycled content. 5. Bio-based content.	Adoption	Q3 2026
Delegated Act on sustainability criteria for plastic recycling technologies.	Adoption	Q4 2026
2026 Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement	Adoption	Q4 2026
Ecodesign and energy labelling requirements for professional dishwashers and washing machines (two separate acts)	Adoption	Q4 2026
Other major outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Circular Economy Conference April 2026	Conference held	April 2026
General objective 1: Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness		
Specific Objective 2: A more circular bioeconomy enhances resource efficiency and resilience in the EU by leveraging the potential of innovation, secondary bio-based materials, and the sustainable production of primary resources		
Main outputs in 2026:		
Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction		
Output	Indicator	Target
Bioeconomy Regulators' Forum	Launch/first meeting	Q3 2026
Other major outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Biomade Europe Alliance	Launch	Q4 2026

General objective 1: *Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness*

Specific Objective 3: *Industrial emissions into air, soil and water are reduced through the effective application of EU environmental acquis, supported by innovation and investments and for the use of best available techniques*

Related to spending programme: LIFE, Horizon Europe, Cohesion funds

Main outputs in 2026:

Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission implementing act establishing uniform conditions for operating rules for the activities listed in Annex Ia (livestock)	Adoption	Q3 2026
Commission implementing decision as regards the reporting and reciprocal exchange of information and reporting on ambient air quality	Adoption	Q4 2026

Major implementation activities and enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Industrial Emissions Registry reporting procedures, with particular attention to new provisions and newly impacted sectors	Adoption	Q1 2026
Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook	Publication	Q4 2026
5 th Clean Air Outlook	Publication	Q4 2026
Commission implementing decision to provide technical details for air quality modelling applications and for determining the spatial representativeness of sampling points	Adoption	Q2 2026
Commission implementing decision on the requirements for projections and on information to be included in implementation reports for the purpose of Article 18 of the Ambient Air Quality Directive	Adoption	Q4 2026
2026 Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement	Adoption	Q4 2026
Best available techniques (BAT) conclusions, under Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial and livestock rearing emissions, for the ceramic industry	Adoption	Q4 2026

Other major outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Digitally powered green transition conference	Conference held	Q4 2026
General objective 4: <i>Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature</i> Specific Objective 4: <i>Europe's ecosystems and natural capital are restored and protected through efficient implementation of the EU environmental acquis, supported by incentives for nature-positive actions and private investment</i> <i>Related to spending programme: LIFE, InvestEU, agricultural and cohesion funds</i>		
Main outputs in 2026:		
New policy initiatives		
Output	Indicator	Target
Communication on wildfire risk management	Adoption	Q1 2026
Evaluations and fitness checks – part of the stress testing of the EU acquis		
Output	Indicator	Target
Nitrates Directive Evaluation	Conclusion	Q1 2026
Evaluation of the Regulation on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Materials in the field of biodiversity	Conclusion	Q4 2026
Implementation dialogues and significant reality checks		
Output	Indicator	Target
Nature Dialogues	Number of dialogues	3
Implementation Dialogue with agriculture stakeholders on relevant environmental legislation	Conclusion	Q1 2026
Major implementation activities and enforcement actions		
Output	Indicator	Target
State of Nature Report	Publication	Q4 2026
2026 Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement	Adoption	Q4 2026
Implementing Decisions on the updates of the lists of Natura2000 sites of Community importance for biogeographical regions	Adoption	Q4 2026

Other major outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
European Green Week – Nature, investment and growth	Event has taken place	June 2026
General objective 4: <i>Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature</i> Specific Objective 5: <i>Access to clean water is increasingly secured thanks to better water management practices and infrastructure, improved water efficiency and more sustainable water use</i> <i>Related to spending programme: LIFE, agricultural and cohesion funds</i>		
Main outputs in 2026:		
Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction		
Output	Indicator	Target
Revision of Marine Strategy Framework Directive	Adoption	Q4/2026
Revision of the Water Framework Directive	Adoption	Q2 2026
Implementation dialogues and significant reality checks		
Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation dialogue on elements of the EU water acquis	Conclusion	Q3 2026
Major implementation activities and enforcement actions		
Output	Indicator	Target
Digital Action Plan for the Water Sector (communication)	Adoption	Q4 2026
Harmonised methodology for measuring antimicrobial resistance in urban wastewaters (implementing act)	Adoption	Q2 2026
Implementing act under the Groundwater Directive to establish a list of pesticides metabolites	Adoption	Q4 2026
Water Resilience Platform	Launch	Q3 2026

General objective 6: *A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships*

Specific Objective 6: *The EU builds coalitions with strategic partners and like-minded countries, through leading progress on global environmental issues and close cooperation with partner countries impacted by EU environmental policy*

Related to spending programme: LIFE, NDICI

Main outputs in 2026:

Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Implementing Regulation replacing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1850 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1007/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on trade in seal products	Adoption	Q2 2026
Fitness check on the EU's seal products trade regime	Conclusion	Q3 2026

Major implementation activities and enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Outreach to third countries on global environmental issues with a particular focus on partner countries impacted by EU environmental policy	At least 10 dialogues (in addition to broader outreach events)	Q1-Q4 2026
Commission Regulation revising the Annexes to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97, to include species in line with changes to the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora following CITES CoP20	Adoption	Q1 2026

Other major outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Representation of EU position in UNCCD COP-17	Development and consolidation of EU position and representing EU in the meetings	Throughout 2026
Representation of EU position in CBD COP-17	Development and consolidation of EU position and representing EU in the meetings	Throughout 2026
Representation of EU position in negotiations on international plastics agreement	Development and consolidation of EU position and representing EU in the meetings	Throughout 2026
Representation of EU position in IWC-70	Development and consolidation of EU position and representing EU in the meetings	Throughout 2026
Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the EU in the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals as regards proposals from various parties to amend the Appendices to that Convention.	Adoption	Q1 2026
General objective 6: <i>A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships</i>		
Specific Objective 7: <i>The EU supports the preparations of candidate countries to assume obligations under the environmental acquis</i>		
Main outputs in 2026:		
Other major outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
High Level outreach/engagement on Chapter 27 (Environment) negotiations and accession obligations with candidate countries.	Organisation of Enlargement Ministerial meeting with candidate countries (Western Balkans, Ukraine, Moldova)	Second half of 2026

ANNEX 2: Performance tables – A modern and sustainable public administration

A. Human resource management

Objective: DG Environment employs a skilled, diverse and motivated workforce to deliver on the Commission's priorities.		
Main outputs in 2026:		
Output	Indicator	Target
All-staff meetings on policy and HR related issues	Number of meetings / Number of participants	Three times in 2026, with participation of 60% of all staff (cumulated virtual and in-person participation)
Dedicated welcome sessions to onboard new staff	Number of sessions	Two in 2026
Dedicated events organised by the ENV's AST network on exchanging of best practise and / or improving working methods	Number of meetings of the ENV's AST network	6 meetings in 2026
Team events organised at all levels (unit, Directorate, DG level)	Staff participation in team events	At least 40% of all staff participate in at least one team event
Learning & Development courses targeting specific needs of the DG	Satisfaction with the specific courses offered to DG staff	Satisfaction rate with L&D offers above 70%
Management appointments closely monitored to ensure gender balance	Overall appointments by gender	November 2025: 43.5% female middle managers. Target: Gender balance
Shortlists for first management appointments including female candidates, as much as possible	Relative proportion of male and female candidates in shortlists	Gender balance in shortlists for first management appointments

B. Digital transformation and data management

Objective: DG Environment is using innovative, trusted digital solutions for better policymaking, data management and administrative processes to create a digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven Commission.

Main outputs in 2026:

Digital Transformation

Output		Indicator	Target
Digital culture		Training courses on IT-related topics organised by the DG	6
Digital skills		% of staff having followed at least one IT training	Baseline: 23% Target: 33%
Seamless digital environment		% of IT systems owned by the department using (any) cloud infrastructure service	Baseline: 23% Target: 50%
EUDR information system		Under active and stable usage as mandated by the legislation	All 2026
Waste Shipment Regulation information system		Deployed in production and under active and stable usage as mandated by the legislation	Q2 2026
Digital Ready Policy making		Implementation of Digital Checks across all DG ENV legislative proposals	100% new legislative proposals checked
Cybersecurity - IT Security plans		Percentage of communication and information systems with updated security plan	Baseline: 90% Target: 100%
Cybersecurity - IT Priority controls		Percentage of compliance of the communication and information systems with the IT Priority controls, including the MFA/EU-Login control	Baseline: 100% Target: 100%
AI initiatives		Number of AI initiatives recorded in GovIS	3
AI champions		Number of AI champions	3
Cybersecurity culture		Average participation rate in Cyber awareness training	Above 30%
Cybersecurity culture		phishing email click rate	Below 19%
Cybersecurity culture		phishing reporting rate	Above 40%

Data Management		
Output	Indicator	Target
Data management	Number of data assets in the corporate catalogue	All locally-identified ones
Data Management	Continue to focus on integrating corporate requirements, with one focus in 2026 on AI	Ad-hoc Meetings of DG ENVs Data, Information and Knowledge Management Group
Data Protection		
Output	Indicator	Target
Percentage of revised Data Protection Records over the period 2025-2026	DG ENV published 10 records in the DPO registry. Records will be reviewed following organisational changes or updates in the processing of personal data and to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Regulation.	100 %

C. Sound financial management

Objective: The authorising officer by delegation has reasonable assurance that resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and that cost-effective controls are in place which give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of underlying transactions.

Main outputs in 2026

Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: legal and regular transactions	Estimated risk at payment	remains < 2% of relevant expenditure
	Estimated risk at closure	remains < 2% of relevant expenditure
Effective controls: safeguarding of assets	Number of security incidents confirmed by the CSIRC	0
Effective controls: safeguarding of information	Number of personal data breaches with risk to the rights and freedoms of the data subjects	0
Efficient controls	Budget execution and timely payments	Execution remains close to 100% both for commitments and payment appropriations, while > 97% of payments are made on time (in value).
Economy of controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	remains < 5% of funds managed

D. Fraud risk management

Objective: The risk of fraud is minimised through the application of effective anti-fraud measures and the implementation of the Commission anti-fraud strategy ⁽¹⁾ aimed at the prevention, detection and correction ⁽²⁾ of fraud.

Main outputs in 2026:

Output	Indicator	Target
Systematic cooperation with CINEA to fight against fraud and irregularities	Meetings between DG Environment and CINEA with a focus on fraud related matters and anti-fraud actions, as well as addressing irregularities (DG Environment facilitation of enforced recoveries)	At least two coordination meetings to be held during the first and second semester
Supervision of potential fraudulent cases and cooperation in tackling them jointly (DG Environment, Legal Service, OLAF, European Public Prosecutor's Office and CINEA)	Meetings with OLAF and with the EPPO and subsequent follow-up of the identified issues	Throughout the year
Training and information on anti-fraud matters	Organisation of workshop(s) Inclusion of training / information in Newcomers' courses	Regular information to Newcomers on anti-fraud matters. Update of the Intranet on anti-fraud.
Reporting to OLAF on the state of play of implementation of both financial and non-financial recommendations	Written contributions	One contribution at the beginning of the year on the state of play of recoveries on the basis of fraud and one contribution at the end of the year on any administrative and financial penalties
Fraud awareness measures will be developed into indirect management	Written contributions	In the communication material with partners under indirect management we will develop measures to ensure full awareness on prevention and tackling of fraud.
An internal policy on conflict of interests will be developed	Written contributions	In line with the AFS, DG ENV will develop a practical internal guide with FAQ before end 2026.

⁽¹⁾ Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget', COM(2019) 176; Communication from the Commission "Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy Action plan - revision 2023" [COM\(2023\) 405](#) - "the Communication on the 2023 revision" – and the accompanying revised action plan [SWD\(2023\)245](#).

⁽²⁾ Correction of fraud' is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.

E. Sound environmental management

Objective: Reaching climate neutrality by 2030 and a reduced environmental footprint for the Commission.

Main outputs in 2026

Output	Indicator	Target
Actions to reduce emissions from staff missions	Percentage of reduction of emissions from staff emissions	For 2026: a further annual 5% reduction compared to 2019 value. (-50% from 2019 to as soon as possible before 2030)
Emissions from experts' travel under the administrative budget	Percentage of reduction of emissions from reimbursed experts travel, approximated by the number of experts reimbursed	For 2026: a further annual 5% reduction compared to 2019 value (-50% from 2019 to as soon as possible before 2030)
Energy saving actions	% of Department buildings participating in the annual BEST energy saving actions	100% (1 building)
Staff awareness actions	Number of staff awareness actions in line with EMAS/greening corporate campaigns	At least two actions organised in the office.
Sustainable events	% Department's events, incorporating the EC Guidelines for sustainable events	100%

