



# Management Plan 2016

DG ENVIRONMENT

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## **PART 1. Overview of main outputs for the year**

In 2016 DG Environment is planning a number of initiatives to implement the 7<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme, contributing to the Commission's political priorities, as set out in President Juncker's political guidelines. DG Environment will notably take action to advance the green economy, conclude the fitness check on EU nature legislation and propose follow-up action, set out an Action Plan to combat international wildlife trafficking, address the implementation gap that prevents Europe's citizens from reaping the full benefits of environment legislation and pursue an ambitious Better Regulation policy, *inter alia* by carrying out a broad review of environmental reporting. Together with other DGs, DG Environment will also contribute to the Commission's new approach to ensure Europe's economic growth and social and environmental stability, delivering on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through both the internal and external policies of the EU.

### ***Green Economy***

Moving towards the circular economy by launching the implementation of the Action Plan adopted in December 2015 and agreeing new rules for waste treatment and recycling will be a critical step in the transition to a green economy with its potential for jobs and growth. Commissioners for *Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries*, and for *Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs*, will lead the work on many aspects while a number of elements will fall under the leadership of several other Commissioners, notably on eco-design and energy labelling

Exploring effective financing to support the transition to the circular economy and enable the implementation of the SDGs will be essential and will be the core topic for Green Week 2016 as well as in the Forum on Eco-innovation. Maximising the energy potential of waste and enhancing the effectiveness of the EMAS and Eco-label regulations following their REFITs will also be important aspects.

Disseminating best practices on eco-innovation, supporting eco-innovative SMEs, continuing work on Environmental Technology Verification, Product Environmental Footprints, Green Public Procurement, removing hazardous chemicals from the value chain and addressing exchange of information and material-efficient recycling are among the activities that will contribute to making the circular economy a reality.

In addition, better implementation of waste legislation in the Member States will be a necessary prerequisite to underpin the circular economy and monitoring of the waste prevention programmes and waste management plans of the Member States as well as exchange of good practice in waste collection systems will be important in that context.

Furthermore, initiatives will be prepared to promote compliance with EU legislation on end-of-life vehicles, electrical and electronic waste and extractive waste. Enforcement of the waste shipment Regulation will be stepped up, including facilitating waste shipments *inter alia* through electronic data exchange. The early warning mechanism to identify the Member States that are at risk of missing the 2020 recycling target in

the Waste Framework Directive will also be activated. Finally, more widespread use of best available techniques (BAT) will support the greening of industry and contribute to the circular economy.

### ***Natural Capital***

The Birds and Habitats Directives are key elements of the regulatory framework protecting the natural capital which underpins our economic growth. Finalising the fitness check conclusions and proposing follow up action to will be key deliverables for 2016. Building on the wide consultation conducted in 2015 which generated an unprecedented level of interest across the EU, we will set out the next steps to ensure that the challenges to biodiversity as highlighted in the *Mid-term Review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy* and the European Environment Agency's *State of the Environment Report* can be effectively addressed. In that context, we will deepen our knowledge base, continue to develop natural capital accounting and explore how to guarantee that development projects, plans, programmes and policies are positive or at least neutral in terms of biodiversity impact and that the protection, conservation and improvement of land is balanced with the socio-economic benefits from its use. The adoption of the first list of invasive alien species of EU concern will constitute an important step forward in tackling one of the most important threats to biodiversity.

As part of the efforts to protect global biodiversity we will propose an action plan to combat wildlife trafficking, promote strict rules for trade in endangered species at the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species in South Africa and contribute to a successful 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Mexico.

### ***Environment-related Pressures and Risks to Health***

A successful conclusion to the inter-institutional discussions on the air package will be an important goal for 2016 to improve public health. The conclusion of the Minamata Convention to reduce mercury emissions and ensuring that the Environmental Noise Directive is fit for purpose will also contribute.

Analysing the second set of river basin management plans will reveal how close European freshwaters are to achieving good ecological status, which will provide vital information for the review of the water legislation to be carried out by 2019. Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive<sup>1</sup> (MSFD) will be strengthened by the revised Decision on Good Environmental Status thus contributing to better governance of the EU's seas. Clarifying how nano-materials are addressed by REACH, reviewing how the Commission Recommendation on unconventional hydrocarbons reduces environmental risks, improves transparency and protects public health and further reducing water pollution will also be on the agenda.

### ***Making it Happen***

Better compliance promotion and implementation can only be achieved by working closer and better with the Member States, with the Commission focussing on structural and significant issues and cases. Member States' efforts to secure

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2008/56 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy

compliance will be supported by rolling out an overview of the implementation of EU environmental laws and policies, which will build on information already flowing from the European Semester process among others. This aims at identifying key implementation gaps and their root causes with a view to creating political momentum in the Member States to address them. Better compliance assurance and access to justice will support this exercise.

In addition to those already mentioned, REFIT evaluations will also be conducted on legal instruments covering drinking water, emissions of volatile organic compounds and emissions from large European industrial facilities. Moreover, a comprehensive environment policy wide review of reporting requirements will be undertaken in order to ensure that an up to date and efficient digital reporting framework is in place to support the implementation and further development of environment policy in the EU.

We will continue our policy of promoting sustainable urban environments through the 'European Green Capital' award, which will be complemented for the second time by a 'Green Leaf' award for smaller-sized cities.

An active policy of international outreach will help create a level playing field and ensure that European companies can benefit from green market opportunities beyond the EU market. DG Environment will also pursue its policy to combat illegal logging and associated trade building on the review of the EU Timber Regulation and Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan.

#### **LIFE**

With the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises now in charge of projects from the latest LIFE programme, DG Environment will support Integrated Projects, as well as ongoing projects from earlier LIFE programmes until their closure.

### **Presentation of main outputs by Specific Objective**

The principal items which will be adopted and addressed in the course of 2016 are set out below.

<b>Relevant General Objective: General Objective 1: A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>		
<b>-- All Specific Objectives below contribute to General Objective 1 --</b>		
<b>Specific Objective 1 : The economy of the EU is resource-efficient, green and competitive</b>		Related to spending programme(s): LIFE
<b>Main outputs in 2016:</b>		
<b>Policy-related outputs</b>		
Description	Indicator	Target date
<b>Energy</b>		
Commission Communication on Exploiting the potential of waste to energy under the Energy Union Strategy (2016/ENV/086)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q4
Report on the effectiveness of Commission Recommendation 2014/70/EU on minimum principles for the exploration and	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2

production of hydrocarbons (such as shale gas) using high-volume hydraulic fracturing. (2015/ENV/021)		
<b>EMAS and Ecolabel</b>		
Fitness check of the Ecolabel and EMAS Regulations (2015/ENV/005)	Fitness check completed	2016 Q2
Commission Decisions with revised EU Ecolabel product group criteria for several categories of products (2016/ENV/029, 031, 033)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2-Q4
Commission Decision on the EMAS Sectoral Reference Document for the construction sector (2015/ENV/039).	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2
<b>Hazardous substances</b>		
Commission Delegated Acts for exemptions from restrictions of hazardous substances (RoHS)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q1-Q4
Legislative proposal on the scope of the Directive on the restrictions on hazardous substances (RoHS) (2012/ENV/009)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2
<b>Electrical and Electronic Waste</b>		
Report on the review of the WEEE scope (2016/EN/013)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2
Report on the WEEE re-examination of collection rate deadlines and possibly setting individual collection rates (2016/EN/013)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2
<b>Waste shipments, Vehicles, Mining waste</b>		
Implementing Regulation on the implementation of electronic data exchange on waste shipments (2016/ENV/051)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q4
7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Amendment to Directive on End of Life vehicles (2016/ENV/054 and 097)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2 and Q4
Report on the implementation of the Extractive Waste (2016/ENV/009)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2
<b>REACH, Nanomaterials</b>		
Implementing decisions under the REACH legislation on the evaluation and authorisation of chemicals	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2 to Q4
Commission Regulation amending Annex VII of REACH re standard information requirements for substances manufactured or imported in quantities of one tonne or more and of Annex VIII re quantities of 10 tonnes or more (2016/ENV+/020)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2
Amendments of the Annexes to REACH for registration of nanomaterials (2014/ENV+/013 )	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q3
<b>Other Chemicals, Mixtures, Non-toxic Environment</b>		
Recast of the Regulation on Persistent Organic Pollutants	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2
Commission Regulations amending Annex on classification and labelling requirements for hazardous substances and mixtures (2016/ENV/064)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2

Commission Regulation amending, for the purposes of its adaptation to technical and scientific progress, Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (2016/ENV/092)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q3
Follow-up to the Communication on Chemical Mixtures: Commission report on the progress in addressing combined exposure to chemicals (2015/ENV/010)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2
Delegated act amending the annexes on requirements for the establishments, care, accommodation and killing of animals (2016/ENV/054)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q4
<b>Communication / Supporting activities</b>		
Organisation of Green Week - financing the circular economy	Successful Event	2016
European Business Award for the Environment	Awarded	2016
<b>Main expenditure outputs</b>		
Description	Indicator	Target date
Relevant projects of the LIFE programme	Estimated amount / number of outputs <sup>2</sup>	2016
Integrated projects	35 million EUR / 4	
Technical Assistance projects	0.4 million EUR / 3	
Traditional projects	78 million EUR / 56	
Preparatory projects Public procurement (€ 14.7 million, 50)	0.8 million EUR / 2	

<b>Specific Objective 2 : The Union's natural capital is protected, conserved and enhanced</b>		Related to spending programme(s): LIFE
<b>Main outputs in 2016:</b>		
<b>Policy-related outputs</b>		
Description	Indicator	Target date
<b>Nature / Biodiversity</b>		
Conclusion of the fitness check of the EU nature legislation Birds and Habitats Directives (2015/ENV/003)	Fitness check completed	2016 Q2
Commission Implementing Regulation updating the list of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern pursuant to Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 (2016/ENV/090)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q4
Organisation of the Natura 2000 Award Scheme	Awarded	2016 Q2
Work Programme on natural capital accounting	Established by services	2016 Q2
<b>Marine Environment</b>		
Report on the assessment of monitoring programmes under Article 12 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2015/ENV/018)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2
Report on the assessment of programmes of measures under Article 16 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2016/ENV/076)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q4

<sup>2</sup> Together with Specific Objective 3 (Environment-related pressures)

Commission Decision laying down criteria and methodological standards on Good Environmental Status for Marine Waters and specifications and standardised methods for monitoring and assessment, and repealing Decision 2010/477/EU (2016/ENV/080)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2
Commission Directive replacing Annex III (Indicative lists of characteristics, pressures and impacts for the assessment of the environmental status) to Directive 2008/56/EC, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2016/ENV/085)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2
<b>Main expenditure outputs</b>		
Description	Indicator	Target date
Relevant projects of the LIFE programme	Estimated amount / number of outputs	2016
Integrated projects	44.2 million EUR / 4	
Technical Assistance projects	0.4 million EUR / 3	
Traditional projects	95 million EUR / 68	
Preparatory projects	1 million EUR / 3	
Projects funded by financial instrument	10 million EUR / 2	
Public procurement	6.6 million EUR / 22)	

<b>Specific Objective 3: The Union's citizens are safeguarded from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being</b>	Related to spending programme(s): LIFE	
<b>Main outputs in 2016:</b>		
<b>Policy-related outputs</b>		
Description	Indicator	Target date
<b>Water Quality and Flood management</b>		
REFIT evaluation of the Drinking Water Directive (2015/ENV/041)	Fitness check completed	2016 Q1
Assessment of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> River Basin Management Plans and Flood risk management plans	Plans assessed	2016 Q4
Reports on Bathing Water, Drinking Water & Urban Waste Water Treatment Directives	Adoption by the Commission	2016 / 2017
<b>Industrial and other Emissions</b>		
Proposal for a Council Decision on the Conclusion of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (2014/ENV/014)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q1
Proposal for a Regulation of the EP and of the Council on mercury and repealing Regulation (EC) N. 1102/2008 (adaptation of the EU acquis to the requirements of the Minamata Convention) (2016/ENV/094)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q1
Commission Implementing Decision establishing the best available techniques conclusions for Common Waste Water and Waste Gas Treatment/Management Systems in the Chemical Sector (2015/ENV/063)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q1
Commission Implementing Decision establishing the best available techniques conclusions for the Non-Ferrous Metals Industries	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q1



(2015/ENV/061)	Commission	
Conclusion of and follow-up to the REFIT Evaluation of Regulation (EC) No 166/2006 concerning the establishment of a European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) (2016/ENV/062)	Refit evaluation completed	2016 Q4
<b>Noise</b>		
REFIT evaluation of the Environmental Noise Directive(2016/ENV/065)	Refit evaluation completed	2016 Q4
<b>Main expenditure outputs</b>		
Description	Indicator	Target date
Relevant projects of the LIFE programme <sup>3</sup>		

<b>Specific Objective 4 : There is an enabling framework for environmental policy, based on smart implementation, a strong knowledge and evidence base, investment, and improved environmental integration and policy coherence</b>		Related to spending programme(s): LIFE
<b>Main outputs in 2016:</b>		
<b>Policy-related outputs</b>		
Description	Indicator	Target date
<b>Better Implementation</b>		
Environmental Implementation Review Communication (2016/ENV/088) / First review process	Adoption by the Commission / First review launched	2016 Q2 / 2016 Q4
Legal enforcement, infringements, co-operation with relevant professional networks	Better implementation	2016 Q1-Q4
Report and REFIT evaluation of the Environmental Liability Directive (2014/ENV/001)	Refit evaluation completed / Report adopted by the Commission	2016 Q2
Report on the application of the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (2016/ENV/073)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q4
Contribution to EU 2020 Semester Process	Completion	2016
<b>Streamlined Reporting and Data management</b>		
Report and REFIT evaluation of the INSPIRE Directive (2014/ENV/007)	Report adopted by the Commission / Evaluation completed	2016 Q2
Staff Working Document (SWD) setting out the strategy of the Environmental Reporting Initiative (2016/ENV/084)	SWD transmitted to the institutions	2016 Q2
Proposal for a Directive repealing Council Directive 91/692/EEC, the Standardised Reporting Directive (2016/ENV/089)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2
<b>Main expenditure outputs</b>		

<sup>3</sup> Together with Specific Objective 1(to turn the EU into a resource-efficient, green and competitive economy)

Description	Indicator	Target date
Relevant projects of the LIFE programme	Estimated amount / number of outputs	2016
Traditional projects	19 million EUR / 12	
NGOs	7 million EUR / 20	
Public procurement	30.6 million EUR / 62	

Specific Objective 5 : The Union's cities are more sustainable		Related to spending programme(s): LIFE
<b>Main outputs in 2016:</b>		
<b>Policy-related outputs</b>		
Description	Indicator	Target date
<b>Urban Environment</b>		
Green Capital Award	Awarded	2016
Green Leaf Award	Awarded	2016

Specific Objective 6: The Union is more effective in addressing international environmental challenges		Related to spending programme(s): LIFE
<b>Main outputs in 2016:</b>		
<b>Policy-related outputs</b>		
Description	Indicator	Target date
<b>Sustainable Development Goals<sup>4</sup></b>		
Follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Adoption of SDG indicators by UN, in line with EU position	2016
<b>Wildlife trafficking, Illegal logging, Environment and Trade</b>		
Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking (2015/ENV/087)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q1
Commission Regulations revising Annexes to CITES Council Regulation 338/97 to include species in the lists of wild fauna and flora (2015/ENV/028)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q1
Commission Implementing Regulation replacing Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/736 prohibiting the introduction into the Union of specimens of certain species of wild fauna and flora (CITES Suspension Regulation) (2016/ENV/091)	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q2
17 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species in South Africa	Successful CoP	2016 Q3
Bilateral co-operation with key EU trade and strategic partners on environmental issues, including specific focus on promoting the Circular Economy	Meetings held	2016
<b>Global Biodiversity and Genetic Resources</b>		

<sup>4</sup>Also relevant to the Commission's first priority (A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment), as recognised in Commission Work Programme 2016, COM(2015)610, and therefore also to DG Environment's Specific Objective 1 to turn the EU into a resource-efficient, green and competitive economy

13 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity	Successful CoP	2016
<b><i>International Environment Policy</i></b>		
Promotion of Environment in G7/G20 including G7 Environment Ministerial	Successful ministerial	2016
Preparation of COP19 of Barcelona Convention	Successful CoP	2016
Chairmanship over the HELCOM Convention (starting 1 July 2016)	Effective chairmanship	2016
Joint Declaration by India and the European Union on an Indo-European Water Partnership	Adoption by the Commission	2016 Q1

## **PART 2. Organisational management outputs for the year**

DG Environment has committed and dedicated staff. This was illustrated by last years' positive staff survey results. With its human and financial resources DG Environment aims to develop and implement an environmental policy framework that responds to environmental challenges within the EU and beyond, and which will improve the sustainability of economic processes and the health and well-being of citizens. The public interest and concern for environment remains high, as shown by the regular Euro-barometer survey. The DG is taking steps to achieve efficiency gains to manage the mandatory reductions in posts.

### **Examples of initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities of the DG**

- DG Environment will participate fully in ongoing discussions at Director-General level on efficiency gains in the area of HR, IT, Communication and logistics and will implement the agreed recommendations.
- Development of electronic workflows. The DG already plans to move to eSignatories in early 2016 for a faster and more efficient approval and circulation of documents. It will then examine opportunities for moving to paperless workflows for financial transactions. These initiatives aim to improve economy and efficiency with the reduction of paper circulations and will complement ongoing efforts at simplification of processes.
- A review of internal processes and working methods with a view to streamline procedures and reduce administrative burden will be completed in the first half of the year, leading to specific simplification recommendations to allow the DG to continue to function effectively with less human resources.

### **Presentation of main outputs for organisational management**

#### **A. Human Resource Management**

##### ***Talent management, developing skills and knowledge***

The DG's learning and development activities should help staff to develop skills and knowledge that contribute to the success of the DG's work. Consultation with a wide group of staff including Directors and Heads of Unit, led to the following priorities for future learning and development:

- A better understanding of the EU's economic priorities and where environment fits.
- A broader knowledge of environmental science and of developments in policy to help more coherent policy-making.
- Improved capacity in key processes, e.g. better regulation, impact assessments and stakeholder consultation and legislative process.
- Cultivate more skilful drafting and presenting skills where we use clear language to pass targeted messages.

### **Equal opportunities**

In the field of equal opportunities, the DG needs to improve the female representation in middle management. Therefore the DG will launch two development programmes for women administrator officials in 2016. One will be for those colleagues who are potentially close to a deputy or head of unit position. The second will be for more junior colleagues to encourage a longer –term perspective of moving into management.

### **Well-being**

On well-being DG Environment has had a series of serious well-being programmes, with activities aimed at prevention of toxic stress and burn-out such as sport and fitness activities, or good personal care (nutrition, sleep, meditation, etc).

**Objective: The DG deploys effectively its resources in support of the delivery of the Commission's priorities and core business, has a competent and engaged workforce, which is driven by an effective and gender-balanced management and which can deploy its full potential within supportive and healthy working conditions.**

**Main outputs in 2016:**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target date</b>
Development programmes for preparing women for management	2 programmes launched	By end 2016
Rate of vacant posts	Vacancies on average less than 5% on annual basis	By end 2016
In-house learning and development activities to make staff more efficient and skilled	List of programmes delivered	By end 2016
Programmes to promote wellbeing and preventive actions in relation to health	List of programmes offered	By end 2016
Timely completion and delivery of elements of staff appraisal and promotion exercise	To complete the exercises in the required timeline	To be set by DG HR

## **B. Financial Management: Internal control and Risk management**

**Objective: Ensure an effective and reliable internal control system that gives the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.**

**Main outputs in 2016:**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Specific residual error rate is calculated for the LIFE programme.	Net amount unduly paid divided by the auditable population.	2016: Below 2%
Estimated overall amount at risk for the year for the entire budget under the DG responsibility.	2% of the voted payment credits for Activity 0702.	2016: Below 2%

**Objective: The DG reaches a conclusion on cost effectiveness of controls.**

**Main outputs in 2016:**

Description	Indicator	Target
Calculate the cost of controls over expenditure that could be compared with a reference.	Use overall cost of control over benefits in a ratio 1:6 (baseline from 2014)	2016: Yes, reach a conclusion on cost effectiveness of controls at least as good as the 2014 figure

**Objective: Minimise the risk of fraud through application of effective anti-fraud measures integrated in the activities of the DG, based on the DG's anti-fraud strategy (AFS) aimed at the prevention, detection and reparation of fraud.**

**Main outputs in 2016:**

Description	Indicator	Target
Updated AFS of the DG elaborated on the basis of the methodology provided by OLAF.	Updated AFS of the DG.	2016: Last revision/update of the AFS.
Fraud awareness is increased for target populations as identified in DG's AFS.	100% of LIFE project managers, financial initiators (LIFE and SRD.2), ex-post auditors.	2016: 100% of target population reached.

### **C. Better Regulation**

Outputs related to Better Regulation are listed under the relevant specific policy objectives. A summary of the evaluations and fitness checks currently foreseen can also be found in Annex 2.

### **D. Information management aspects**

This activity promotes and maintains sound and efficient management of information within the DG, and ensures that reliable information/knowledge will be easy to find, retrieved and shared and guarantees that Units have everything they need at their disposal.

Information / knowledge is made available as widely as possible in the Units of the DG and preserved in accordance with its informational, administrative, legal or historical value.

Through high quality administrative support, advice, assistance, control, monitoring compliance with Commission rules on registration and filing of documents and by providing in-house and/or specific training to units a culture of knowledge integrity will be developed and is guaranteed to the level required.

The activity will also promote simplification of processes and so it will improve economy and efficiency, with the reduction of paper circulations and with the benefits of improving the use of electronic workflows (eSignatories) for a faster and more efficient approval and circulation of documents.

**Objective: Information and knowledge in your DG is shared and reusable by other DGs. Important documents are registered, filed and retrievable**

**Main outputs in 2016:**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target date</b>
Develop a culture of knowledge integrity.	Monthly in-house training to newcomers. Additionally training to Units on adaptation to technical development, awareness programme and educational package on information value, availability, use and automated processing.	By end 2016
Review of e-filing system in units including visits in Units	Number of annual visits and annual updates of list of files.	By end 2016
Implementation of e-archiving (move away from paper filing towards digitalised documents registered in ARES)	Reduced amount of paper files in the Units and reduced volume of paper files transferred to the Historical Archives.	By end 2016
Review of existing Ares files to identify those that can be usefully shared with other DGs	Number of Ares files made accessible to other DGs	By end 2016
Simplification of processes, reduction of paper circulation and improved use of electronic workflows (eSignatories) for a faster and more efficient approval and circulation of documents.	Number of procedures implemented into e-signatory workflows in ARES.	By end 2016

## **E. External communication**

DG Environment's communication activities support the development and implementation of EU environment policy, raising awareness about the Commission, its values and political priorities, and its efforts to address Europe's challenges. They are aligned with the Commission's overall priorities and support the implementation of the 7<sup>th</sup> EAP in three focus areas (green economy, making it happen and connecting with citizens)

Communication on different elements of the Circular Economy Package will continue to be a key communication priority in 2016. "Investing for a greener future" will be the theme of Green Week, the DG's biggest annual event, in support of the corporate communication theme on investment. Also in support of this, and to demonstrate mainstreaming of environmental policy, the web, social media and the *Environment for Europeans* magazine will throughout 2016 feature examples of investments from different EU funds in support of environment policies and green growth. For the LIFE programme a best project award ceremony, promotion of the kick-off of new integrated projects will be carried out.

The results of the Fitness Check on Nature, which generated the greatest ever citizen involvement in a public consultation, the Seasons movie, the 2016 Natura 2000 awards, including a Natura 2000 Day will be other important communication events for the DG. With better implementation and enforcement being one of the political priorities, an increasing focus shall be on communicating “environment in action”. The launch of the Environmental Implementation Review will be an opportunity to showcase the benefits of better implementation and enforcement, but also raise awareness of the challenges involved. Resources have also been set aside for communication activities supporting the international dimension, including Sustainable Development Goals and Wildlife Trafficking.

**Objective (mandatory): Citizens perceive that the EU is working to improve their lives and engage with the EU. They feel that their concerns are taken into consideration in European decision making and they know about their rights in the EU.**

**Main outputs in 2016:**

Description	Indicator	Target
Green Week on "Investing for a greener future"	Successful event	2016 Q2
European Business Awards for the Environment	Awarded	2016
European Green Capital Award	Awarded	2016
European Green Leaf Award	Awarded	2016
Natura 2000 awards	Awarded	2016
LIFE programme - Best Project Award	Awarded	2016
Press and social media activity on the expected agreement on the NEC Directive and the Wildlife trafficking action plan, on the conclusion on the Nature Fitness Check and on the adoption of measures related to the EU Biodiversity Strategy, including the first list of Invasive Alien Species, and to better implementation, in particular the launch of the Environmental Implementation Review.	Press and social media uptake	Upon adoption / agreement of instruments and other appropriate times
Overhaul of DG Environment's Web Site on Europa under the Digital Transformation Programme	New environment presence on Europa	2016

## External communication overall spending

**Annual communication spending (based on estimated commitments):**

Baseline (2015):	Target (2016):
6.7 million EUR	5.6 million EUR