

# EU ACCESSION

An opportunity to improve standards and quality of life

# envap

Serbia and Sweden for Chapter 27



**NEGOTIATIONS** are held with each candidate country to determine their ability to apply EU legislation (acquis) and examine their possible request for transition periods.

## CHAPTERS

To conduct the accession negotiations, EU legislation and standards are divided into 35 chapters which are negotiated one by one.

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## SCREENING

Once accession negotiations are opened the European Commission investigates the candidate country in greater detail in a process called screening. It results in a screening report which identifies shortcomings in the candidate country that need to be gradually addressed in order to comply with the EU legislation (acquis). It either establishes benchmarks – conditions to be met before submitting the Negotiating Position – or invites the country to submit the Negotiating Position without additional conditions.

## CHAPTER 27

The EU environmental requirements comprise over 200 major legal acts covering various sectors. For negotiations purposes, EU legal acts are grouped into about 75 main legal acts/groups of legal acts into following subchapters: horizontal, air quality, waste management, water quality, nature protection, industrial pollution control, chemicals, noise and climate change. Chapter 27 also includes the civil protection area. Preparation for negotiations of Chapter 27 is led by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia.

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## FULL COMPLIANCE

The Commission recognizes that achieving full compliance with the environmental acquis is one of the major challenges for EU accession and probably only achievable in the long run. The bulk of the investments will be needed for air pollution abatement, water and wastewater management and management and disposal of municipal and hazardous waste.

## THE EU COMMISSION PROPOSES THAT:

Before accession the candidate countries should, in partnership with EU, draw up and start implementing realistic national long-term strategies and plans for gradual and effective alignment with the environmental acquis, especially for tackling water and air pollution and improving waste management practices.

These long-term national strategies and plans should include:

- key priority areas,
- objectives to be fulfilled by the dates of accession and
- timetables for further full compliance after accession.

Corresponding obligations should be incorporated in the accession treaties. All new investments should comply with the acquis.

The process of environmental approximation should be an integrated element in the overall strategy for EU accession. Compliance with the EU environmental acquis is necessary both for environmental and economic reasons.

## APPROXIMATION PROCESS

The approximation of law is a unique obligation of membership in the EU. It means that countries aspiring to join the union must align their national laws, rules and procedures in order to give effect to the entire body of EU law contained in the *acquis communautaire*. Further, countries must implement and enforce these aligned requirements.

Effective, prioritized management of the approximation process is crucial, because of the limited resources, and therefore requires careful strategic planning and cost-effective programmes. As the obligation to approximate continues after the accession, the pre-accession approximation process becomes an opportunity for countries to organize their institutions and procedures and to train their staff for the daily processes and responsibilities of EU law making, implementation and enforcement.

These special strategies and plans for transposition and implementation of the environmental acquis should be combined with a reinforced EU pre-accession assistance strategy, where financial support for approximation with the environmental acquis is one of the priorities, recognizing that the EU's financial assistance will only cover a part of the resources required.



Republic of Serbia  
Ministry of Environmental  
Protection

