

Categories of the EU Environmental Acquis	Legal scopes	Description
Water quality	a. River basin management	<p>The Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the European Council of 23 October 2000 establishes a legal framework to protect and restore clean water across Europe and ensure its long-term and sustainable use. The directive establishes an innovative approach for water management based on river basins, the natural geographical and hydrological units, and sets specific deadlines for Member States to achieve ambitious environmental objectives for aquatic ecosystems. The directive addresses inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. Article 14 of the directive covers public information and consultation. The main instrument for the implementation of the WFD is the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and the accompanying Programme of Measures (PoM). The planning process starts with the transposition and the administrative arrangements, followed by the characterisation of the river basin district, the monitoring and the assessment of status, the objective setting, and finally the programme of measures and their implementation. The WFD was amended several time, among others, with Decision 2455/2001/EC establishing the list of priority substances in the field of water policy, Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy, Directive 2009/31/EU on the geological storage of carbon dioxide, Directive 2013/39/EU as regards priority substance in the field of water policy.</p>
	b. Flood risk management	<p>Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks aims to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. It requires Member States to assess if all water courses and coast lines are at risk from flooding, to map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas and to take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce this flood risk. With this Directive also reinforces the rights of the public to access this information and to have a say in the planning process. The Directive applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU.</p> <p>The Directive shall be carried out in coordination with the Water Framework Directive, notably by flood risk management plans and river basin management plans being coordinated, and through coordination of the public participation procedures in the preparation of these plans. All assessments, maps and plans prepared shall be made available to the public.</p>
	c. Ground water	<p>Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration establishes a regime which sets groundwater quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater. The directive also establishes quality criteria that takes account local characteristics and allows for further improvements to be made based on monitoring data and new scientific knowledge. The Groundwater Directive</p>

		<p>complements the Water Framework Directive (WFD). It requires: * groundwater quality standards to be established by the end of 2008; * pollution trend studies to be carried out by using existing data and data which is mandatory by the WFD (referred to as "baseline level" data obtained in 2007-2008); * pollution trends to be reversed so that environmental objectives are achieved by 2015 by using the measures set out in the WFD; * measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater to be operational so that WFD environmental objectives can be achieved by 2015; * reviews of technical provisions of the directive to be carried out in 2013 and every six years thereafter; * compliance with good chemical status criteria (based on EU standards of nitrates and pesticides and on threshold values established by Member States).</p> <p>Annexes I and II of the Groundwater Directive are under review.</p>
d. Drinking water		<p>The European Union has a history of over 30 years of drinking water policy. This policy ensures that water intended for human consumption can be consumed safely on a life-long basis, and this represents a high level of health protection. The main pillars of the policy are to: * Ensure that drinking water quality is controlled through standards based on the latest scientific evidence; * Secure an efficient and effective monitoring, assessment and enforcement of drinking water quality; * Provide the consumers with adequate, timely and appropriately information and * Contribute to the broader EU water and health policy.</p> <p>The Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 (Drinking Water Directive) concerns the quality of water intended for human consumption. Its objective is to protect human health from adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. The Drinking Water Directive applies to: * all distribution systems serving more than 50 people or supplying more than 10 cubic meter per day, but also distribution systems serving less than 50 people/supplying less than 10 cubic meter per day if the water is supplied as part of an economic activity; * drinking water from tankers; * drinking water in bottles or containers; * water used in the food-processing industry, unless the competent national authorities are satisfied that the quality of the water cannot affect the wholesomeness of the foodstuff in its finished form.</p>
e. Urban Waste Water Treatment		<p>The Council Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste-water treatment (UWWT) was adopted on 21 May 1991. Its objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water (domestic waste water or the mixture of domestic waste water with industrial waste water and/or run-off rain water) discharges and discharges from certain industrial sectors (see Annex III of the Directive) and concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of: * Domestic waste water; * Mixture of waste water; * Waste water from certain industrial sectors (see Annex III of the Directive). On 27 February 1998 the Commission issued Directive 98/15/EC amending Directive 91/271/EEC to clarify the requirements of the Directive in relation to discharges from urban waste water treatment plants to sensitive areas which are subject to</p>

		<p>eutrophication. The Commission Decision 2014/413/EU concerns formats for reporting on the national programmes for implementation of the Directive 91/271/EEC.</p>
	<p>f. Water pollution</p>	<p>1. The Directive 91/676/EEC (Nitrates Directive) aims to protect water quality across Europe by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices. The Nitrates Directive forms an integral part of the Water Framework Directive and is one of the key instruments in the protection of waters against agricultural pressures.</p> <p>2. European Union legislation also provides for measures against chemical pollution of surface waters. Community policy concerning dangerous or hazardous substances in European waters was introduced almost three decades ago by Council Directive 76/464/EEC on pollution caused by discharges of certain dangerous substances (codified as 2006/11/EC). Several substances have been regulated in specific directives (also called 'daughter directives') in the 1980s by defining Community-wide emission limit values and quality objectives in the surface and coastal waters. As part of the restructuring of the Community water policy, Directive 76/464/EEC was integrated into the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and Directive 76/464/EEC will be fully repealed in 2013. The Directive 2009/90/EC on technical specifications for chemical analysis and monitoring of water status establishes common quality rules for chemical analysis and monitoring of water, sediment and biota carried out by Member States.</p>
<p>Horizontal legislation</p>	<p>a. Public Access to environmental information</p>	<p>The Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC builds on the experience gained under the earlier directive. The new Directive was prepared in time when the European Union was preparing to ratify the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention). In that context, the Directive was brought into line with the generally more far-reaching provisions of the Aarhus Convention on access to information. The Directive also took account of developments in electronic communication technology, particularly for the format in which information was to be provided. It also placed stronger emphasis on active dissemination of information and set out more detailed rules in areas where Directive 90/313/EEC had still referred to national law. Progress was made in several areas, including: * a broader definition of 'environmental information' which encompasses a wider range of matters related to the environment; * a broader definition of 'public authorities' which includes persons who perform public administrative functions; * more detailed provisions on the form in which information is to be made available, including a general obligation to provide information in the format requested and the possibility to use electronic means; * a shorter deadline of one month for making the information requested available, to be extended by a further month if the volume and complexity of the information so require; * limitations on the grounds for refusal. Requests for information may be refused only if disclosure would adversely affect one of the interests listed. The exceptions are to be interpreted restrictively, taking into account the public</p>

	<p>interest served by disclosure; * limitations on the grounds for refusal if the request relates to information on emissions into the environment ('emissions-rule'); * additional obligations placed on national authorities to collect and disseminate information going beyond the obligation to disclose information; * additional obligations placed on national authorities to assist the public in seeking access to information; * improved procedures for review of acts or omissions by public authorities, in particular before a court of law or another independent and impartial body established by law.</p>
<p>b. Public participation</p>	<p>The Directive 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 provides for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment and amending with regard to public participation and access to justice Council Directives 85/337/EEC (EIA) and 96/61/EC (IPPC).</p> <p>The Directive requires that public must receive early notification intent to draw up (or modify or review) a plan or programme, with details of how to obtain information and how to participate and submit comments. The relevant authorities shall take account of any such comments, and in turn inform the public of their decision. Parties must also make public the reasons and considerations on which the decision is based.</p>
<p>c. Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)</p>	<p>The EIA Directive 85/337/EEC is in force since 1985 and applies to a wide range of defined public and private projects, which are defined in Annexes I and II: *</p> <p>Mandatory EIA: all projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA (e.g. long-distance railway lines, motorways and express roads, airports with a basic runway length \geq 2100 m, installations for the disposal of hazardous waste, installations for the disposal of non-hazardous waste > 100 tonnes/day, waste water treatment plants > 150.000 p.e.); * Discretion of Member States (screening): for projects listed in Annex II, the national authorities have to decide whether an EIA is needed. This is done by the "screening procedure", which determines the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. However, the national authorities must take into account the criteria laid down in Annex III. The projects listed in Annex II are in general those not included in Annex I (railways, roads waste disposal installations, waste water treatment plants), but also other types such as urban development projects, flood-relief works, changes of Annex I and II existing projects...).</p> <p>The 1985 EIA Directive has been amended three times, in 1997 bringing in line with the UNECE Espoo Convention, in 2003 aligning the provisions on public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters and in 2009 amending the Annexes I and II of the EIA Directive, by adding projects related to the transport, capture and storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The initial Directive of 1985 and its three amendments have been codified by the Directive 2011/92/EU and was amended in 2014 by the Directive 2014/52/EU. The amended Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (2014/52/EU) entered into force on 15 May 2014 to simplify the rules for assessing the potential effects of projects on the environment. It is in line with the</p>

		<p>drive for smarter regulation, so it reduces the administrative burden. It also improves the level of environmental protection, with a view to making business decisions on public and private investments more sound, more predictable and sustainable in the longer term. The new approach pays greater attention to threats and challenges that have emerged since the original rules came into force. This means more attention to areas like resource efficiency, climate change and disaster prevention, which are now better reflected in the assessment process.</p>
	<p>d. Strategic environment assessment (SEA)</p>	<p>=====</p> <p>The SEA Directive 2001/42/EC applies to a wide range of public plans and programmes (e.g. on land use, transport, energy, waste, agriculture, etc). The SEA Directive does not refer to policies. Plans and programmes in the sense of the SEA Directive must be prepared or adopted by an authority (at national, regional or local level) and be required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions. An SEA is mandatory for plans/programmes which are: * are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste/ water management, telecommunications, tourism, town & country planning or land use <u>and</u> which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive or * have been determined to require an assessment under the Habitats Directive.</p>
	<p>e. Environmental liability</p>	<p>Directive 2004/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage (ELD) establishes a framework based on the polluter pays principle to prevent and remedy environmental damage. As the ELD deals with the "pure ecological damage", it is based on the powers and duties of public authorities ("administrative approach") as distinct from a civil liability system for "traditional damage" (damage to property, economic loss, personal injury).</p> <p>The Directive defines "environmental damage" as damage to protected species and natural habitats, damage to water and damage to soil. Operators carrying out dangerous activities listed in Annex III of the Directive fall under strict liability (no need to prove fault). Operators carrying out other occupational activities than those listed in Annex III are liable for fault-based damage to protected species or natural habitats. The establishment of a causal link between the activity and the damage is always required. Affected natural or legal persons and environmental NGOs have the right to request the competent authority to take remedial action if they deem it necessary.</p>
<p>Climate change</p>		<p>The EU has set itself targets for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions progressively up to 2050. Key climate and energy targets are set in the: * 2020 climate and energy package and * 2030 climate and energy framework. The 2030 climate and energy framework agreed by the EU leaders on 23 October 2014 sets three key targets for the</p>

		<p>year 2030: * At least 40% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels); * At least 27% share for renewable energy and * At least 27% improvement in energy efficiency. These targets are defined to put the EU on the way to achieve the transformation towards a low- carbon economy as detailed in the 2050 low-carbon roadmap.</p>
	<p>a. Greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>The European Union (EU) has established a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading for the cost-effective reduction of such emissions. This scheme should enable the EU and the Member States to meet the commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions made in the context of the Kyoto Protocol. Installations operating in the energy sector, iron and steel production and processing, the mineral industry and the paper and board industry will automatically be subject to the emission trading scheme. The Directive 2003/87/EC aims to introduce significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions with a view to reducing the influence of such emissions on the climate. The Directive 2009/29/EC amends ETS Directive so as to improve and extend the greenhouse gas emission allowance scheme of the Community. Directive 2008/101/EC amends the Directive 2003/87/EC so as to include aviation activities in the scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading scheme within the Community.</p> <p>Other legislative acts in this area include: * Commission Regulation (EU) No 601/2012 of 21 June 2012 on the monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to Directive 2003/87/EC. The Regulation sets rules for the monitoring and reporting on greenhouse gas emissions and activity data under Directive 2003/87/EC for the trading period of the European Union's emission quota trading system to begin on January 1, 2013 and for the subsequent exchange periods. The regulation requires each operator or aircraft operator to monitor greenhouse gas emissions on the basis of a monitoring plan describing in a detailed, exhaustive and transparent way the monitoring methodology to be applied by a specific facility or by a given aircraft operator. The regulation also defines basic methods for monitoring, so as to reduce the burden on operators as much as possible. Provisions specifically for the aviation sector are planned with regard to the monitoring of emissions; * Commission Regulation (EU) No 1031/2010 of 12 November 2010 on the timing, administration and other aspects of auctioning of greenhouse gas emission allowances pursuant to Directive 2003/87/EC; * Commission Decision 2007/589/EC of 18 July 2007 establishing guidelines for the monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to Directive 2003/87/EC. These guidelines are designed to ensure regular and precise monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions in the Community. Their application is facilitated in the case of installations with average verified reported emissions of less than 25 000 tonnes of fossil CO₂ per year during the previous trading period.</p>
	<p>b. Renewable sources</p>	<p>The Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also</p>

		<p>ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020. The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.</p>
<p>Air quality</p>	<p>a. Ambient air quality</p>	<p>The Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe entered into force on 11 June 2008. This Directive includes the following key elements: * The merging of most of existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive) with no change to existing air quality objectives; * New air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives – exposure concentration obligation and exposure reduction target; * The possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values and * The possibility for time extensions of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</p> <p>Directive 2004/107/EC (the Fourth Daughter Directive) of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in ambient air. Target values for all pollutants except mercury are defined for the listed substances, though for PAHs, the target is defined in terms of concentration of benzo(a)pyrene which is used as a marker substance for PAHs generally. Only monitoring requirements are specified for mercury.</p>
	<p>b. National Emission Ceilings (NEC)</p>	<p>Directive 2001/81/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on National Emission Ceilings for certain pollutants (NEC Directive) sets upper limits for each Member State for the total emissions in 2010 of the four pollutants responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution (sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and ammonia), but leaves it largely to the Member States to decide which measures – on top of Community legislation for specific source categories - to take in order to comply. The implementation of the directive requires that Member States develop national programmes in 2002 and, where needed, revise those plans in 2006 that aim at meeting fixed ceilings of national emissions by 2010 and thereafter. Further Member States have to report their emission inventories to the EEA and the European Commission in order to monitor progress and verify compliance.</p> <p>The National Emission Ceilings Directive 2001/81/EC is being reviewed as part of The Clean Air Policy Package. The proposal repeals and replaces the current Union regime on the annual capping of national emissions of air pollutants, as defined in Directive 2001/81/EC. By doing so, it ensures that the national emission ceilings (NECs) set in the</p>

	<p>current Directive 2001/81/EC for 2010 onwards for SO₂, NO_x, NMVOC and NH₃ shall apply until 2020 and establishes new national emission reduction commitments ("reduction commitments") applicable from 2020 and 2030 for SO₂, NO_x, NMVOC, NH₃, fine particulate matter (PM_{2,5}) and methane (CH₄).</p>
c. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) emissions	<p>The Directive 1999/13/EC aims to prevent or reduce the direct and indirect effects of emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) on the environment and human health, by setting emission limits for such compounds and laying down operating conditions for installations using organic solvents. Sources of VOCs include vehicle emissions, fuel combustion and domestic solvent usage. Other major sources of VOCs include commercial and industrial activities using organic solvents.</p> <p>The Directive 2004/42/EC on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in decorative paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products and amending Directive 1999/13/EC ("the Paints Directive") aims to prevent the negative environmental effects of emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from decorative paints and vehicle refinishing products.</p> <p>Emissions of VOCs are also addressed by the EU Directive on National Emission Ceilings (2001/81/EC) – see section above.</p>
d. Sulphur content of liquid fuels	<p>The Directive 1999/32/EC on reduction of sulphur content of certain liquid fuels aims to reduce the emissions of sulphur dioxide resulting from the combustion of certain types of liquid fuels and thereby to reduce the harmful effects of such emissions on man and the environment. These reductions in emissions of sulphur dioxide shall be achieved by imposing limits on the sulphur content resulting from the combustion of certain types of liquid fuels as a condition for their use within the territory of the Member States.</p> <p>The Directive 2012/33/EU amends the Directive 1999/32/EC as regards the sulphur content of marine fuels</p>
e. Large combustion plants (LCPs)	<p>The overall aim of the Directive 2001/80/EC (Large Combustion Plants –LCPs directive) is to reduce emissions of acidifying pollutants, particles, and ozone precursors. Control of emissions from large combustion plants - those whose rated thermal input is equal to or greater than 50 MW - plays an important role in the Union's efforts to combat acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone as part of the overall strategy to reduce air pollution. The LCP Directive entered into force on 27 November 2001. It replaced the old Directive on large combustion plants (Directive 88/609/EEC as amended by Directive 94/66/EC).</p>
f. Automobile fuel quality	<p>The Directive 98/70/EC (fuel quality directive) sets common EU specifications for petrol, diesel and gasoil used in road vehicles, inland waterway barges and non-road mobile machinery such as locomotives, earth moving machinery and tractors. Its aim is to</p>

	<p>protect human health and the environment and ensure a single market in these fuels. Directive 98/70/EC was amended by Directive 2003/17/EC containing the environmental fuel quality specifications for petrol and diesel fuels in the Community with the main focus on sulphur and for petrol on lead and aromatics. Since 1 January 2005 the limit on the sulphur content of petrol and diesel is 50 ppm and Member States are required to start phasing in ultra-low sulphur fuel with a maximum 10 ppm sulphur content. Since 1 January 2002 all petrol sold in the EU is unleaded. In 2009 the Directive 2009/30/EC was adopted which revised the Fuel Quality Directive 98/70/EC. It amended a number of elements of the petrol and diesel specifications as well as introduced in Article 7a a requirement on fuel suppliers to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of energy supplied for road transport (Low Carbon Fuel Standard). In addition the Directive establishes sustainability criteria that must be met by biofuels if they are to count towards the greenhouse gas intensity reduction obligation.</p>
g. Road vehicles	<p>The pollutant emissions from road vehicles are regulated separately for light-duty vehicles (cars and light vans) and for heavy-duty vehicles (trucks and buses). The European Union (EU) aims to introduce stricter limits on pollutant emissions from light road vehicles, particularly for emissions of nitrogen particulates and oxides. The Regulation 715/2007 includes measures concerning access to information on vehicles and their components and the possibility of introducing tax incentives. In order to limit pollution caused by road vehicles, this Regulation introduces common requirements for emissions from motor vehicles and their specific replacement parts (Euro 5 and Euro 6 standards). It also lays down measures improving access to information on vehicle repairs and promoting the rapid production of vehicles in compliance with the provisions of the Regulation.</p> <p>The legislation currently in force for heavy-duty vehicles is Directive 2005/55/EC and Directive 2005/78/EC (implementing provisions).</p>
h. Emissions from maritime transport	<p>Emissions of air pollutants like sulphur dioxide can travel long distances, and in recent years emissions from maritime transport have increasingly affected air quality in the EU. As of 1 January 2015, EU Member States have to ensure that ships in the Baltic, the North Sea and the English Channel are using fuels with a sulphur content of no more than 0.10%. Higher sulphur contents are still possible, but only if the appropriate exhaust cleaning systems are in place. The Directive 2012/33/EU amended Directive 1999/32/EC and the deadline for bringing Member States' legislation into compliance was 18 June 2014.</p>
i. Non-road Mobile Machinery	<p>Engines in non-road mobile machinery contribute to emissions of air pollutants. Diesel engines in excavators, bulldozers, front loaders, back loaders, compressors etc. emit nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter. Emissions from these engines are regulated before they are placed on the market by the Directive 97/68/EC. Also emissions from small spark ignition (petrol) engines are contributing to emissions -</p>

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	<p>especially emissions of hydrocarbons (HC). One hour use of a normal chainsaw equipped with a two-stroke engine emits as much hydrocarbons as driving a modern passenger car for 2000 km. Emissions from these engines are regulated by Directive 2002/88.</p>
j. Petrol vapour recovery	<p>The Directive 2009/126/EC aims at ensuring that harmful petrol vapour displaced from the fuel tank of a motor vehicle during refuelling at a service station is recovered. The petrol pumps of many service stations in the European Union (EU) will have to be equipped to recover this vapour.</p>
a. Waste Framework Directive	<p>The revised Directive 2008/98/EC sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management and lays down waste management principles such as the "polluter pays principle" or the "waste hierarchy". It sets the framework for waste management in Member States, including the extended producers' responsibility. The Directive came into force on 12 December 2010.</p>
b. Sewage sludge	<p>The Sewage Sludge Directive 86/278/EEC seeks to encourage the use of sewage sludge in agriculture and to regulate its use in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man. It prohibits the use of untreated sludge on agricultural land unless it is injected or incorporated into the soil. The Directive also requires that sludge should be used in such a way that account is taken of the nutrient requirements of plants and that the quality of the soil and of the surface and groundwater is not impaired. The Directive specifies rules for the sampling and analysis of sludges and soils. It sets out requirements for the keeping of detailed records of the quantities of sludge produced, the quantities used in agriculture, the composition and properties of the sludge, the type of treatment and the sites where the sludge is used. Limit values for concentrations of heavy metals in sewage sludge intended for agricultural use and in sludge-treated soils are in Annexes I A, I B and I C of the Directive.</p>
c. Hazardous waste	<p>Hazardous wastes pose a greater risk to the environment and human health than non hazardous wastes and thus require a stricter control regime. This is laid down in particular in Articles 17 to 20 of Directive 2008/98/EC. It provides additional labelling, record keeping, monitoring and control obligations from the "cradle to the grave", i.e., from the waste producer to the final disposal or recovery. In addition, mixing of hazardous substances is banned in order to prevent risks for the environment and human health. Moreover, the permit exemptions that may be granted to installations dealing with hazardous wastes are more restrictive than for installations dealing with other wastes. The classification into hazardous and non hazardous waste is based on the system for the classification and labelling of dangerous substances and preparations, which ensures the application of similar principles over their whole life cycle. The</p>

	<p>properties which render waste hazardous are laid down in Annex III of Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC and are further specified by the Decision 2000/532/EC establishing a List of Wastes as last amended by Decision 2001/573/EC.</p>
d. Shipments of waste	<p>Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2006 on shipments of waste aims at strengthening, simplifying and specifying the procedures for controlling waste shipments to improve environmental protection. It thus reduces the risk of waste shipments not being controlled. It also seeks to include into Community legislation the provisions of the Basel Convention as well as the revision of the Decision on the control of transboundary movements of wastes destined for recovery operations, adopted by the OECD in 2001. Regulation (EU) No 660/2014 amended Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 regarding the strengthening of Member States' inspection systems.</p>
f. Titanium dioxide waste	<p>Titanium dioxide pigment (TiO₂) is a white powder with high opacity and brilliant whiteness. These properties have made it a valuable pigment and opacifier for a broad range of applications in paints, plastic goods, inks and paper. Titanium dioxide is also used in many white or coloured products, including food, cosmetics, UV skin protection products, ceramics and rubber products. Existing Community legislation on waste from the titanium dioxide industry aims to prevent and progressively reduce pollution caused by waste from the titanium dioxide industry with a view to the elimination of such pollution. It also seeks to harmonise laws on waste from the titanium dioxide industry in order to avoid distortion of competition within the internal market. Three different Directives introduce rules on (i) disposal (Council Directive 78/176/EEC), (ii) monitoring and surveillance (Council Directive 82/883/EEC) and (iii) programs for the reduction of pollution (Council Directive 92/112/EEC).</p>
g. Batteries and accumulators	<p>The Directive 2006/66/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators and repealing Directive 91/157/EEC. The Directive prohibits the placing on the market of most batteries and accumulators with a certain mercury or cadmium content and establishes rules for the collection, recycling, treatment and disposal of batteries and accumulators. The aim is to cut the amount of hazardous substances, in particular, mercury, cadmium and lead, dumped in the environment; this should be done by reducing the use of these substances in batteries and accumulators and by treating and re-using the amounts that are used. The Directive implies the producer responsibility principle.</p>
h. Packaging and packaging waste	<p>European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste sets out measures and requirements for the prevention, re-use and recovery of packaging wastes in Member States. It seeks to harmonise national measures concerning the management of packaging and packaging waste to</p>

	<p>provide a high level of environmental protection and ensure the functioning of the internal market. Member States must ensure that packaging placed on the market complies with the essential requirements: to limit the weight and volume of packaging to a minimum; to reduce the content of hazardous substances; to design reusable or recoverable packaging. The Directive implies the producer responsibility principle.</p>
<p>i. Polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCB/PCT)</p>	<p>Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) are among a group of man-made chemicals that are known as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Given their extraordinary chemical stability and heat resistance, they were extensively employed as components in electrical and hydraulic equipment and lubricants. The Directive 96/59/EC on the disposal of PCBs and PCTs aims at disposing completely of PCBs and equipment containing PCBs as soon as possible. This Directive sets the requirements for an environmentally sound disposal of PCBs. Member States have to make an inventory of big equipment containing PCBs, have to adopt a plan for disposal of inventoried equipment, and outlines for collection and disposal of non-inventoried equipment (small electrical equipment very often present in household appliances manufactured before the ban on marketing of PCBs). The PCB Directive further mandates that Member States had to dispose of big equipment (equipment with PCB volumes of more than 5 litres) by the end of 2010 at the latest. The Commission will verify the implementation of this provision.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Commission has adopted a Community Strategy on Dioxins, Furans and PCBs aimed at reducing as far as possible the release of these substances in the environment and their introduction in the food chains. In addition, Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 on persistent organic pollutants covers PCB and complements earlier Community legislation on POPs and aligns it with the provisions of the international agreements on POPs. To a certain extent the Regulation goes further than the international agreements emphasising the aim to eliminate the production and use of the internationally recognised POPs. Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are chemical substances that persist in the environment, bioaccumulate through the food web, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment. This group of priority pollutants consists of pesticides (such as DDT), industrial chemicals (such as polychlorinated biphenyls, PCBs) and unintentional by-products of industrial processes (such as dioxins and furans).</p>
<p>j. End-of life vehicles (ELV)</p>	<p>The Directive 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles aims to limit the production of waste arising from end-of-life vehicles and to increase re-use, recycling and recovery of end-of-life vehicles and their components. The generation of waste from vehicles should be avoided as much as possible. The Directive establishes a collection rate for re-use and recovery of 85% by 2006 and 95% by 2015. While the rate for re-use and recycling has been set up to 80% by 2006 and 85% by 2015. The Directive implies the manufacturers product responsibility.</p>

<p>k. Mining waste</p>	<p>The Directive 2006/21/EC on the management of waste from extractive industries (Mining Directive) aims at minimizing negative effects on the environment and human health from the treatment and disposal of mining and quarrying waste. This extractive waste must be managed in specialised facilities in compliance with specific rules. Operators of such facilities are subject to liability in respect of environmental damage caused by their operation. Member States shall take every precaution to limit risks to public health and the environment related to the operation of extractive waste processing facilities, inter alia by applying the concept of "best available techniques". The Directive covers the planning, licensing, operation, closure and after-care of waste facilities and provides for a major-accident policy for high-risk facilities. Inventories of closed facilities posing serious risks to the environment and health have also to be drawn up by Member States.</p>
<p>l. Restriction of the use of hazardous substances (RoHS)</p>	<p>EU legislation restricting the use of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS Directive 2002/95/EC) and promoting the collection and recycling of such equipment (WEEE Directive 2002/96/EC) has been in force since February 2003. The legislation provides for the creation of collection schemes where consumers return their used e-waste free of charge. The objective of these schemes is to increase the recycling and/or re-use of such products. It also requires heavy metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium, and hexavalent chromium and flame retardants such as polybrominated biphenyls (PBB) or polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) to be substituted by safer alternatives. Inadequately treated e-waste poses environmental and health risks. In December 2008, the European Commission therefore proposed to revise the directives on electrical and electronic equipment in order to tackle the fast increasing waste stream of such products. The aim is to increase the amount of e-waste that is appropriately treated and to reduce the volume that goes to disposal. The aim of the RoHS recast was also to reduce administrative burdens and ensure coherency with newer policies and legislation covering, for example, chemicals and the new legislative framework for the marketing of products in the European Union. The RoHS Recast Directive 2011/65/EU entered into force on 21 July 2011. The key elements of this Directive are as follows: * A gradual extension of the rules to all electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), cables and spare parts, with a view to full compliance by 2019; * A review of the list of banned substances by July 2014, and periodically thereafter; * Clearer and more transparent rules for granting exemptions from the substance ban; * Improved coherence with the REACH Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals; * Clarification of important definitions and * CE marking denoting compliance with European norms reserved for electronic products that also respect RoHS requirements. In view of the significant extension of the scope, this Directive introduces transition periods of up to 8 years for the new products affected by the rules.</p>
<p>m. Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)</p>	<p>The Directive 2012/19/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE Directive) aims to provide incentives to improve the design of electrical and electronic</p>

	<p>equipment to facilitate recycling. It was introduced to prevent the generation of electrical and electronic waste and to promote reuse, recycling and other forms of recovery in order to reduce the quantity of such waste. It shifts responsibility for WEEE to the producers, giving them the obligation to recycle electrical and electronic equipment that consumers return to them free of charge.</p>
n. Incineration of waste	<p>The Directive 2000/76/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 December 2000 on the incineration of waste (WID) imposes strict operating conditions and technical requirements on waste incineration plants and waste co-incineration plants to prevent or reduce air, water and soil pollution caused by the incineration or co-incineration of waste. The directive requires a permit for incineration and co-incineration plants, and emission limits are introduced for certain pollutants released to air or to water.</p>
p. Landfill	<p>Council Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste is intended to prevent or reduce the adverse effects of the landfill of waste on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air, and on human health by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.. It defines the different categories of waste (municipal waste, hazardous waste, non-hazardous waste and inert waste) and applies to all landfills. Landfills are divided into three classes: landfills for hazardous waste; landfills for non-hazardous waste and landfills for inert waste. The Directive obliges Member States to minimize biodegradable waste to landfills to 75% by 2006, 50% by 2009 and 35% by 2016, and to treat it before disposal. The Directive also defines wastes which are not to be accepted in any landfill and sets up a system of operating permits for landfill sites. The Directive come fully into force on 16 August 2009. According to the waste management hierarchy, landfilling is the least preferable option and should be limited to the necessary minimum.</p>
Nature protection	<p>The Habitats Directive (together with the Birds Directive) forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy. It is built around two pillars: the Natura 2000 network of protected sites and the strict system of species protection. All in all the directive protects over 1.000 animals and plant species and over 200 so called "habitat types" (e.g. special types of forests, meadows, wetlands, etc.), which are of European importance. The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC was adopted in 1992 with the main aim to promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. While the Directive makes a contribution to the general objective of sustainable development; it ensures the conservation of a wide range of rare, threatened or endemic species, including around 450 animals and 500 plants. Some 200 rare and characteristic habitat types are also targeted for conservation in their own right. The Directive provides for a ban on the downgrading of breeding and resting places for certain strictly protected animal species. Exceptions to the strict protection rules can be granted under very specific conditions. The Habitats Directive also establishes the EU wide Natura 2000 ecological network of protected areas. For these</p>

		<p>areas it provides a high level of safeguards against potentially damaging developments. Together with the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive forms the backbone of EU nature protection legislation.</p> <p>The Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (this is the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) is the EU's oldest piece of nature legislation and one of the most important, creating a comprehensive scheme of protection for all wild bird species naturally occurring in the Union. It was adopted unanimously by the Member States in 1979 as a response to increasing concern about the declines in Europe's wild bird populations resulting from pollution, loss of habitats as well as unsustainable use. It was also in recognition that wild birds, many of which are migratory, are a shared heritage of the Member States and that their effective conservation required international co-operation. The directive recognises that habitat loss and degradation are the most serious threats to the conservation of wild birds. It therefore places great emphasis on the protection of habitats for endangered as well as migratory species (listed in Annex I), especially through the establishment of a coherent network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) comprising all the most suitable territories for these species. Since 1994 all SPAs form an integral part of the NATURA 2000 ecological network.</p>
	a. Natura 2000	<p>Natura 2000 is the centrepiece of EU nature & biodiversity policy. It is an EU wide network of nature protection areas established under the 1992 Habitats Directive (see above). The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. It is comprised of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated by Member States under the Habitats Directive, and also incorporates Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which they designate under the 1979 Birds Directive. Natura 2000 is not a system of strict nature reserves where all human activities are excluded. Whereas the network will certainly include nature reserves most of the land is likely to continue to be privately owned and the emphasis will be on ensuring that future management is sustainable, both ecologically and economically. The establishment of this network of protected areas also fulfils a Community obligation under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Natura 2000 applies to Birds Sites and to Habitats Sites, which are divided into biogeographical regions. It also applies to the marine environment. The Natura 2000 Barometer gives updated statistical information on the progress in establishing the Natura 2000 network, both under the Birds and the Habitats Directives.</p>
	b. Marine	<p>The need to fully apply the Habitats and Birds Directives to the offshore marine environment of the European Union, especially with regards to the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, represents a key challenge for EU biodiversity policy in the coming years. The establishment of a marine network of conservation areas under Natura 2000 will significantly contribute, not only to the target of halting the loss of biodiversity in the EU, but also to broader marine conservation and sustainable use objectives. Guidelines for the establishment of the Natura 2000 network in the marine environment. Application</p>

		of the Habitats and Birds Directives.
Industrial pollution control		<p>The largest industrial installations account for a considerable share of total emissions of key atmospheric pollutants and also have other important environmental impacts, including emissions to water and soil, generation of waste and the use of energy. Emissions from industrial installations have therefore been subject to EU-wide legislation for some time and currently the following main pieces of legislation apply in this field. The Directive 2010/75/EU (IED directive) on industrial emissions sets out the main principles for the permitting and control of installations based on several principles, namely: * an integrated approach; * application of best available techniques (BAT); * flexibility; * inspections and * public participation. BAT is the most effective techniques to achieve a high level of environmental protection, taking into account the costs and benefits. The IED entered into force on 6 January 2011 and had to be transposed into national legislation by Member States by 7 January 2013. The IED is the successor of the IPPC Directive and in essence, it is about minimising pollution from various industrial sources throughout the European Union. Operators of industrial installations operating activities covered by Annex I of the IED are required to obtain an integrated permit from the authorities in the EU countries. About 50.000 installations were covered by the IPPC Directive and the IED will cover some new activities which could mean the number of installations rising slightly.</p>
	a. Integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC)	<p>The first IPPC directive was adopted as Directive 96/61/EC and has been amended four times since it entered in force. The first amendment reinforced public participation in line with the Aarhus Convention. The second amendment clarified the relationship between the permit conditions established in accordance with the IPPC Directive and the EU greenhouse gas emission trading scheme. The last two amendments relate to changes regarding Comitology procedures and EPER. The IPPC Directive has been codified as Directive 2008/1/EC on 15 January 2008. The IPPC Directive was repealed with effect from 7 January 2014 by Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (IED) (see above).</p>
	b. Asbestos	<p>The objectives of the Council Directive 87/217/EEC of 19 March 1987 on the prevention and reduction of environmental pollution by asbestos are to reduce exposure to asbestos so as to lessen the risk of diseases occurring and to establish limit values and specific harmonised minimum requirements for the protection of workers. The Directive has been amended by: * Directive 91/692/EEC of 23 December 1991 standardizing and rationalizing reports on the implementation of certain Directives relating to the environment and * Council Regulation 807/2003/EC of 14 April 2003 adapting to Decision 1999/468/EC the provisions relating to committees which assist the Commission in the exercise of its implementing powers laid down in Council instruments adopted in accordance with the consultation procedure (unanimity).</p>
	c. Industrial plants	Council Directive 84/360/EEC of 28 June 1984 lays down measures and procedures

		<p>designed to prevent or reduce as far as possible air pollution from industrial plants within the Community. For the purposes of these provisions, "plant" shall mean any establishment or other stationary plant used for industrial or public utility purposes which is likely to cause air pollution. Member States shall require prior authorization to operate plants belonging to the categories listed out in Annex I. Authorization may be issued only when the competent national authority is satisfied that: (a) all appropriate preventive measures against pollution have been taken; (b) the use of plant will not cause significant air pollution, particularly from the emission of the substances referred to in Annex II; (c) none of the emission limit values applicable will be exceeded; and (d) all the air quality limit values applicable will be taken into account.</p>
<p>Chemicals and GMOs</p>	<p>a. Classification, labelling and packaging (CLP) of chemical substances and mixtures (GHS)</p>	<p>The Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation) on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP) requires companies to classify, label and package appropriately their hazardous chemicals before placing them on the market. It aims to protect workers, consumers and the environment by means of labelling which reflects possible hazardous effects of dangerous substances. It entered into force on 20 January 2009. The CLP Regulation of 2008 replaces certain provisions of the directives related to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances (Directive 67/548/EEC) and preparations (Directive 1999/45/EC) after a transitional period. These Directives were repealed on 1 June 2015. The CLP Regulation also takes over certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH) regarding the notification of classifications, the establishment of a list of harmonised classifications and the creation of a classification and labelling inventory and incorporates the classification criteria and labelling rules agreed at UN level, the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). It introduces new classification criteria, hazard symbols (pictograms) and labelling phrases, while taking account of elements which are part of the earlier EU legislation.</p>
	<p>b. REACH (Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorizations and Restriction of Chemicals)</p>	<p>Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances. This is done by the four processes of REACH, namely the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals. REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry. The REACH Regulation places responsibility on industry to manage the risks from chemicals and to provide safety information on the substances. Manufacturers and importers are required to gather information on the properties of their chemical substances, which will allow their safe handling, and to register the information in a central database in the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki. The Agency is the central point in the REACH system: it manages the databases necessary to operate the system, co-ordinates the in-depth evaluation of suspicious chemicals and is building up a public database in which consumers and professionals can find hazard information. The Regulation also calls for the progressive substitution of the most dangerous chemicals (referred to as "substances of very high concern") when suitable</p>

	alternatives have been identified.
c. Plant protection products	<p>Council Directive 91/414/EEC of 15 July 1991 concerns the authorization, placing on the market, use and control within the Community of plant protection products in commercial form and of active substances used to protect plants or plant products against harmful organisms. Member States shall prescribe that plant protection products may not be placed on the market and used in their territory unless they have authorized the product in accordance with this Directive and shall ensure that a plant protection product is not authorized unless its active substances are listed in Annex I and any conditions laid down therein are fulfilled. Under article 15 are listed the conditions for packaging and labelling of plant protection products. This Directive was repealed and replaced by Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 on 14 June 2011 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.</p>
d. Biocides	<p>Biocides are chemicals used to suppress organisms that are harmful to human or animal health, or that cause damage to natural or manufactured materials. These harmful organisms include pests and germs (i.e. moulds and bacteria). Examples of biocidal products are insect repellents, disinfectants and industrial chemicals like anti-fouling paints for ships and material preservatives. However, because of their intrinsic properties biocides can pose risks to humans, animals and the environment.</p> <p>The Directive 98/8/EC provides a framework of rules that apply to the marketing of biocidal substances and products. The goal of the directive was to coordinate these regulations among the different Member States. The directive stipulates a high level of protection for humans, animals and the environment. The EU Biocides Regulation 528/2012 repealed and replaced the Directive 98/8/EC, with the overall aim to simplify and streamline existing EU requirements without reducing the level of protection to health and the environment. The new Regulation entered into force on 1 September 2013.</p>
e. Laboratory animals	<p>Since 1986, the EU has had in place specific Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. On 22 September 2010 the EU adopted the Directive 2010/63/EU which updated and replaced the Directive 86/609/EEC. The aim of the new Directive is to strengthen legislation, and improve the welfare of those animals still needed to be used, as well as to firmly anchor the principle of the Three Rs, to Replace, Reduce and Refine the use of animals, in EU legislation. Directive 2010/63/EU took full effect on 1 January 2013. The scope is wider and includes fetuses of mammalian species in their last trimester of development and cephalopods, as well as animals used for the purposes of basic research, higher education and training. It lays down minimum standards for housing and care, regulates the use of animals through a systematic project evaluation requiring <i>inter alia</i> assessment of pain, suffering distress</p>

	<p>and lasting harm caused to the animals. It requires regular risk-based inspections and improves transparency through measures such as publication of non-technical project summaries and retrospective assessment. The development, validation and implementation of alternative methods is promoted through measures such as establishment of a Union reference laboratory for the validation of alternative methods supported by laboratories within Member States and requiring Member States to promote alternative methods at national level.</p>
<p>f. Import and export of chemicals</p>	<p>Regulation (EC) 649/2012 of the European Parliament and the Council of 4 July 2012 concerning the export and import of dangerous chemicals seeks to address international trade with dangerous chemicals and repealed Regulation (EC) 689/2008. The Regulation reaffirms the Community's commitment towards ensuring proper control in the trade and use of dangerous chemicals at the global level, based on the principle that it should help to protect human health and the environment beyond its borders as well as within. The objectives of this Regulation are to implement the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts in the international movement of hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and to contribute to the environmentally sound use of hazardous chemicals. The Regulation entered into force on 1 March 2014.</p>
<p>g. Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP)</p>	<p>Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are chemical substances that persist in the environment, bioaccumulate through the food web, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment. This group of priority pollutants consists of pesticides (such as DDT), industrial chemicals (such as polychlorinated biphenyls, PCBs) and unintentional by-products of industrial processes (such as dioxins and furans). The Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 of 29 April 2004 complements earlier Community legislation on POPs and aligns it with the provisions of the international agreements on POPs. The Regulation contains provisions regarding production, placing on the market and use of chemicals, management of stockpiles and wastes, and measures to reduce unintentional releases of POPs.</p> <p>Furthermore, Member States must set up emission inventories for unintentionally produced POPs, national implementation plans (NIPs) and monitoring and information exchange mechanisms. On 26 August 2010, a number of amendments of the EU Regulation entered into force. The amendments implement the international agreement reached at the 4th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention in 2009, which also entered into force on the same date. The new dangerous chemicals added to the EU Regulation on POPs have already been subject to prohibition or severe restrictions in the EU. With the new amendments certain restrictions go further than previously was the case in order to comply with the new international commitments.</p> <p>These are Regulation (EU) 757/2010 of 24 August 2010 amending Regulation (EC) No</p>

	850/2004 as regards Annexes I and III and Regulation (EU) 756/2010 of 24 August 2010 amending Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 as regards Annexes IV and V.
j. GMO (genetically modified organisms)	The EU legal framework related to GMOs aims to: * Protect human and animal health and the environment by introducing a safety assessment of the highest possible standards at EU level before any GMO is placed on the market; * Put in place harmonised procedures for risk assessment and authorisation of GMOs that are efficient, time-limited and transparent; * Ensure clear labelling of GMOs placed on the market in order to enable consumers as well as professionals (e.g. farmers, and food feed chain operators) to make an informed choice and * Ensure the traceability of GMOs placed on the market. The main pieces of this legislation are: * Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment; * Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed; * Directive (EU) 2015/412 amending Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory; * Regulation (EC) 1830/2003 concerning the traceability and labelling of genetically modified organisms and the traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms; * Directive 2009/41/EC on contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms and * Regulation (EC) 1946/2003 on transboundary movements of GMOs. These main pieces of legislation are supplemented by a number of implementing rules or by recommendations and guidelines on more specific aspects.
NOISE	
a. Assessment and management of noise	<p>The Directive 2002/49/EC (the Environmental Noise Directive - END) focuses on three action areas: * the determination of exposure to environmental noise; * ensuring that information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public; * preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and preserving environmental noise quality where it is good. The Directive applies to noise to which humans are exposed, particularly in built-up areas, in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, in quiet areas in open country, near schools, hospitals and other noise-sensitive buildings and areas. It does not apply to noise that is caused by the exposed person himself, noise from domestic activities, noise created by neighbours, noise at work places or noise inside means of transport or due to military activities in military areas.</p> <p>The Directive requires Member States to prepare and publish every 5 years noise maps and noise management action plans for: * agglomerations with more than 100,000 inhabitants; * major roads (more than 3 million vehicles a year); * major railways (more than 30.000 trains a year) and major airports (more than 50.000 movements a year, including small aircrafts and helicopters). When developing noise management action plans, Member States' authorities are required to consult the concerned public.</p>

		<p>The EU Civil Protection legislation was revised at the end of 2013 when the Decision 1313/2013/EU on establishing the Union Civil Protection Mechanism was adopted to better respond to the natural and man-made disasters in a swift, pre-planned and effective manner and thus to increase the security of EU citizens and disaster victims worldwide.</p> <p>The Union Civil Protection Mechanism covers inter alia: * strong focus on disaster prevention, with provisions relating to risk assessment and risk management planning; * increased predictability of assistance by setting up the European Emergency Response Capacity (EERC) in the form of a voluntary pool of pre-committed response assets from member states; * identification and addressing of potentially significant response capacity gaps in the EERC; * reinforcement and transformation of the Monitoring and Information Centre into an Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) ensuring 24/7 operational capacity and serving the member states and the European Commission in facilitating the coordination of civil protection assistance interventions; * more cost-effective and better coordinated transportation of assistance to the affected countries. It applies from 1 January 2014.</p>
<p>Civil protection</p>	<p>a. Control of major accident hazards</p>	<p>The new Directive 2012/18/EU (Seveso-III) repealed the previous Seveso II Directive 96/82/EC by 1 June 2015. The Directive aims at the prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances. However, as accidents may nevertheless occur, it also aims at limiting the consequences of such accidents not only for human health but also for the environment. The Directive covers establishments where dangerous substances may be present (e.g. during processing or storage) in quantities above a certain threshold. Excluded from the Directive are certain industrial activities which are subject to other legislation providing a similar level of protection (e.g. nuclear establishments or the transport of dangerous substances).</p> <p>The main changes in the Seveso III include: * Updating and aligning the list of substances covered by the Directive to the EU legislation on the classification of dangerous; * Strengthening citizens' rights on access to information, justice and on participation in decision-making; * Improving the way information is collected, managed, made available and shared; * Introducing stricter standards for inspections ensuring a more effective implementation and enforcement and * Clarifying and updating of provisions, including streamlining and simplification to reduce administrative burden.</p> <p>The Directive now applies to more than 10 000 industrial establishments in the European Union where dangerous substances are used or stored in large quantities, mainly in the chemical, petrochemical, logistics and metal refining sectors.</p>
	<p>Information about pollution - PRTR</p>	<p>The legal basis of the E-PRTR is Regulation (EC) No 166/2006. The European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) is the Europe-wide register that provides easily</p>

	<p>accessible key environmental data from industrial facilities in European Union Member States and in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland. The register contains data reported annually by more than 30,000 industrial facilities covering 65 economic activities across Europe. For each facility, information is provided concerning the amounts of pollutant releases to air, water and land as well as off-site transfers of waste and of pollutants in waste water from a list of 91 key pollutants including heavy metals, pesticides, greenhouse gases and dioxins for years 2007 onwards. Some information on releases from diffuse sources is also available and will be gradually enhanced. The register contributes to transparency and public participation in environmental decision-making and implements for the European Community the UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) PRTR Protocol to the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.</p>
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