



European Union Network for the Implementation
and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Mapping the European Agencies

*Mapping of the European Agencies involved in implementing the
environmental acquis*

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Introduction to IMPEL

The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) is an international non-profit association of the environmental authorities of the EU Member States, acceding and candidate countries of the European Union and EEA countries. The association is registered in Belgium and its legal seat is in Brussels, Belgium.

IMPEL was set up in 1992 as an informal Network of European regulators and authorities concerned with the implementation and enforcement of environmental law. The Network's objective is to create the necessary impetus in the European Community to make progress on ensuring a more effective application of environmental legislation. The core of the IMPEL activities concerns awareness raising, capacity building and exchange of information and experiences on implementation, enforcement and international enforcement collaboration as well as promoting and supporting the practicability and enforceability of European environmental legislation.

During the previous years IMPEL has developed into a considerable, widely known organisation, being mentioned in a number of EU legislative and policy documents, e.g. the 7th Environment Action Programme and the Recommendation on Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections.

The expertise and experience of the participants within IMPEL make the network uniquely qualified to work on both technical and regulatory aspects of EU environmental legislation.

Information on the IMPEL Network is also available through its website at: www.impel.eu



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<p>Executive Summary</p> <p>There is a clear picture of who does what at the European policy level e.g. who participates in formal negotiations or in Technical Working Groups. Policy makers, usually in the Ministries, create and/or transpose legislation into law and implementing bodies, sometimes the Ministries themselves but sometimes separate agencies and devolved bodies implement and enforce that law.</p> <p>What is less clear is <u>who</u> takes that legislation and implements it on the ground. Which authorities issue permits, who inspects against those permits and who has the responsibility to enforce that legislation? Are they nationally based authorities? Do regions and municipalities get involved? Are the permitting authorities separate and distinct from the inspectorates? Are there separate bodies responsible for implementing nature-based legislation such as the Birds and Habitats Directives or are they the same organisation that implements e.g. the Waste Framework Directive?</p> <p>Mapping the European agencies that implement the environmental acquis will enable the IMPEL network to gain an overview and better understanding of who does what and possibly identify gaps in its membership, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To further deepen and strengthen our network with professionals sharing best practice; and 	



- To help make our network more robust and increase our influence as the leading network of professional environmental practitioners in the EU.

Disclaimer

This report is the result of a project within the IMPEL network. The content does not necessarily represent the view of the national administrations.



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1. Introduction

The IMPEL network has grown significantly since its formation in 1992 under what was known originally as the 'Chester Network'. The network grew from 12 member authorities into 38 in 2008 when IMPEL became an independent Association registered under Belgian Law. Today, 55 Environment Protection Agencies, Ministries and Inspectorates are now working together to find better ways to implement and enforce Europe's environmental acquis.

IMPEL is the largest network of public, environmental authorities in the world.

However, the working assumption of this study is that there are other authorities implementing and enforcing environmental legislation in Europe who are yet to be actively involved in IMPEL and who could both contribute to, and benefit from, the learning developed collectively in the network.

There is a clear picture of who does what at the European policy level e.g. who participates in formal negotiations or in Technical Working Groups. What is less clear is who takes that legislation and implements it on the ground, at a practical level. Who has the responsibility to enforce that legislation, whether it is the Water Framework Directive or the Waste Framework Directive (or indeed, Part A of the Waste FD compared to Part B)? Collectively we have the answer to those questions – we just need to codify this into a single overview.

Why do we need to know this? It appears that no single environmental body has a complete and overall view of who can use this information to connect with their peers in a neighbouring country. IMPEL has an opportunity to identify gaps in its membership, namely to: i) further deepen and strengthen our network with professionals sharing best practice; and ii) help make our network more robust and increase our influence as the leading network of professional environmental practitioners in the EU.

A thorough mapping exercise will help us to firstly understand who does what, and secondly to plan where and whom we need to talk with to plug the gaps in membership of our network.



2. Project approach

2.1. Project aim, scope and objectives

The aim of this specific study is to gain a better of understanding, and to ‘map’ who does what on the implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law.

EU environmental law covers over 500 directives and regulations and so this study will not be able to cover everything (at least in this report alone). However, in broad terms e.g. waste and water, the aim of the project is to identify which authorities are the competent authorities to implement the vast majority of elements on, waste legislation, for example.

Using IMPEL’s expert teams as a guide and the example of the areas of work covered by our network in the recent past, the project will identify who works in those areas. Some thematic areas for example radioactive substances, noise and marine are not fully covered in this report but perhaps this will be improved in the future in later iterations of this study.

Germany and Hungary have not responded to this survey and are, as such, not included within this report.

2.2. Project methodology

It goes without saying that in Europe, the constitutional arrangements between different countries are different. Some are similar, but even these have their fair share of differences. History, geography and political expediency has meant that systems put in place by governments to implement and enforce legislation vary from one place to another. In other words, it is like comparing ‘apples to oranges’ in many cases. Thankfully, Europe’s environmental acquis gives IMPEL member countries a core backbone for comparative purposes.

This study will ‘map’ countries in three ways:

- 1. By its ‘Administrative’ setup at either national, regional or local level or a mixture of levels**

Administratively, countries carry out implementation and enforcement of the environmental acquis at different levels. Some have nationally based authorities e.g. in Latvia and Malta whereas in Germany the strong Federal arrangement means that regional governments and, also to a



lesser extent, the local level have a larger role in carrying out legal responsibilities. In some countries, e.g. Denmark and Sweden, the local (or 'municipal') level has a very significant role to play. In many countries and member states, there is a mixture of two or even all three levels.

2. By thematic area e.g. waste, water and nature

In some parts of Europe, implementation and enforcement is carried out largely by a single environmental authority regardless of theme, e.g. Natural Resources Wales (UK). However, in some IMPEL member countries and Member States, different authorities have been created to carry out the implementation and enforcement of Europe's environmental acquis. Continuing the example of the UK, in England by comparison, separate bodies are responsible for the implementation of different EU legislation, such as:

- A separate body called 'Natural England' is responsible for nature-based legislation like the Birds and Habitats Directives;
- The 'Rural Payments Agency' is responsible for issues such as cross compliance under the Common Agricultural Policy;
- The 'Marine Management Organisation' is responsible for marine licencing, pollution, protected sites and fisheries; and
- The 'Forestry Commission' has a role to play certification and forestry management more generally.

3. By its role in the compliance chain e.g. permitting, inspection and enforcement

In many countries, different authorities have been set up to carry out different aspects of the compliance chain. For example, in Portugal there is a separate permitting authority and inspectorate. The inspectorate has a wide range of administrative powers and criminal prosecutions are carried forward by an external public prosecutor. In contrast however, in Ireland permitting and inspection resides within the same organisation as does their prosecutor. It is possible, of course, to broaden out the compliance chain e.g. to planning, audit bodies, ombudsman, police, etc., but for the purposes of this study, it is being kept deliberately to permitting, inspection and enforcement.



A Note on Terminology:

As indicated above, the risk of such comparative studies is comparing ‘apples with oranges’ and ending up with ‘bananas’. No country in Europe is exactly the same as its neighbour. This is a delicate, potentially political narrative that gives rise to misunderstanding. The purpose of this study is to try and understand who does what and give some semblance of order to the complex nature of implementation and enforcement of European environmental law. No offence is intended and no conclusions or pre-conceptions are being made. For the purposes of this study, the reader is asked to forgive the author for taking a few liberties with some descriptions and try to understand why this has been done.

‘National’ – for the purposes of this study, a national authority is one that is organised at the Country / Member State level. In other words, those that operate across a whole EU Member State or IMPEL member country such as: i) the Cypriot Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment; ii) the Albanian State Inspectorate of Environment, Forestry and Water; or iii) Environment Agency of Iceland.

‘Regional’ – - for the purposes of this study, a regional authority is one that is organised, not at an ‘EU Member State’ level. In other words, an organisation that does not operate or have a legal responsibility to carry out activities across the whole EU Member State or IMPEL member country, but rather a defined geographical part thereof. Examples include the German and Austrian Federal Lander, Italy and it’s 21 regions, the four elements of the UK and Belgium’s constituent parts.

‘Local’ – the local level, sometimes termed as municipalities, is another level of category being used in this study. Good examples of this are in Denmark and Sweden where, though there is a nationally based environmental protection agency, a great deal of inspections, permits and enforcement activity is carried out at a municipal / local level.



3. IMPEL Country Summaries

IMPEL has 36 member countries represented in its network. Below is a brief description of its constitutional arrangements and how its administrative arrangements have been set up to implement environmental legislation referring in particular to the three key dimensions described above: national / regional / local; thematic areas; compliance chain.

Albania

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MOTE) oversees the adoption of national environmental strategies and policies.

The State Inspectorate of Environment and Forestry (SIEF) under MOTE carries out inspections and imposes administrative sanctions. The inspectorate is organised and functions at national and regional level. They can impose fines, withdraw licenses, suspend or close operations.

The National Environment Agency (NEA), with branches in 12 regions, assesses the conditions for environmental permits. The NEA is also responsible for the drafting of a national environmental monitoring programme and for monitoring of the state of the environment with the publication of annual reports.

The National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) is in charge of managing the network of protected areas and other natural networks as Natura 2000, and monitors the inventory of flora and fauna in these areas.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Management (MARDWM) is responsible for regulation of protection and sustainable use of water resources. Water Inspectorate is under the MARDWM.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): State Inspectorate of Environment and Forestry.

Austria

Austria's governmental arrangement is based on a Federal Administration and on nine Provincial Administrations (called Bundes-Länder). Arranged underneath each Province are 94 District Authorities and 2 100 municipalities. All levels of government in Austria have, to a degree, some level of responsibility for implementing and enforcing different parts of the environmental acquis.



On January 8, 2018 the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) became the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism. In addition to their existing tasks, the Ministry was given responsibility for energy and mining, tourism, regional policy and structural funds.

Several Ministries have the responsibility to implement and enforce different parts of the environmental acquis, e.g. the Federal Ministry of Health has a role in drinking water and bathing waters, the Federal Ministry of Transport Innovation and Technology has a role in the transport of dangerous goods and traffic, and the Federal Ministry of Justice has a role in [environmental crime] prosecution. However, most environment related work at the Federal level is carried out by the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism who is responsible for environmental policy, air quality, waste, chemicals, EIA, water management, radiation protection, forestry, coordination of nuclear policy, pesticides, National Parks, CITES amongst other subject matters.

Austria has no central inspection system so in reality an overwhelming amount of permitting and inspection is carried out at the Provincial level either through 'indirect' Federal administration (legislation enabling Federal laws to be carried out at sub-Federal level) or through Provincial Law. On environment, this means that a large number (approximately 80%) of IED facilities are permitted and inspected at the Provincial level. However, a small number of facilities are permitted and inspected at a Federal level. Municipalities are mostly responsible for the granting of building licences, local planning, traffic and noise as well as implementing delegated Federal responsibilities such as water supply and communal waste collection.

At a national level in Austria and reporting to the Federal Ministry of for Sustainability and Tourism, is the Environmental Agency. This agency supports public authorities in Austria with data, science and studies for public policy decision making. The Environment Agency is a member of the Heads of EPA's network.

Current membership in IMPEL, (2): 1) Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism; 2) Land Salzburg.

[Belgium](#)

Belgium is a federal state though most environmental matters are handled by the Flemish, Walloon and Brussels Capital regions.



At the federal level, the State has a limited set of competence such as on the permitting of offshore activities. The Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment is a Federal Public Service in Belgium and is responsible for chemicals (REACH and CLP), EU Ecolabel, CITES etc.

In the Brussels Capital Region, Brussels Environment is the public administration in charge inter alia of the management and implementation of environmental legislation (including legislation on nature, water and biodiversity), but also energy and animal welfare.

Brussels Environment has broad and concentrated powers, ranging from the management of public and natural green spaces to the issuing of environmental permits and other authorisations for activities with an environmental impact and subject to legislation.

Within the administration, the Inspectorate and Polluted Soils Division is in charge of monitoring and controlling legislation in these areas, including, since 2015, compliance with animal welfare rules.

To this end, the new Inspection Code was also introduced in 2015 to oversee these matters, and to set out the procedures and powers that come within the scope of its oversight and disciplinary role. The Code also defines the collaborations and partnerships between Brussels Environment and other relevant administrations, such as the 19 Brussels municipalities, or the Public Prosecutor's Office, for example.

Brussels Environment has also been granted the right to impose alternative administrative fines in the event of failure by the King's Prosecutor to prosecute an offence. This mechanism has made it possible to obtain faster, more effective and better adapted results when it comes to securing compliance or putting an end to environmental infringements.

Brussels Environment inspectors also have the authority to take or impose administrative measures with regard to the offender. The same environmental inspection powers are found at the municipal level.

The Flemish Government Department of the Environment and Spatial Development is responsible for preparing, executing and evaluating Flemish environmental policy for example by issuing integrated permits and carrying out inspections. The Flemish Agency for Nature and Forests is a separate agency that works on the conservation, protection and development of



nature. The agency is responsible for policy, sustainable management and the strengthening of nature.

The Flemish High Council of Environmental Enforcement has the following tasks: the organisation of systematic consultation with all the authorities (public ministry, administrative agencies, etc.) competent in the field of the enforcement of the environmental legislation, determine the priorities for the enforcement of environmental law and the format and publication of the annual environment enforcement report.

The Flemish Environment Agency plays a crucial role in developing an integrated water policy. It measures and controls the quantity and quality of water, manages water systems, collects a levy on water pollution and groundwater extraction, advises on environmental permits and takes care of the planning and supervision of the treatment infrastructure.

The Flemish Public Waste Agency has responsibilities on waste management and soil remediation.

In the Walloon region, Service Public de Wallonie (SWP - General Operational Direction No3, Environment & Agriculture) regulates and controls the management of natural resources (air, land, water, subsoil, fauna and flora) and protects biodiversity. SWP also coordinates the sustainable management of Wallonian forests, nature conservation, hunting and fishing.

Local authorities also have responsibilities on permitting and enforcement.

Current membership in IMPEL, (4): 1) Brussels Institute for Environmental Management; 2) Flemish Government Department of the Environment and Spatial Development; 3) General Operational Direction No3, Environment and Agriculture (Service public de Wallonie); 4) The Flemish High Council of Environmental Enforcement.

Bulgaria

Ministry of Environment and Water develops and implements the state environmental policy, as its main aspects are related to: legislative initiative – preparation of legislative documents; strategic planning – elaboration of national plans and strategies; implementation of sector policies – water, waste, climate, air, nature, soils, noise, radiation; prevention activities –



regulatory and control functions for prevention of pollution of environment; management of programs and projects.

Executive Environment Agency is responsible for issuing integrated permits, GHG emission permits, ETS Register and EPRT-R and is the holder of information and data on the state of environment. The Agency has 15 Accredited Regional Laboratories.

The Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water responsible for inspections and enforcement of environmental law.

There are four Basin Directorates within Ministry with responsibility for water basin management.

There are 3 National Park Directorates. They are responsible for management and protection of national parks and implementation of their management plans.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): Ministry of Environment and Water.

Croatia

Ministry of Environment and Energy is responsible for integrated 'IED' permits and single media permits for waste management for an activity involving the management of hazardous waste.

The competent local authority (municipalities) is responsible for issuing a waste management permit for an activity involving the management of non-hazardous waste.

Inspection activities in the field of environment protection, air protection, sustainable waste management, protection against light pollution, Water protection and water management, Nature protection, transboundary movement of waste (TFS) and wildlife trade, electricity, heat, and the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons and geothermal waters for energy purposes, the gas and oil sectors fall within the scope of the State Inspectorate.

Croatian Waters (regional, water) is responsible for preparation of the Water Management Strategy and preparation of the River Basin Management Plan. Croatian Waters are divided in two basic organisational units: the Head Office and 6 Water Management Departments.



Current membership in IMPEL, (1): State Inspectorate of Croatia.

Cyprus

The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (MARDE) has the majority of competencies relating to the environment. The Ministry takes responsibility for promoting an integrated and coordinated approach to the protection and sustainable management of the environment and natural resources, and the sustainable management of agricultural, livestock and fisheries production. MARDE contains a number of departments covering three thematic areas:

1. Environment: The Department of Environment's (DoE) vision is to become the authority that protects and enhances the environment, and aims to ensure sustainable development and improve the quality of life as well. DoE has responsibilities on nature protection/biodiversity, environmental impact assessment, EMAS, Ecolabel, climate change, waste management, pollution control (water and soil). DoE is the competent authority for permitting and inspections of industrial and farming activities, waste management facilities that can or tends to pollute the water and soil.
2. Agriculture/fisheries: This thematic area contains five sections: i) the Department of Agriculture; ii) the Land Consolidation Department; iii) the Veterinary Services Department; iv) the Agricultural Research Institute; and v) the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research.
3. Natural resources: This thematic area contains five sections, namely: i) the Water Development Department; ii) the Department of Forests; iii) the Geological Survey Department; iv) the Meteorological Service; and v) the Mines Service.

The Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, Department of Labour Inspection is responsible for permitting and inspection of air emissions. The Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance also has responsibilities on chemicals and REACH.

The Ministry of Interior is the competent authority for the Birds and Habitats Directives.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment.



Czech Republic

The Ministry of Environment is a central authority of the state administration for: water resources protection, ground and surface water quality protection, air protection, nature and landscape protection, farmland protection, activities of the state geological service, mineral resources, geological activities and environmental supervision over mining, waste management, assessment of activities and their impact on environment including cross-border activities, hunting, fishing and forest management in national parks, and the state environmental policy.

The Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI) is an expert body within the state administration and subordinate to the Ministry of Environment that primarily deals with environmental legislation and enforcement. The activities of the CEI can be divided into five core areas: air protection, waste management, nature, water and forest protection. The CEI includes a central Directorate (HQ) based in Prague, 10 Regional Inspectorates and 2 branches (a territorial subdivision).

Regional Authorities are responsible for delivering integrated permits within the Industrial Emission Directive (with the exception of installations with transboundary effects) and other environmental permits. There are thirteen regions plus the City of Prague which has regional status.

At a local level, three types of municipality act as additional administrative units. Local municipalities are responsible for permits of smaller / less complex sites. The phone numbers of local offices and personnel are on the website and members of the public often call their local offices directly to deal with a question or query complaint. There are also Emergency Service contacts of the local offices in the website that can be used when an incident and/or accident occurs.

The Nature Conservation Agency (NCA) is responsible for monitoring the status, changes and trends in selected habitats and their types and populations of the endangered, specially protected wildlife species and implementation of practical measures to conserve nature and to protect landscape in the 25 Protected Landscape Areas and 216 National Nature Reserves and National Nature Monuments in the whole of the Czech Republic's territory. The NCA has 14 regional offices.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): Czech Environmental Inspectorate.



Denmark

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prepares legislation and guidelines and grants authorisations in several areas. The EPA covers many topics within the fields of the environment, namely: protection of humans and nature through initiatives for a healthier environment, circular economy, chemical legislation, green companies, reduction of air and noise pollution. The EPA also covers other topics in cooperation with Nature Protection, such as: administration of subsidy schemes such as subsidies for afforestation and wetlands, monitoring of water, nature, groundwater and invasive species together with management of hunting, including the administration of hunting licenses. Enterprise permits and monitoring of companies are also part of their work.

Both the municipalities of Denmark and the Environmental Protection Agency conduct environmental inspections.

The Danish Nature Agency and Coastal Authority manages forests, natural areas and territorial waters of Denmark. They carry out practical tasks within hunting management.

The Danish Agriculture Agency contributes to the protection of the Danish water supply by ensuring that farmers and owners of nurseries and woodlands only use the permitted volumes of fertiliser in order to prevent leaching of nitrogen into the groundwaters, lakes and fjords.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): The Environmental Protection Agency.

Estonia

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for environmental policy and for preparing environmental laws and regulations.

The Environmental Board is a governmental body operating in the area of government of the Ministry and is responsible for environmental permits and EIA.

Enforcement and inspection at the state level is the responsibility of the Environmental Inspectorate, which is another governmental body operating in the area of government of the Ministry of Environment. The Inspectorate has its central coordinating office and regional



departments carrying out inspections. The range of topics they carry out are broad; from water, air, waste and radiation control to the “green” issues, including protected areas, fisheries and forestry.

The Estonian Environmental Agency (ESTE) acts as EMAS and EU Ecolabel competent body of Estonia and also collects and analyses data on the state of environment.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): Ministry of Environment.

Finland

The Ministry of the Environment protects the environment with the goal of safeguarding a good environmental status and ecologically sustainable development. Amongst its responsibilities are EU negotiations, transposition of EU legislation, policy development, guidance and national issues.

The Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVIs) are the state authorities charged with issuing IED permits under Finland's Water Act and Environmental Protection Act. The state authorities handle permits for activities with major environmental impacts, as well as all permits under the Water Act. Other environmental permits are dealt with by the municipal environmental protection authorities.

There are 13 Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY) who are responsible for the enforcement of permits in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act and the Water Act, and the enforcement of administrative measures of constraint in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act. Furthermore, under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, these centres handle tasks related to water resource use and management.

Municipal authorities are also responsible for the inspections of smaller / less complex installations, while the ELY's have the responsibility to perform inspections to larger / more complex installations.

The Natural Heritage Services (NHS) manage Finland's national parks and nature reserves, wilderness areas, recreational areas and other protected areas. It is responsible for the



management, use and public services of the areas and the nationwide protection and monitoring of many endangered species, natural habitats and cultural heritage. NHS also provides services for nature tourism, hiking, hunting and fishing.

ELY Centres conduct inventories of natural habitats laid down in the Nature Conservation Act in the regions coming under them and decide on their boundaries.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): Ministry of the Environment.

France

In France, the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy is responsible for EIA process, IED, Habitat's and Bird's Directives, Waste permitting and inspection of industrial facilities and waste facilities. Civil servants in the regional staff of the ministry are performing the task of permitting in these different areas.

For inspection, there are two different cases. For industrial facilities and waste: regional staff of the ministry do the inspections. For nature and water: staff from the French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB) do the water inspections and staff from the French National Office for Hunting and Wildlife (ONCFS) do the inspections for the rest.

Current membership in IMPEL (1): Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy

Greece

The Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE), Directorate of Environmental Permitting and Decentralised Directorates of Environment are responsible for EIA process, IED, Habitat's and Bird's Directives and permitting of Category A projects and activities. On the other hand, Regional Directorates of Environment issue environmental permits of Category B projects and activities. The Environmental Inspectorate of MEE is responsible for all types of environmental inspections.

Greek Ombudsman (GO) is an independent administrative authority that aims to protect citizens' rights, combat maladministration and ensure observance of the laws. GO's main role is to mediate between citizens and public services.



The MEE Special Secretariat for Water and Decentralised Water Directorates has responsibilities within the Water Framework Directive and the MEE Directorate for the Protection and Management of Water Environment has responsibilities regarding the Nitrates Directive.

The MEE Directorate for the Management of Natural Environment and Biodiversity works with the Habitats and Birds Directives and the MEE Directorate for Planning and Forestry Policy works with the CITES and Timber Regulation.

The Hellenic Recycling Agency (HRA) is the competent authority of the MEE for the design and implementation of the recycling policy in Greece. It is responsible for approving the national alternative management systems for each product and for controlling the progress of recycling within the Hellenic territory.

Current membership in IMPEL, (2): 1) Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy; 2) Ombudsman.

Iceland

The Icelandic Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources formulates and enforces Icelandic government policy for environmental affairs. The ministry supervises affairs pertaining to nature in Iceland, conservation and outdoor recreation, the national parks of Iceland, climate change, the protection of animals, wildlife management, pollution prevention, planning and building matters, fire prevention, weather forecasting and avalanche protection, surveying and cartography, forestry and soil conservation, environmental monitoring and surveillance.

The Environment Agency of Iceland (EAI) is responsible for permitting, inspection, analysis of monitoring results and reporting. The main office of the EAI is in Reykjavik, however there are eight other offices in Iceland. The EAI has the following areas of responsibility: Information and advice for the public, businesses and regulatory authorities, monitoring of environmental quality, evaluation of environmental impact assessment and development plans, operation supervision, conservation: the management and supervision of designated protected areas, assessment of conservation effects and registration of unique nature sites, risk analysis, wildlife management, collaboration in Scandinavian, other European and international agreements/projects, ecolabelling, protection of domestic animals, wildlife conservation, labelling and handling of toxic as well as other hazardous substances, health and safety in public places and coordination of local health inspectorates.

There are ten local health committees operating in Iceland that vary in size, the number of installations they control and the number of staff and population they employ and serve. The committees are a mandatory form of cooperation between all the municipalities within each



health and safety district. All the committees operate local health inspection directorates, which are responsible for issuing permits of small, low risk sites and supervising health and pollution control within each district. The Local Health Inspectorates generally control smaller, non-IPPC permit activities, e.g. gas stations and dry cleaners.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): The Environment Agency of Iceland.

Ireland

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. The EPA has a wide range of functions to protect the environment, and primary responsibilities include: environmental licensing, enforcement of environmental law, environmental planning, education and guidance, monitoring, analysing and reporting on the environment, regulating Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions, environmental research development, strategic environmental assessment, waste management and radiological protection. The EPA has a Head Office in Wexford and five Regional Environmental Inspectorates.

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is the statutory agency responsible for inland fisheries in Ireland. The principal function is the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource. IFI provides its service through 8 offices in 7 counties.

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is responsible for making the necessary arrangements for the implementation of National and EU legislation and policies for nature conservation and biodiversity including the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

The Marine Institute is responsible for environmental monitoring programme in transitional, coastal and marine waters aimed at fulfilling the requirements of the EU Shellfish Waters and Water Framework Directives.

The Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs) are responsible for coordinating the waste enforcement functions of local authorities, setting priorities and common objectives for waste enforcement and ensuring consistency of waste enforcement. There are three WERLAs, namely Connacht Ulster, East Midlands and the Southern Region.

Dublin City Council is designated as the National Competent Authority for the export, import and transit of waste shipments.

Local Authorities conduct environmental enforcement in Ireland at local level. Currently, the 31 local authorities in Ireland carry out work such as enforcing licences/permits, conducting site



inspections, handling environmental complaints, undertaking enforcement actions, and issuing prosecutions.

Current membership in IMPEL, (3): 1) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); 2) Dublin City Council National TFS Office; 3) Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs).

Italy

The Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea makes the policy regarding water, air, nature, biodiversity, climate change, energy efficiency, circular economy, etc. The Ministry is also responsible for permitting of large installations.

The Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) performs research activities and various environmental protection and monitoring tasks, such as the safeguarding of water resources, soil and land protection, nature conservation and the evaluation and update of environmental pressures inventories. Fields of activities include: air and water quality, biodiversity conservation, protection of wildlife, climate change adaptation, waste data and policies, EMAS and Ecolabel, hydro geological risk, nuclear and industrial risks, electromagnetic fields, noise, environment and health, impact assessment of projects and plans (EIA, SEA) of national relevance, technical support to the Integrated Environmental Authorisation under IPPC Directive, environmental emergency management at sea and on land.

There are 21 Regional and Provincial Agencies called ARPA's - Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente. ARPA's have the following mission: to disseminate knowledge (State of the Environment), promotion and prevention, cleaner technologies and BAT, training, capacity building, education, environmental inspections (IPPC, Seveso Directive), authorisations (technical support to competent bodies) and biodiversity. AssoARPA is an association of which brings the ARPA's together to share best practice and information.

Carabinieri Command of Units for Forestry Environmental and Agri-food protection is a specialised unit of the Carabinieri force. It has absorbed the personnel and functions of the State Forestry Corps from 1 January 2017. Its main activities are the protection of biodiversity, national parks and CITES.

Current membership in IMPEL, (4): 1) Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea; 2) Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA); 3) ARPA Lombardia; 4) AssoARPA.



Kosovo

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) is responsible for drafting and monitoring the implementation of legislation, policies and programmes identifying and reducing environmental pollution. The Department of Environmental Protection designs and implements policies and programmes related to environmental protection and prepare environmental permits. The Inspectorate for Environment Protection conducts environment, water and nature inspections.

The Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA) is a government institution that engages, through integrated environmental monitoring, efficient system of environmental information and continuous reporting on the environmental situation, to maintain air quality, water, soil and biodiversity, promote the use of renewable energy sources and sustainable use of natural resources in order to ensure a healthy environment for present and future generations in harmony with the progress of economic and social developments. KEPA is also responsible for environment and nature monitoring, establishment and management of databases and environmental information systems.

Municipal Inspectorates of Environmental Protection are organised within municipalities (38) to conduct monitoring in their local areas and report to the Inspectorate of the Ministry on an annual basis.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.

Latvia

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development sets environmental policy in Latvia and is supported by the State Environmental Service (SES). SES is a state level institution with a goal to ensure the compliance and implementation of environment legislation. The SES has 8 regional environmental boards and they are responsible for permitting and inspection.

The Nature Conservation Agency is another state institution under the supervision of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and is responsible for the management of all protected areas, nature protection, scientific research in protected areas, coordination between local authorities, non-governmental organisations and education institutions to promote nature conservation and CITES (including issuing the permission for importing and exporting protected animal and plant species). The agency has 4 regional units.



The Ministry of Agriculture works in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment to protect water and soil against pollution caused by nitrates.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development.

Lithuania

The Ministry of Environment is the policy making institution. The goals of the Ministry are to ensure environmental quality, implement climate change policies to change consumption patterns, increase energy efficiency and promote the use of renewable energy sources and technologies, preserve biodiversity and promote the use of buildings and their maintenance in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for coordination of environmental impact assessment (EIA), assessing/analysing EIA documents for planned economic activities and decision making, issuing of pollution permits and Integrated Prevention and Pollution Control (IPPC aka IED) permits, environmental monitoring, State Cadastre of Rivers, lakes and reservoirs, ensuring the implementation of the policy of the control of chemical substances and preparations. The EPA also has the responsibility to oversee the implementation of: i) voluntary environmental management schemes such as EMAS; ii) Best Available Techniques (BAT) during the IED permitting process; III) ecolabelling systems (EU ecolabel); and iv) licenses for waste (waste shipments, licenses for hazardous waste).

The Environmental Protection Department under the Ministry of Environment is responsible for inspection and enforcement.

The State Forestry Service is another subordinate institution of the Ministry of Environment. Key tasks are to carry out state forest accounting, to publish forestry and forest sector statistics, to evaluate the quality of state and private forest management projects - compliance with legal requirements, to approve and register private forest management projects, to control the use of public and private forests, and to calculate the annual rate of forest cutting for state forest managers and to control its execution.



The State Service for Protected Areas is under the umbrella of the Ministry of Environment and implements State Policy (including Natura 2000 areas) and strategy in the field of protection and management of protected areas.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): Environmental Protection Agency.

Luxembourg

The Luxembourg Environment Agency has the following roles with regards to environmental protection: the description, evaluation and monitoring of the state of the environment and the impact of human activities on the environment, granting permits for listed companies and activities in accordance with Best Available Techniques (BAT), the implementation of prevention and restoration actions of environmental damages.

The main tasks of the Nature and Forestry Agency are: protection of nature, natural resources, biodiversity and landscapes, protection and sustainable forestry management of the forests subject to the forestry regime, protection and sustainable development of hunting resources, monitoring and policing the protection of nature, forests, hunting and fishing.

The Water Management Agency is the authority responsible for ensuring integrated and sustainable management and effective protection of water resources and the aquatic environment. Its functions include overseeing and ensuring that water legislation and regulations are applied.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): Luxembourg Environment Agency.

Malta

The Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change has responsibilities on climate change policy, environmental protection, natural resources, waste management, national parks, agriculture and fisheries.

Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) is responsible for issuing permits, inspections and enforcement in three different streams: Industry, Nature and Waste Management.



The Energy and Water Agency supports the Ministry for Energy and Water Management in the development of national policies for the water sector and in addressing the requirements of the EU Water Acquis, in particular under the implementation process of the Water Framework Directive.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): Environment and Resources Authority.

Netherlands

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) is responsible for day-to-day inspection of transport of goods, transport by road, air and water as well as passenger transport, and environmental and building regulations. The Inspectorate also issues a permit(s) in a number of areas, or certificates.

The Directorate General for Public Works and Water Management - Rijkswaterstaat has responsibilities on water safety, water management (e.g. flooding), soil remediation and management. The Knowledge Centre (InfoMil) is the primary source of information and best practices in matters of environmental legislation and policy in the Netherlands.

The Dutch Emission Authority (NEA) is an implementing organisation for climate related policies and contributes to the reduction of CO₂ emissions.

The Association of Regional Agencies - Omgevingsdienst NL is the association of the 29 environment services (regional implementation services) in the Netherlands. These environmental services are commissioned by municipalities and provinces to provide permits, inspection and enforcement in the field of the environment.

Municipalities at a local level are responsible for permitting and inspection of SME's with limited environmental impact. At the Provincial level, 16 Provinces are responsible for permitting and inspection for large industries with high environmental impact. Provinces are also responsible for nature protection activities.

Granting water permits is the responsibility of Dutch Water Authorities. There are 21 regional water authorities.

Current membership in IMPEL, (4): 1) Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management; 2) Association of Regional Environment Inspection Agencies; 3) Association of the Dutch Provinces; 4) Rijkswaterstaat (Infomil)



North Macedonia

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning is responsible for monitoring the condition of the environment; protection of water, soil, flora, fauna, air and ozone layer against pollution; protection against noise, radiation, protection of the biodiversity, national parks and protected areas; establishing and maintenance of national biodiversity and waste management information restoration of the polluted areas of the environment; proposing measures for treatment of solid waste. The Department for Nature is responsible for Natura 2000, biodiversity, natural parks, issuing permits. The Department for Waste works on waste management, specific waste streams and permits.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy is responsible for transposition and implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives and EUTR Regulation, as well as the development and implementation of policies on plant protection, agricultural land management, forestry and hunting.

The State Environment Inspectorate (SEI) controls the implementation of environmental laws and regulations and produces annual plans and reports on its activities.

The State Forestry and Hunting Inspectorate controls the implementation of laws on forestry, reproductive material from forests and hunting, according to the Law on the Forestry and Hunting Inspection.

Municipal administrations (executive bodies) have sectors responsible for environmental issues (waste, water, soil issues, nature, etc.) and inspection authorities.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): The State Environment Inspectorate.

Norway

The Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment has the main responsibility for ensuring integrated governmental climate and environmental policies.

The Norwegian Environment Agency's central tasks and responsibility are managing Norwegian nature and preventing pollution. The Agency's functions are to monitor the state of the environment and provide information, oversee and guide regional and municipal authorities, collaborate with authorities of relevant sectors. The Agency grants permits, carry out inspections and enforcement activities. The Norwegian Nature Inspectorate (SNO) is part of the Norwegian Environment Agency. It has its headquarters in Trondheim, and over sixty local offices across the entire country. SNO preserves national environmental values and prevents



environmental crime by means of inspections, monitoring, information, guidance, and operative management in important natural and cultural heritage areas.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): The Norwegian Environment Agency.

Portugal

General Inspection for Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning (IGAMAOT) is responsible for inspection of activities from private and public operators that can have environmental impacts, preventing, correcting and punishing non-compliances to legislation and situations that threaten the environment, safety and public health.

Portuguese Environmental Agency (APA) is the competent authority for permitting. The main areas of work are: air, water, waste, climate changes, chemicals, noise, protection of ozone layer, genetic modified organisms, sustainable development, citizen participation, environmental assessments, environmental economics and green growth and environmental risks, enforcement of environmental law on water.

Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF) is responsible for permitting and to ensure the implementation of nature conservation and forest policies. The main areas of intervention are: nature conservation, biodiversity, forestry, hunting and fishery and aquaculture resources of inland waters; enforcement of nature protection law.

5 Regional Coordination and Development Commissions (CCDR) participate in permitting process by establishing environmental conditions such as air emissions, noise and wastes of many installations; and responsible for enforcement of environmental law (except water).

Municipalities is responsible for licensing of many activities that impact the environmental locally.

There are two autonomous regions in Portugal, namely Azores and Madeira.

Azores

Regional Directorate of Environment, Azores (DRA) has responsibilities regarding nature conservation, which includes the management of protected areas, species and habitats under the Natura 2000 Network, and environmental quality, with special emphasis on the management and supervision of noise, air quality and waste.



Regional Environment Inspectorate, Azores (IRA) is responsible for environmental inspections and applying sanctions in Azores region.

The mission of the Regional Directorate for Forest Resources, Azores (DRRF) is to ensure a rational use of the region's forest and natural resources and they are in charge of the management of the hunting and inland fishing resources of the region.

Entity for the Regulation of Water and Waste Services, Azores (ERSARA) is the authority for drinking water supply services, urban wastewater management services, municipal waste management services and drinking water quality.

Madeira

Regional Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, Madeira (SRA) comprises of Institute of Forests and Nature Conservation, Madeira (IFCN) and Water and Waste Madeira (ARM). IFCN aims to promote nature conservation, planning and sustainable management of bio and geodiversity, landscape and forest, as well as associated resources and the management of protected areas.

Regional Directorate Spatial Planning and Environment, Madeira (DROTA) implements and coordinates the regional policy for the management of the quality of the environment, water, sea, coastal, spatial planning, urban planning and geographical, cartographic and cadastral information, contributing to sustainable development.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): 1) General Inspection for Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning (IGAMAOT); 2) Regional Environment Inspectorate, Azores.

Poland

The Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection is a central governmental authority supervised by the Ministry of Environment. The Inspectorate's goals and priorities are focused on: controlling compliance with environmental protection regulations and sensible use of natural resources, inspecting landfill sites, inspecting the area of water and wastewater management to protect water resources, etc. The Chief Inspectorate supervises 16 voivodship inspectorates.

Environmental permits are issued by the Marshall (regional level), Starost (county level) or municipality (local level) depending on the type of activity.



The General Directorate for Environmental Protection is another unit supervised by Ministry of Environment. The Directorate has responsibilities in the following areas: strategic environmental impact assessment, procedures relating to the transboundary impact on the environment, Natura 2000 network, participation of organisations in EMAS, issuing permits including derogation from prohibitions in force in natural reserves.

State Forests have responsibilities regarding forest management and nature conservation.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): The Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection.

Romania

The National Environmental Guard (NEG) is a specialised inspection and control body that can apply sanctions, such as suspending or terminating activities. NEG has responsibilities on protected natural areas, natural habitats, flora, wildlife and aquaculture. NEG controls environmental compliance in protected areas, parks and natural reserves, organises joint actions together with their representatives to protect natural habitats. NEG has a headquarters, 8 regional commissariats and 43 county commissariats.

Environmental Protection Agencies are responsible for issuing permits for activities having environmental impact, monitoring environmental factors and reporting on greenhouse gas emissions, radioactivity, air quality, protected areas, waste management, chemicals and GMOs.

The Romanian Waters National Administration (RWNA) is responsible for inspection and enforcement of water legislation, flood defence, permitting of activities and installation related to management and use of water, monitoring and reporting of water quality. The RWNA has 11 River Basin Administrations across Romania.

The main competences of the Forest Guard are management of hunting areas, keeping track of hunting resources, inspecting the ways in which the hunting is organised and practiced as well as inspecting and supervising logging and Timber Regulation.

The Romanian Naval Authority verifies activities related with ships operations and water transportations of dangerous products are carried in a safe and environmentally responsible manner and coordinates the responses to pollution and remediation of polluted marine and river areas.

Current membership in IMPEL, (2): 1) The National Environmental Guard; 2) Romanian Waters National Administration.



Serbia

The Ministry of Environmental Protection is the competent authority for nature protection, air protection, protection of the ozone layer, climate change, cross-border pollution of air and water, protection of waters from pollution, permitting and inspections in the field of environmental protection, protection against major chemical accidents and waste management. Under the umbrella of this Ministry is the Serbian Agency for Environmental Protection who is responsible for monitoring and implementing an effective environmental information system as well as reporting on the state of the environment.

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the transposition and implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Waters is responsible for EUTR Regulation. The Forestry and Hunting Inspectorate controls the implementation of laws on forestry and hunting.

The Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia performs activities related to the protection of nature and natural goods. They maintain a register of protected natural goods and an information system on nature protection (databases on protected natural goods, habitats, protected species, including birds ecological network area).

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): The Ministry of Environmental Protection (Sector of environmental inspection).

Slovak Republic

The Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic is a central state administration body for the protection of the environment. The Ministry has responsibilities in the following areas: nature and landscape protection, water management, protection of the quality and quantity of waters and their rational use, fisheries with the exception of aquaculture and marine fisheries, protection of air quality, the ozone layer and climate, waste management, environmental impact assessment, reports on the state of the environment, protection and regulation of trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora. It is also the competent authority for the transboundary transport, import, export and transit of waste.

The Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment (SIE) is a state level authority responsible for performing inspections and enforcement actions in the following domains: integrated pollution prevention and control, waste management, water protection, air protection and nature and landscape protection.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): The Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment.



Slovenia

The environment protection system in Slovenia is organised centrally and is within the competence of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. Responsibility for some environmental protection services are in practice transferred to the municipal level.

Tasks on the environmental protection field are performed within the Ministry by the following bodies:

Environment Directorate (the Ministry in the narrow sense): It covers issues in the following environmental areas: biotechnology, noise, industrial accidents, industrial pollution, nature, waste, climate change, environmental impact assessments, radiation and light pollution, natural disaster recovery and air. The Directorate performs professional tasks in relation to legal system issues of the environment, elaborates expert groundwork for drafting regulations in its fields of activity, designs systemic solutions and coordinates tasks within the scope of activities that fall under the Ministry's competencies.

The Environment Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (ARSO) (body within the Ministry): It performs expert, analytical, regulatory and administrative tasks related to the environment at the national level. ARSO is responsible for issuing all environmental permits (including IED and SEVESO permits) and monitoring quality control.

The Inspectorate for the Environment and Spatial Planning (IRSOP) (body within the Ministry): It performs inspections and enforcement actions in the following domains: air quality, waste management and TFS, water quality, emissions of substances into waters, water regulation and management, protection of the environment and nature and ecological supervision at the national border, chemicals and genetically modified organisms, industrial pollution and risk, noise, electromagnetic radiation and light pollution. Inspectors have the power to impose fines, payment orders or offence decisions, admonitions or warnings.

The Slovenian Water Agency (DRSV) (body within the Ministry): Has the competence of granting water rights by issuing water permits and water consents. The management of water and coastal land owned by the Republic of Slovenia is also within the competencies of the DRSV.

The Inspection Council is a permanent inter-ministerial working body for the coordination of various inspection services. It plans joint implementation of inspection tasks and ensures the prompt transfer of information, deals with common professional and organisational issues linked to the operation of specific inspections, determines and monitors indicators of performance, efficiency and quality of the inspection services work.



There are 212 municipalities in Slovenia, 11 of which have the status of a 'city' municipality. A city municipality is a densely built-up settlement or several settlements linked into a single spatial organism and the urban surroundings are connected by a daily population migration. A town obtains the status of an urban municipality if it meets the conditions laid down by law (e.g. size, population, infrastructure). Inter-municipal Inspectorates perform inspection supervision over adopted municipal regulations and conducts inspection and violations procedures in municipalities.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): Inspectorate for the Environment and Spatial Planning.

Spain

Spain has an administrative system based on the State, regional authorities (17 comunidades autónomas – autonomous communities) and 2 ciudades autónomas (autonomous cities) and local authorities.

Basically the State (Ministry for the Ecological Transition) develops the basis for national laws and transposes European directives and manages the European regulation enforcement. Besides, the Ministry for the Ecological Transition has other duties as inspection of cross-border waste shipments control, enforcement in some Spanish river basins and territorial waters management.

If the national institution for environmental affairs is the ministry, the regional institutions are the "Consejerías de Medio Ambiente" (regional offices) sometimes attached to other issues as agriculture, food or land. In general terms, they are in charge of environmental inspection, issue permissions and enforcement issues "on the ground". Spain does not have a National Environment Agency, however some autonomous communities have (besides the Consejerías) institutions which carry out roles as agencies do within their territory.

Civil Guard (belongs to Ministry for Internal Affairs) has a Nature Protection Service (SEPRONA) which has an outstanding duty on environment crimes investigation within Spanish territory as a whole.

Current membership in IMPEL, (2): 1) Ministry for the Ecological Transition; 2) Environmental Inspection Authority of the Basque Government



Sweden

In Sweden, agencies are responsible for guidance, and have some responsibilities for inspection and enforcement.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency develops environmental policy and implements it by acting in such a way as to ensure compliance with the Swedish Environmental Code and achievement of the national environmental objectives. The Agency's remit includes the allocation of government appropriations to other actors within fields such as the protection and maintenance of valuable natural environments, clean-up and remediation of polluted areas, compensation for damage caused by wildlife and support for outdoor recreation organisations.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management is responsible for managing the use and preventing the overuse of Sweden's marine and freshwater environments.

The Swedish Board of Agriculture is the Government's expert authority in the agro-food sector and is responsible for all matters related to agriculture.

The Swedish Chemicals Agency is a supervisory authority under the Government and works to ensure that the company's and society's chemical control is managed to reduce the risk for human beings and the environment. The Agency supervises importers and manufacturers of chemical products, pesticides and articles, and carries out inspections.

The Swedish Defence Inspectorate for Health and the Environment checks if the Swedish Armed Forces comply with laws and other regulations that apply to environmental and health protection.

Environmental inspections and enforcement concerning installations and other activities on the ground are planned and carried out mostly at regional and local level by the 21 County Administrative Boards (CAB) or the 290 Environmental and Public Health Committees.

Licensing authorities are Land and Environmental Courts, Land and Environmental Court of Appeal, and the County Administrative Boards. There are five Land and Environmental Courts. There are 21 CABs, one in each county, and licensing takes place at 12 of these. The



Environmental Courts handle activities with large environmental impact. For some minor environmentally hazardous activities, licensing is carried out at local level.

Current membership in IMPEL, (2): 1) The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency; 2) The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.

Switzerland

The Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) is the federal government's centre of environmental expertise and is part of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communication. FOEN aims to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including soil, water, air and forests. It is responsible for minimising natural hazards, reducing risks to the environment and human health from excessive pollution and conserving biodiversity.

Cantonal Authorities are responsible for implementing the federal statutes and ordinances. They are responsible for permitting, inspection and enforcement regarding water, air and waste issues.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): The Federal Office for the Environment.

Turkey

Turkey's constitution governs the legal framework of the country. It sets out the main principles of government and establishes Turkey as a unitary centralised state. The 81 provincial administrations, each with a Governor that is advised by a nominated Provincial Council, represent the decentralized organs of State public services and authority. They are organised for administrative purposes into three levels: province, county and district – each with an administrative head and an advisory council.

Ministries prepare policy and legislation and have a strong executive role at central and provincial level. Provincial directors representing ministries are answerable to the Governors but responsible to the Minister for the execution of sectoral policy. Turkey is also subdivided into 7 regions and 21 sub-regions for geographic, demographic and economic purposes; this does not refer to an administrative division.



The Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation is responsible for the environment, public works and urban planning in Turkey. The Directorate General of Environmental Impact Assessment, Permit and Inspection is responsible for execution of environmental legislation such as carrying out EIA issues, permit writing and licensing, environmental inspection and strategy development at the national level. There are 81 Provincial Directorates and they are responsible for implementing the environmental law by carrying out EIA issues, permit writing and licensing and environmental inspection at the local level.

The Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation is responsible for wastewater management, monitoring of wastewater treatment facilities, wastewater planning, inspection, and controlling for mitigating water pollution. As far as water resources are concerned, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for river basin management, protection of water resources, planning and usage of water, and determining and monitoring of water quality. The General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works is a subsidiary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and is responsible for managing surface groundwater resources and has a system of abstraction permits and inspections. The Ministry of Health plays a role in the protection of drinking and bathing water quality.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for nature protection issues and has a role in the implementation of the fish and shellfish water directives and the nitrates directive.

The Coast Guard Command has been delegated by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation for the control of vessel sourced marine pollution.

Current membership in IMPEL, (1): Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation.

[United Kingdom](#)

In the UK, there are four distinct countries, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, each with responsibility to implement and enforce the environmental acquis. Each country has its own Parliament and Government. Each country has its own implementing agency, all of which are members of IMPEL: Environment Agency England, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and Natural Resources Wales. Policy on environment is a devolved power so in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the Governments of those countries prepare policy and the agencies implement and enforce those policies. In England, the



Government at Westminster in London (the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) prepares policy and the Environment Agency implements and enforces those policies.

In Scotland and England, there are several other implementing authorities responsible for implementing and enforcing different parts of the acquis. These thematic based authorities have a great deal of interaction with the 'main' environment agency of that country but are distinctly separate from them¹. In England, Natural England (e.g. land management, CITES, national parks), the Marine Management Organisation (e.g. marine licencing, marine pollution, protected sites, fisheries), Rural Payments Agency (e.g. basic payment scheme, countryside and environmental stewardship, cross compliance) and Forestry Commission (e.g. certification, forestry management) are all distinct authorities that support implementation and enforcement of the environmental acquis. Similarly, in Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, the Rural Payments Service and Marine Scotland do very similar roles.

In Northern Ireland, The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has responsibility for food, farming, environment, fisheries, forestry and sustainability policy in Northern Ireland. It carries out several functions in these areas itself however it also has two executive agencies: the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, which is a member of IMPEL, and the Forest Service, which is not.

In Wales, Natural Resources Wales covers most of these functions within its remit.

Permitting, inspection and enforcement is carried out by the authorities mentioned above.

In all four parts of the UK, the vast majority of environmental legislation is implemented and enforced by the national level agencies and very little is the purview of local municipalities. There are exceptions such as local air quality in England.

Current membership in IMPEL, (4): 1) Environment Agency England; 2) Northern Ireland Environment Agency; 3) Scottish Environmental Protection Agency; 4) Natural Resources Wales.

¹ In Scotland for example, this is epitomised by Scotland's Environment and Rural Services (SEARS) system.



4. Conclusions

At the time of writing of this report, IMPEL's membership stands at 56 member authorities from 36 countries. Each year somewhere between 300 to 500 experts are involved in IMPEL activities attending workshops, conferences, trainings or managing the projects and network more generally. The volume of guidance materials produced, workshops and best practice seminars carried out makes IMPEL the leading network for public sector practitioners on environmental law in Europe.

However, there are still gaps in IMPEL's membership. 108 potential members or groups/associations of members have been identified across IMPEL's member countries that could possibly join IMPEL under the network's current rules and Statute.

The results of this study highlight evidence that membership from regional or local level authorities implementing and enforcing environmental law is lacking. Local and regional authorities of most of the member countries have some responsibilities to a greater or lesser degree over implementation of the environmental acquis. It is clear that where implementation and enforcement is carried out at a regional or local level, the sheer number of authorities (in some countries they run into the thousands) mean it may not be practical to have membership for each region, or local authority / municipality but instead some sort of coalition, group or association and to encourage representative and collective involvement in the network. A good example of this is in the Netherlands where the Association of 'Regional Environment Inspection Agencies' has been set up and is now actively involved in IMPEL. In some countries, most notably Malta, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Serbia, the results suggest that only national authorities are responsible for implementation.

Perhaps not surprisingly, on a thematic basis, IMPEL's historical bias towards waste and industry has meant that the network of authorities involved in nature and water activities in IMPEL is not as well developed. Some IMPEL member authorities already have responsibility for thematic subjects such as nature and water but those departments responsible for that work are not yet fully and actively engaged in the network. The table below gives an overview of potential membership to the network based upon theme. Unsurprisingly, the Industry & Air and Waste & TFS Expert Teams are already well represented in the member states though there are still some organisations that could be added to their networks of experts. In the case of Water & Land and Nature Protection, the newest of the Expert Teams, some further growth is evident.



(Thematic) Expert Team	Number of potential members
Industry & Air	41
Waste & TFS	41
Nature Protection	56
Water & Land	60
Cross Cutting	73

The study points to high participation from nationally based inspection organisations and even though some permitting organisations are involved they are not as well represented. In some countries, permitting and inspection is combined into a single authority but in many cases, they are separate.



5. Recommendations

1. To carry out a follow up survey:
 - a. On a regular basis e.g. once per year or once every two years
 - b. Which goes into more depth and perhaps seeks to identify those administrations that have responsibility for individual Directives and Regulations.
 - c. To expand on core thematic areas not covered or only partly covered in this survey such as radioactive substances, noise and marine issues.
 - d. Similarly, judicial and prosecutorial themes could be considered in greater depth and would require engagement and contributions from partner networks such as the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment and EU Forum of Judges for the Environment.
2. Development and implementation of a strategy by IMPEL's General Assembly is needed to attract more member authorities into IMPEL. It is clear from the results that IMPEL's 'Water and Land' and 'Nature Protection' Expert Teams need further development in terms of membership from public authorities from member countries. However, the report also highlights the need for current IMPEL members (whose traditional role and focus in IMPEL has been on 'Industry and Air' and 'Waste and TFS' issues) to seek greater involvement from within their organisations from those departments whose responsibility are for nature and water-based legislation.
3. To actively seek representation from authorities at a municipal and regional level with responsibility for implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law e.g. at a sub-national level. This may require a specific strategy being developed and implemented, which includes an engagement strategy with the Committee of the Regions at a European level but also with Associations of local government in the member countries. In practical terms, it is unlikely and perhaps also undesirable, to admit thousands of public authorities into IMPEL's membership however membership from an *Association* (a grouping of many local municipal and/or regional authorities) would help to support implementation as well as growth of the network. Such a change may impact upon and/or require a review of IMPEL's membership fee structure.
4. To seek responses from the two remaining IMPEL member countries who have not yet responded and contributed to this survey.



Annexes

Annex I. Opportunities for Development of membership

IMPEL member country	Current membership of IMPEL	‘Opportunities for Development’ of membership
Albania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Inspectorate of Environment and Forestry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Environment Agency • The National Agency of Protected Areas • Water Inspectorate
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Ministry for Sustainability Tourism • Land Salzburg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 out of 9 Provincial Level Administrations • District Authorities • Environment Agency
Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brussels Institute for Environmental Management • Flemish Government Department of the Environment and Spatial Development • General Operational Direction No3, Environment & Agriculture (Service Public de Wallonie) • The Flemish High Council of Environmental Enforcement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Public Service - Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment • Flemish Agency for Nature and Forest • The Flemish Environment Agency • Flemish Public Waste Agency • Local authorities
Bulgaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment and Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Environment Agency • Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water • Basin Directorates • National Park Directorates



IMPEL member country	Current membership of IMPEL	'Opportunities for Development' of membership
Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Inspectorate of Croatia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment and Energy • Municipalities • Croatian Waters
Cyprus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance • Ministry of Interior
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Czech Environmental Inspectorate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Authorities • Municipalities • Nature Conservation Agency
Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environmental Protection Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities • The Danish Nature Agency and Coastal Authority • The Danish Agriculture Agency
Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment (Environmental Inspectorate and Environmental Board) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Estonian Environmental Agency
Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of the Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry • The Regional State Administrative Agencies • Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment • Municipal authorities • The Natural Heritage Services



IMPEL member country	Current membership of IMPEL	‘Opportunities for Development’ of membership
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB) • French National Office for Hunting and Wildlife (ONCFS)
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy • Greek Ombudsman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Decentralised Directorates of Environment • 13 Regional Directorates of Environment • The Hellenic Recycling Agency
Iceland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environment Agency of Iceland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Icelandic Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources • The Local Health Inspectorates
Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) • Dublin City Council National TFS Office • Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inland Fisheries Ireland • National Parks and Wildlife Service • Marine Institute • Local Authorities
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea • Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) • ARPA Lombardia • AssoARPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 out of 21 Regional and Provincial Agencies • Carabinieri Command of Units for Forestry Environmental and Agri-food



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Kosovo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency • Municipalities (Municipal Inspectorate of Environmental Protection)
Latvia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Environmental Service • The Nature Conservation Agency • The Ministry of Agriculture
Lithuania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Department under Ministry of Environment • State Forestry Service • The State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment
Luxembourg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature and Forestry Agency • Water Management Agency
Malta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Resources Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change • The Energy and Water Agency



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Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management • Association of Regional Environment Inspection Agencies • Association of the Dutch Provinces • Rijkswaterstaat (Infomil) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dutch Emission Authority • Municipalities • Dutch Water Authorities
North Macedonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Environment Inspectorate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning • The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy • The State Forestry and Hunting Inspectorate • Municipal administrations
Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Norwegian Environment Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 voivodship inspectorates • Permitting Authorities: Marshall (regional level), Starost (county level) or municipality (local level) • The General Directorate for Environmental Protection • State Forests



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Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Inspection for Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning (IGAMAOT) • Regional Environment Inspectorate, Azores (IRA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF) • 5 Regional Coordination and Development Commissions (CCDR) • Municipalities • Regional Directorate of Environment, Azores (DRA) • Regional Directorate for Forest Resources, Azores (DRRF) • Entity for the Regulation of Water and Waste Services, Azores (ERSARA) • Regional Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, Madeira (SRA) • Regional Directorate Spatial Planning and Environment, Madiera (DROTA)
Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Environmental Guard • Romanian Waters National Administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agencies • Forest Guard • Romanian Naval Authority
Serbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Environmental Protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serbian Agency for Environmental Protection • Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Waters • Institute for Nature Protection
Slovak Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of the Environment



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Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspectorate for the Environment and Spatial Planning (IRSOP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (ARSO) • Slovenian Water Agency (DRSV) • The Inspection Council • Inter-municipal Inspectorates
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry for the Ecological Transition • Environmental Inspection Authority of the Basque Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 out of 17 Regional Offices • Nature Protection Service (SEPRONA)
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency • The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Swedish Chemicals Agency • The Swedish Board of Agriculture • The Swedish Defence Inspectorate for Health and the Environment • 21 County Administrative Boards (CAB) • 290 Environmental and Public Health Committees • Land and Environmental Courts
Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Federal Office for the Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cantonal Authorities
Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry • 81 Provincial Directorates of Environment and Urbanisation



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United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment Agency England• Northern Ireland Environment Agency• Scottish Environmental Protection Agency• Natural Resources Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• England: Natural England, Marine Management Organisation, Rural Payments Agency and Forestry Commission• Northern Ireland: Forest Service• Scotland: Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, Rural Payments Service and Marine Scotland

