

EVALUATION / FITNESS CHECK ROADMAP	
Roadmaps aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's plans in order to allow them to provide feedback on the intended initiative and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to make available any relevant information that they may have, including on possible impacts of the different options.	
TITLE OF THE EVALUATION/FC	<u>Evaluation of the General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 (the 7th Environment Action Programme)</u>
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT – AP NUMBER	DG ENV-F1 AND DG CLIMA -C1
INDICATIVE PLANNING	Start 2017 Q4 and complete 2019 Q2
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/action-programme/
The Roadmap is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the document, including its timing, are subject to change.	

A. Context, Purpose and Scope of the evaluation
Context
<p>Environment Action Programmes have guided the development of EU Environment policy since the 1970s, and each programme has been duly assessed to see if the objectives have been met. The 7th Environment Action Programme (7th EAP)¹ is an agreed framework for EU environmental policy-making to guide action up to and beyond 2020. Its general objective is to improve the state of the EU's environment and citizens' wellbeing, whilst contributing to the EU's broader objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.</p> <p>The 7th EAP set out nine priority objectives and what needed to be done to achieve them including new and on-going or planned EU environmental and climate actions. The framework was to ensure progress in terms of delivery by enabling smarter, faster and better co-ordinated action by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting out a multi-layered approach: the 7th EAP has a vision to 2050, nine priority objectives to be met by 2020 with 36 sub-objectives and 60 actions to be undertaken. • the nine priority objectives reflect the main goals: three main thematic objectives (preserving our natural capital, turning our economy into a resource-efficient one, and protecting citizens from environment-related pressures); complemented by four enabling framework objectives related to implementation, information, investments and integration; and two horizontal objectives to ensure action at international and city level. • establishing joint responsibility to deliver on the objectives: both Member States and the relevant Union institutions committed to the 7th EAP and agreed joint responsibility for its delivery. <p>The 7th EAP was a response to a number of serious environmental challenges that were becoming increasingly broad-ranging and interlinked across the areas of: climate change; nature and biodiversity; natural resources and waste; and environment, health and quality of life. Because they are increasingly</p>

¹ See also Decision No 1386/2013/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 20 November 2013.

complex and linked, the 7th EAP put emphasis on the enabling framework to ensure more coherent responses.

Purpose and Scope

The **purpose of this evaluation** is to assess the 7th EAP and submit a report based on this evaluation to the European Parliament and to the Council.

The **focus of the evaluation will be on the structure and strategic role played by the 7th EAP**: that is its multi-layered approach, dual focus and the joint responsibility to deliver. Essentially it will ask if this agreed framework is really helping us to deliver the nine priority objectives in a smart way. Evaluating the structure will require a basic assessment of the link between the structure and the actions undertaken under the 7th EAP and the progress towards achieving the 7th EAP's different sub-objectives. In doing so, the evaluation will consider the impact of relevant actions taken at Union and Member State level given their shared responsibility for the 7th EAP.

Given this focus, it will be necessary to gather and analyse at a high level evidence related to the different policy areas and priority objectives to allow for an overview of the state of play and of implementation. However, this evaluation will not provide an in depth evaluation of EU environmental policy in any particular area. This means that the evaluation will not prejudge the results of any other evaluation work².

The evaluation will address the following **evaluation questions** against a baseline of continuing EU and national environmental policies, but with no over-arching environmental action programme. It will cover the EU28 and focus on progress since the adoption of the 7th EAP.

Effectiveness:

- To what extent has the 7th EAP enabled more predictable, faster and better co-ordinated actions by the EU and the Member States?
- To what extent has the 7th EAP been useful in engaging different stakeholders?
- How has the 7th EAP structure contributed towards achieving its nine priority objectives?

Efficiency:

- To what extent has the 7th EAP created synergies or opportunities for streamlining, and cost saving at various levels?
- To what extent has the 7th EAP been useful in identifying and addressing information needs and thus supporting efficient and effective policies?

Relevance:

- To what extent does the 7th EAP address the challenges of EU environmental policy in a proportionate way?
- How flexible is the 7th EAP approach to allow new and emerging issues to be taken into account?

Coherence:

- How consistent with each other are the nine priority objectives and their actions?
- To what extent is the 7th EAP integrated and coherent with other EU policies and strategies, including the Juncker priorities and the Europe 2020 Strategy?

² For more information related to on-going and planned evaluations see: [Forward planning of evaluations and studies - 2017 and beyond](#)

- To what extent is the 7th EAP coherent with international commitments, including the 2030 Agenda and SDGs?

Added value:

- What is the additional value resulting from the 7th EAP compared to what could be achieved by EU environmental policy without such a framework?

B. Better Regulation

Consultation strategy

Whilst the approach is not yet finalised, it is expected that as a minimum, the stakeholder consultation to support this evaluation will consist of:

- A 12 week public consultation will take place in the first quarter of 2018. The public consultation will be carried out in all languages. The public consultation will be accessible via the Commission's [central public consultation page](#).
- A targeted consultation involving specific interest groups to allow different aspects to be explored in more depth. A balance of representation among the different stakeholders will be ensured (including NGOs, business, academia).
- EU Member States will also be consulted separately, for example, this could be through a questionnaire targeting National Ministries for Environment and Climate Change. Relevant regional and local authorities and Members of the network of Environmental Protection Agencies in Europe, will also be consulted where possible;

A synopsis report in English, summarising the results of all consultation activities will be published on the public consultation page once all consultation activities are closed.

Data collection and methodology

The following will feed into the evaluation of the 7th EAP (inter alia):

- EU [Environment Implementation Review](#)
- the [European Environment Agency \(EEA\) indicator reports](#) and the EEA's work on the next State of the Environment Report (SOER)
- the [Resource Efficiency Scoreboard](#)
- the forthcoming Circular Economy monitoring framework
- [Sustainability Development Goals indicators](#) (EU level)
- the [Progress Reports on greenhouse gas reductions](#)
- relevant evaluations, studies and datasets relating to EU environment and climate policy areas and indicators on good governance

The evaluation will also take advantage of:

1. The prior [impact assessment](#)
2. Communication on the Final Assessment of the 6th Community Environment Action Programme
3. [Final Report for the Assessment of the 6th Environment Action Programme](#)

An external contractor will support the evaluation, providing mainly logistical support for the stakeholder consultation.