



Poland

Highlights in 2008

The transposition of EU environmental legislation into Polish law was a priority of the government in the field of environment policy in 2008. Given the 16 infringement cases concerning Poland (end December 2008), initiatives to reduce areas of non-

compliance were another important field of activity of the government. The updated National Environment Policy for 2009-2012 and looking ahead to 2016 was adopted as a basic document outlining the main environment policy priorities and measures. As regards nature conservation and environmental impact assessments, a new law has been passed and a new General Directorate for Environmental Protection has been established.

Furthermore, in December 2008 Poland hosted the Conference of the Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Poznań. The Conference was successful in establishing a work programme for 2009, and moving international climate negotiations into full negotiating mode, which should lead to a final agreement at the end of 2009.

Climate change and energy

	Poland				EU-27 total	rank in EU-27
	2000	2005	2006	target		
Total Kyoto GHG emissions						
– million tonnes (Mt) CO ₂ eq.	389.5	386.4	400.5	529.6 (by 2008-2012)	5142.8	
– from energy supply and use, including transport (Mt CO ₂ eq.)	322.0	318.9	329.8		4098.7	
– from transport (Mt CO ₂ eq.)	33.2	36.5	38.6		992.3	
					EU-27 average	rank in EU-27
– per capita (tonnes CO ₂ eq.)	10.1	10.1	10.5		10.4	14
– per GDP (tonnes CO ₂ eq. per 1000€ GDP)	2 097.6	1 787.3	1 743.9		495.7	23
– trend (% change compared to base year*)	-30.9%	-31.4%	-28.9%	-6.0% (by 2008-12)	-10.8%	8

* Base year for CO₂, N₂O and CH₄ is 1988 and for F-gases is 1995.

		target	EU-27 average
– Projected 2010 emissions trend compared to base year*			
– with existing measures, Kyoto mechanisms and carbon sinks	-28.9%	-6.0%	-13.4%
– with existing and additional measures, Kyoto mechanisms and carbon sinks	-29.0%	(by 2008-12)	-16.3%

* Base year for CO₂, N₂O and CH₄ is 1988 and for F-gases is 1995.

	Poland			target	EU-27 average	rank in EU-27
	2000	2005	2006			
Average CO ₂ emissions from new passenger cars sold (grams CO ₂ /km)	153.0 (2004)	154.8 (2006)	152.6 (2007)	130 by 2012-15 for EU-27	157.5	8
Electricity produced from renewable energy sources (% gross electricity consumption)	1.7%	(2006) 2.9%	(2007) 3.5%	7.5%	15.6%	24
– from hydropower	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	(by 2010)	9.2%	
– from wind		0.2%	0.3%		3.1%	
– from biomass	0.2%	1.3%	1.7%		3.0%	
Combined heat and power generation (% gross electricity generation)	n.a.	16.8%	16.0%	18% by 2010 for EU-15	10.9%	9
Energy consumption per capita (kg oil eq.)	2 364	2 460	2 576		3 694	6
Energy intensity - Energy consumption per 1000€ GDP (kg oil eq.)	657	583	574		202	21

In 2006, Poland's greenhouse gas emissions were 29% lower than the base-year level, and much better than its Kyoto target of -6% for the period 2008-2012. Poland is projected to significantly overachieve its target. Following the adoption of the climate and energy package in December 2008, a 21% EU-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for 2020 (compared to 2005 levels) was agreed for power plants and large industrial emitters i.e. the sectors covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). Furthermore, Poland agreed to a maximum increase in its greenhouse gas emissions of 14% by 2020 compared to 2005 levels in non-ETS sectors. The Polish government has also committed to achieving by 2020 a share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption of 15% (up from 7% in 2005).

The government submitted for public consultation the document 'Polish energy policy until 2030'. It identifies the following priorities: energy efficiency and safety based on own natural resources and supply diversification; increased

share of energy production from renewable energy sources; development of competitive fuels and energy markets; and reduction of energy-related negative environmental impacts.

In September 2008, the government issued a report assessing the feasibility of using renewable energy sources in Poland until 2020. The study covered the technical, economic and market potential. The report revealed that the average share of energy production originating from renewable energy sources in 2020 is expected to amount approximately to 13%. Furthermore, for the development of renewable energy sources, the government launched a scheme to construct at least one agricultural biogas plant in each municipality.

In relation to COP-14, the government initiated the 'Partnership for Climate cooperation platform' which aimed to raise social awareness of climate change. Media, government and non-governmental organisations, and other institutions were encouraged to cooperate under this Partnership.

Nature and biodiversity

	2000	2006	Poland		target	EU-27 average	rank in EU-27
			2007	2008			
Natura 2000 area (sites designated under Habitats and Birds Directives) as % of terrestrial area		8.9%	16.5%	18.1%		17.0%	
Sufficiency of site designation under the Habitats Directive*		17.0%	17.0%	17.0%	100%		
Area occupied by organic farming (% of Utilised Agricultural Area)	n.a.	1.5%	1.8%			4.2%	22
Freight transport (billion tkm)	128	173.0	203.0			EU total 2505.0	
– % road	56.9%	74.2%	74.3%			76.9%	13 of 26
– % rail	42.2%	25.6%	25.5%			17.4%	7 of 26

* Data for 2007 and 2008 and assessment are under revision.

In 2008 Poland made substantial progress on implementation of the Birds Directive by designating 17 new special protection areas for birds and extending some of the existing sites. However, Poland is still far from full implementation of the Habitats Directive. Although the core of the network has been established further designations are necessary. The total area of Natura 2000 sites accounts for 18.1% of Poland's total land area, so the government is continuing efforts toward further designation of Natura 2000 sites. The complete list of sites based on Habitats Directive is expected to be

presented to the public and notified to the Commission in 2009. Many of the potential sites are still being examined.

In the third quarter of 2008 a new government body was established: the General Directorate for Environment Protection. The new institution will be involved in implementing new management schemes for Natura 2000 sites. In addition, this new institution will also be responsible for issuing the environmental permits required for infrastructure investments, in line with EU law.

Environment and health

	Poland				EU-27 average	rank in EU-27
	2000	2005	2006	Ceiling		
Urban population exposure to air pollution by particles (annual mean concentration, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	42.9	39	44.7	30.0	30.0	21 out of 23
Urban population exposure to air pollution by ozone (SOMO35 level, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{day}$)	3 605	4 039	4 663	2 493	4 417	14 out of 23
Air pollutant emissions (thousand tonnes)				(by 2010)	EU27 total	
– sulphur dioxides (SO_2)	1202	1222	1195	1397	7946	
– nitrogen oxides (NO_x)	838	811	890	879	11198	
– non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs)	802	885	916	800	9391	
– ammonia (NH_3)	322	326	287	468	4006	
	1990	Latest available year (2005)				
Water exploitation index	24.0%		18.3%		n.a.	19

The government is carrying out the 'National Programme: Environment and Health – second phase - for the years 2008-2009'. The programme is aimed at implementing the 'European Strategy on Environmental and Health activities' and concentrates on children's health.

In March 2008, the 2003-2007 Progress Report on the implementation of the programme for the removal of asbestos and asbestos-containing products in Poland was published. The Programme proved to be efficient with respect to dissemination of knowledge on the harmfulness of asbestos and helped to introduce the necessary laws and regulations, as well as to comply with EU law

in this field. The main areas of concern in this area are: lack of a complete catalogue with locations and amounts of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials in Poland, and the shortage of asbestos-removal plants.

Furthermore, the government continued its efforts to facilitate implementation of the REACH system in Poland. Numerous conferences and seminars were held in 2007 and 2008 together with training sessions addressed particularly at

small and medium sized enterprises, in order to raise awareness on the REACH Regulation and the new responsibilities resulting from its provisions.

In November 2008, the Polish government issued an official statement on GMOs. The government aims to ensure that Poland remains GMO-free and will try to mobilize the support of other Member States to make Europe GMO-free.

Natural resources and waste

	Poland			Target	EU-27 average	rank in EU-27
	2000	2006	2007			
Municipal waste generated (kg per capita)	316	321	322		522	3
– % landfilled	98.1%	73.5%	74.2%		41.0%	16
– % incinerated	0%	0.3%	0.3%		19.9%	
	2004	2005	2006			
Recycling of packaging waste (as % total packaging waste)	28.3%	29.5%	37.1%	55%-80% (by 2014)	56.5 %	21

Numerous EU directives have been transposed into the national legal system in recent years. While the latest data show some progress on waste management, this area has remained problematic in Poland.

In September 2008, the government presented a draft municipal waste management system for Poland. Each region will have its own municipal waste

treatment installations, financed at regional level and funded by a special waste charge paid by property owners. The charge will cover not only waste disposal and neutralisation, but also waste transport. Municipal waste will continue to be transported by private carriers which operate on contracts with particular property owners.

Better regulation and implementation

	Poland			EU-27 total
	31/12/2006	31/12/2007	31/12/2008	
Infringements of EU environmental legislation	10	13	16	481

In March 2008, the government adopted a 'Resolution on reduction of administrative burden in high priority regulation fields'. The objective of the government is to reduce administrative burden, including that arising from environmental regulation, land use planning and spatial management by 25% in 2010.

To increase the involvement of stakeholders in the process of preparation of legal acts and strategic documents, the government has prepared a 'Guide on public consultations at different stages of problem solving' in order to improve the quality of the policy-making process.

Use of market-based instruments

	Poland			EU-27 average
	2000	2005	2006	
Share of environmental taxes in total tax revenue	6.4%	8.1%	8.2%	6.4%

Outlook for 2009

With a significant inflow of EU funds into Poland in 2009, the government intends to prepare a Regional Development Strategy for Poland. The role of the Strategy would be not only to ensure coherent and appropriate spending of EU funds, but also to become the main strategic document for Poland's future development so as to ensure balanced economic, social and environmental progress.

