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STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT – SLOVAK REPUBLIC

2018

25th anniversary of annual reports

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

In February 2019, the Government of the SR approved the material **Strategy of the environmental policy of the Slovak Republic until 2030 (hereinafter referred to as 'Envirostrategy 2030')**. Slovakia thus has, after 26 years, a new strategic document that reacts to the current challenges and sets out a vision, targets and measures for its environmental policy. Its preparation, performed on a participation basis, was under the auspices of the analytical section of the Ministry of the Environment of the SR, the **Environmental Policy Institute (EPI)**.

The draft Envirostrategy 2030 was prepared based on public consultation, EPI analyses and the work of **7 expert working groups** composed of almost 160 experts from various fields, but also suggestions from the public. It was based on international, European and national legislation and valid strategic documents, on a study by the European Environmental Agency analysing global megatrends and the subsequent assessment of global megatrends from the perspective of Slovakia. The goals of Envirostrategy 2030 are in accordance with Agenda 2030, and its implementation will contribute to the fulfilment of sustainable development objectives in the Slovak Republic.

Envirostrategy 2030 defines the basic **vision of the environmental policy** to 2030. It comprises a better-quality environment and a sustainable circular economy and the mitigation of consequences of climate change through mitigation and adaptation measures. Air quality, waste management and protection of habitats and species primarily in forest, grassland and wetland ecosystems are identified as the biggest environmental challenges in Slovakia. This vision has resulted in defined goals and the measures to achieve them. In the area of air, the goal is to improve its quality and meet the defined limits. Efforts are being made to significantly reduce emissions of pollutants by 2030 compared to 2005 - SO₂ by 82%, NO_x by 50%, NMVOC by 32%, NH₃ by 30% and PM_{2.5} by 49%. The introduction of an emissions trading system for air pollutants is being considered. Low-emissions transport and a transition to cleaner forms of household heating should be supported. Envirostrategy 2030 counts on the termination of electricity and heat generation from coal. In this respect there has already been progress in the case of subsidising electricity generation that is unprofitable without support. The Government of the SR has approved that it will take until 2023 - meaning seven years less than originally planned. It is precisely the termination of environmentally harmful subsidies and regulations that is one of the priorities of Envirostrategy 2030. It also includes a more comprehensive plan to consider a green fiscal reform to shift the burden of taxation towards environmental taxes in accordance with the "polluter pays" principle.

Waste is an area where Slovakia most lags behind other EU Member States. The goal is to increase the recycling of municipal waste, including its preparation for re-use, to 60% by 2030 and to reduce landfilling to under 25% by 2035. This will be accompanied by a gradual increase in fees for landfilling waste while improving the prevention of illegal dumps, as well as consistent punishment for offenders. The first slight increase in the mentioned fees was introduced by the amendment to the Waste Act valid from January 2019 and their gradual increase has been enshrined in law to 2021. A bill on deposits relating to PET bottles and drinks cans has been prepared. The bill was based on an EPI analysis entitled **Actual Deposit Price**. The law was approved in 2019, including a ban on the use of some single-use plastics such as plastic cookware, which should go into force on 3 July 2021. Another goal of Envirostrategy 2030 is to prevent biodegradable and food waste. Measures to improve waste management are part of the activities defined for the purpose of Slovakia's transition to a **circular economy**. Envirostrategy 2030 emphasises eco-design, and anticipates increased support for green innovations, science and research. The plan is that green procurement will account for at least 70% of public procurement in 2030.

One of the keys to **biodiversity** protection will be the preassessment and simplification of the system of protected areas and degrees of protection. The core national park non-intervention zone will be gradually expanded to cover up to 75% of the area of the national park in management category II, protected areas pursuant to **IUCN**. In the non-intervention areas mining will be banned and close-to-nature management will be prioritised in areas with active management. At the same time, the control of mining will be made more effective. The introduction of assessment of the ecosystem of services and payments for them, or the regeneration of 15% of degraded ecosystems such as salt marshes, wetlands or floodplain forests is anticipated. Organic agricultural production will extend at least to 13.5% of agricultural land.

Climate change is linked to all three priorities of Envirostrategy 2030. It is planned to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in emissions trading sectors by 43% and outside these sectors by at least 20% compared to 2005. This represents a decrease of 53% between 1990 and 2030. Slovakia is thus one of the most ambitious states in this area. An effective emissions trading scheme will continue, and its revenues should be channelled primarily into measures addressing the consequences of climate change and adaptation to climate change. The **Low-carbon Development Strategy of the SR to 2030 with a View**

to 2050 will set out the mitigation measures more specifically. Transport solutions without the negative impacts of climate impacts will be supported. Regions and municipalities will have to adopt adaptation measures.

The changing climate will bring about more extreme weather events, and Envirostrategy 2030 will therefore focus on protection from both flooding and drought. Green measures to slow water runoff from the land will be preferred. Water retention, better planning in the countryside and more responsible water

management will contribute towards reducing drought and water scarcity.

In the area of ensuring sufficient clean **water** for all, Envirostrategy 2030 defines the targets of achieving good water status and potential in all water bodies. Waste water disposal and purification measures are also intended to prevent water pollution. By 2030 agglomerations with over 2 000 population equivalent are to achieve 100% collected and treated waste water, and agglomerations with less population equivalent 50%.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PRODUCT LABELLING

TYPE I ENVIRONMENTAL LABELLING

The environmental labelling of products has been performed in the SR since 1997, when the Ministry of the Environment of the SR announced the **National Programme of Environmental Assessment and Labelling of Products (NPEALP)**. Through the national environmental labelling scheme, the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic grants products and services that have met strict environmental criteria the national environmental label **"Environmentally Friendly Product"** (EFP). Since 2002 the conditions and procedure for awarding and using the

national label have been regulated by Act No 469/2002 on the environmental labelling of products, as amended.

National environmental criteria for specified product groups are issued as special conditions in the form of notifications from the Ministry of the Environment of the SR and published in the Journals of the Ministry of the Environment of the SR. National environmental criteria have been created for a total of 40 product groups since 1997. In 2018, special conditions were in force for the following 16 product groups:

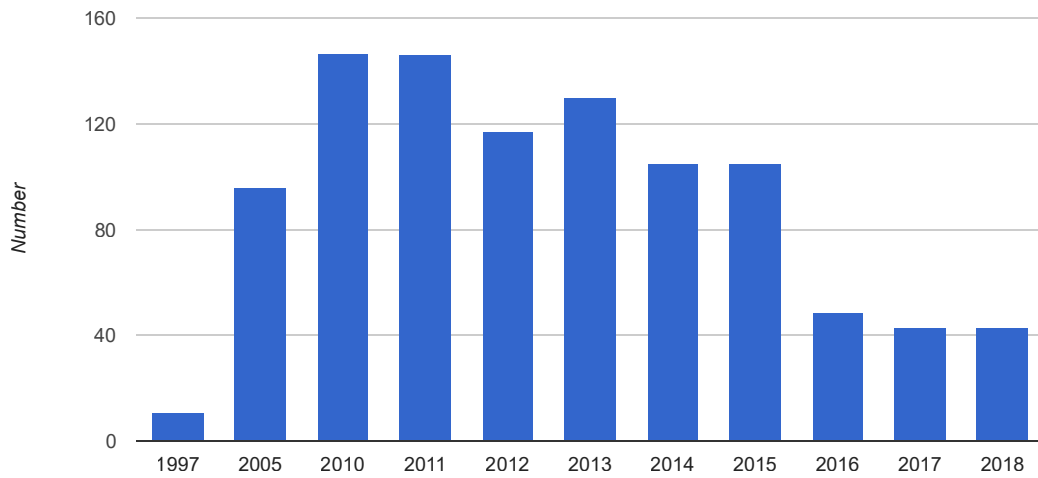
- Gas infrared heaters
- Biodegradable plastic materials and products from them
- Sorption materials
- Cements
- Adhesives and sealants
- Solid noble biofuels
- Wrapping paper and corrugated cardboard
- Wire-frame structures
- Wood-based panels
- Solid biomass combustion plants
- Winter maintenance products
- Masonry materials
- Tissue papier
- Windows and outside doors
- Concrete roofing
- Insulating materials



Based on the expressed interest of manufacturers, importers, dealers and service providers in the award of the national eco-label, conformity assessment of submitted products is carried out with specific conditions laid down for the specified product group. A total of 254 products have

been assessed and awarded EFP branding in the SR since 1997. The highest number of products (148) was recorded in 2008 and 2009. Since 2015, the trend of in the year-on-year increase in EFP products has been decreasing.

Chart 099 I Trend in the number of products with the right to use the EFP branding



Source: Slovak Environment Agency

Table 031 I Holders of the national EFP branding (2018)

Považská cementáreň, Inc Ladce, (cements)
Johan ENVIRO, Ltd, Bratislava (sorption materials)
COMPAG SK, Ltd, Bratislava (wire-frame structures)

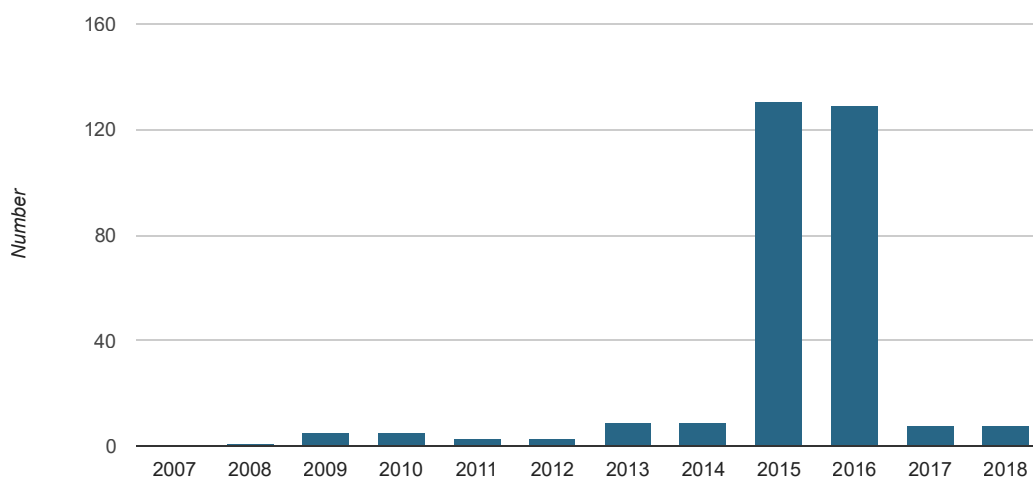
Source: Slovak Environment Agency

The EC environmental brand (EU Ecolabel) is at present granted pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council. European environmental criteria for designated product groups are issued in the form of EC decisions and published in the Official Journal of the EC.



A total of 136 products have been assessed and awarded the EU Ecolabel in the SR since 2004, of which 3 are accommodation services.

Chart 100 I Trend in the number of products entitled to use the EU Ecolabel



Source: Slovak Environment Agency

Table 032 I Table EU Ecolabel holders (2018)

SHP Harmanec, Inc., Harmanec (<i>tissue paper products</i>)
Slovenská Grafia, Inc., Bratislava (<i>printed paper products</i>)
Daira Ltd., Košice (<i>accommodation service</i>)
XFUSION, Ltd., Bojnice (<i>accommodation service</i>)
SCA Hygiene Products Slovakia, Ltd., Gemerská Hôrka (<i>tissue paper products</i>)

Source: Slovak Environment Agency

TYPE II ENVIRONMENTAL LABELLING

The fundamentals and principles of **type II environmental labelling** are standardised through the international ISO 14 021 standard. This type of labelling makes it possible for companies to make their own declarations on the environmental characteristics of their products and services, formulated by manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers or anyone likely to benefit from the claim. Own

declarations may be made without certification by a third party. Type II labelling provides the opportunity to improve competitiveness if environmental criteria are not set in advance through a national or European labelling scheme. The environmental statement is verified by the SEA, and this was first performed in 2005.

Table 033 I Number of organizations with verified environmental product claims

Year	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of organisations	1	4	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2

Source: Slovak Environment Agency

Table 034 I Organizations with verified truthful claims about the environmental characteristics of the product (2018)

SILICON, Inc., Bratislava (<i>winter maintenance products</i>)
K+S Czech Republic, Inc., Praha (<i>winter maintenance products</i>)

Source: Slovak Environment Agency

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT

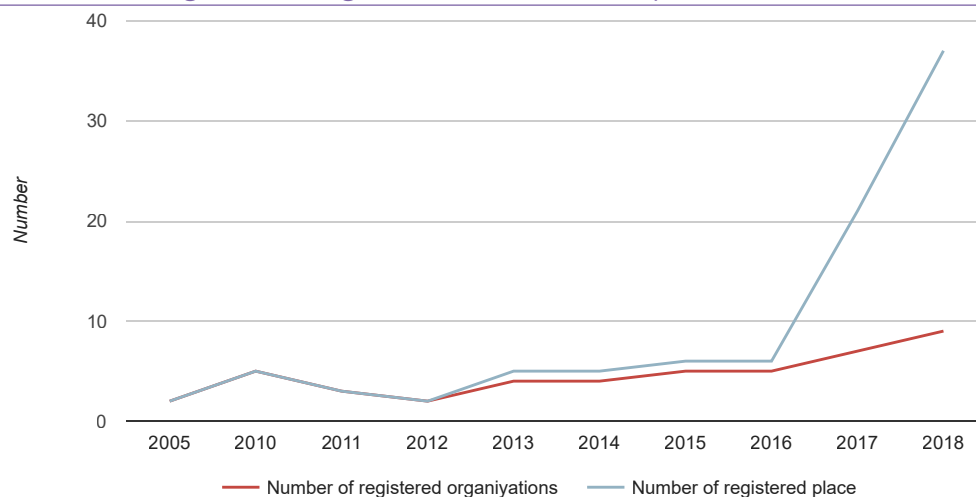
The **Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)** is a voluntary instrument for organisations that want to assess and improve their environmental management. By implementing EMAS, an organisation declares compliance

with environmental legislation, local responsibility, active involvement of employees, reliability and the credibility of published environmental information.

The conditions for an organisation to participate in EMAS are determined by Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the voluntary participation of organizations in a Community environmental management and audit scheme, Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1550 and Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/2026, amending the Annexes to Annex I - IV to Regulation No 1221/2009. At national level, the conditions set out in EMAS are enshrined in Act No 351/2012 on environmental verification and registration of organizations in the EU Environmental Management and Audit Scheme and on amendments and supplements to some other Acts.



Chart 101 | Number of registered organizations and their places in the EMAS scheme



Source: Slovak Environment Agency

Two new organizations were added to the national EMAS register in 2018:

- **PROSPECT, Ltd.**, Nové Zámky with **2 places of organisation**, sector E- Waste water cleaning and removal, Waste and services, sector F- Construction
- **STRABAG, Ltd.**, Bratislava with **14 places of organisation**, sector F - Construction

The majority of the organisations registered in EMAS are located in Germany, Italy and Spain, Slovakia is in 19th place. According to the number of places of organisation in EMAS the largest number of registered sites is found in Italy, Germany and Greece. Slovakia ranked 14th, and is among the first half of the European countries.

ECO-INNOVATION

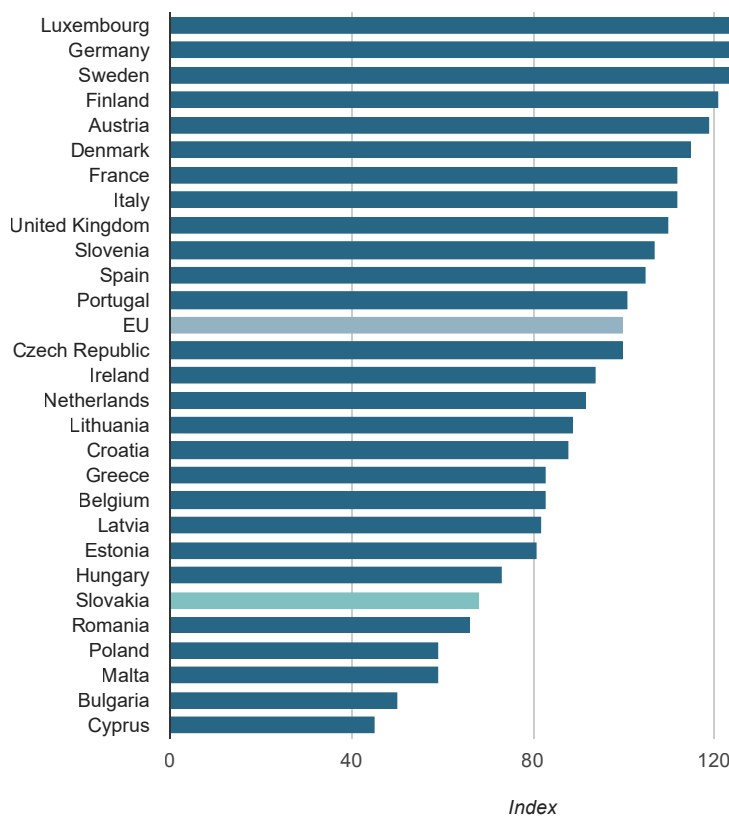
The EC defines **eco-innovation** as any **innovation** resulting in significant progress towards the goal of sustainable development, by reducing the impacts of our production modes on the environment, enhancing nature's resilience to environmental pressures, or achieving a more efficient and responsible use of natural resources.

Progress in eco-innovation is assessed through the eco-innovation index. Its goal is to assess various aspects of eco-innovation through 16 indicators grouped into five components - eco-innovation inputs, eco-innovation activities, eco-innovation outputs, environmental results and

socio-economic results.

In 2018, Slovakia ranked 23rd among EU Member States. Its strengths are eco-innovation activities, socio-economic results and environmental results with growing potential in the field of environmental management, which demonstrate the pursuit of higher environmental standards in the business sector. Its weaknesses are eco-innovation inputs and outputs, mainly due to low public funding of research and development in the field of environmental and insufficient human resources in this area.

Chart 102 I Comparison of the eco-innovation index for EU Member States (2018)



Source: EK

GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

In December 2016, the third National Action Plan for Green Public Procurement in the SR for 2016-2020 (NAP GPP III) was approved through Government Resolution of the SR No 590. Its strategic goal is to achieve a 50% share of green procurement by state authorities in the total volume of contracts concluded by them for selected product groups.

Monitoring GPP development is carried out annually based on two quantitative indicators, namely:

- **Indicator 1:** percentage share of GPP in total procurement in relation to the number of contracts (contracts, orders, purchases) for the calendar year concerned

- **Indicator 2:** percentage share of GPP in total public procurement in relation to the value of executed contracts (contracts, orders, purchases) for the respective calendar year.

In 2018, 1 529 public institutions were addressed through the monitoring, of which 459 subjects (30%) participated in a questionnaire survey. Within the framework of Indicator 1, the level was 7.58% and in indicator 2 it was 3.83%. The results of the implementation of GPP for the monitoring year 2018 indicate that the **set strategic objective cannot be achieved.**

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMINALITY

In 2018, there was an overall decrease in the number of crimes detected (141) compared to 2017. This status was almost exclusively related to a decline in the number of wood theft crimes, where the situation lasted all through 2018, from January. However, a permanent decrease in the solving rate, which fell below 60% for the first time (58.01%) can be seen as negative. Indeed, the number of easily solvable crimes (and of wood theft) continued to decline, and the number of crimes more difficult to solve (e.g. related to waste) rose.

Crimes related to waste are probably the closest monitored. The number of cases detected was almost the same as in

the previous year (216 vs. 221), while the solving rate increased slightly from 7.24% to 11.11%.

There was a positive change in poaching in 2018. After a long-term unfavourable trend in the number of crimes detected in previous years, 47 more cases were detected than in 2017. At the same time the solving rate rose to 68.71%.

Another positive outcome is that double the number of crimes of animal abuse were detected, while the solving rate was maintained, as was the detection of violations of flora and fauna protection and crimes related to hazardous materials.

Table 035 I Overview of detected and solved crimes in 2017 and 2018

	2017			2018		
	Detected	Solved	%	Detected	Solved	%
Section 168 endangerment to health	1	0	0	1	0	0
Section 169 endangerment to health	0	0	0	1	0	0
Section 212/2d theft of wood	849	699	82.33	626	509	81.31
Section 298 nuclear materials	13	3	23.08	22	4	18.18
Section 299 object for the production of hazardous substances	0	0	0	0	0	0
Section 299a illegal structure	3	0	0	5	0	0
Section 300 endangerment of the environment	12	2	16.67	17	1	5.88
Section 301 endangerment of the environment	2	0	0	6	1	16.67
Section 302 unauthorized waste management	221	16	7.24	216	24	11.11
Section 302a emission of pollutants	0	0	0	0	0	0
Section 303 water and air protection	2	0	0	1	0	0
Section 304 water and air protection	3	0	0	2	0	0
Section 304a ozone layer protection	0	0	0	0	0	0
Section 305 flora and fauna protection	67	34	50.75	80	43	53.75
Section 306 trees and bushes protection	113	42	37.17	99	20	20.20
Section 307 spread of animal disease	0	0	0	0	0	0
Section 308 spread of plant disease	0	0	0	0	0	0
Section 309 escape of genetically modified organisms	0	0	0	0	0	0
Section 310 poaching	263	165	62.74	310	213	68.71
Section 378 cruelty to animals	20	7	35.00	40	14	35.00
Section 378a neglect of care	1	0	0	3	0	0
ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMINALITY	1 570	968	61.66	1 429	829	58.01

Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic