



## **The Fulfilments of European Standards about the Environment and Macedonia's Progress**

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*Received November 05, 2009; Accepted January 18, 2010*

**Abstract:** Global investments have considerably strengthened the EU Environmental Policy. Some of the European publications are of a global character, such as climatic changes, destruction of the ozone layer and its biodiversity, etc. All of these areas require coordinated global activities for effective protection. Other ecological problems can be handled regionally, but they still do require worldwide activities. An internationally important indicator of the processes undertaken by the EU is the fact that since 1997, about 35% of the environmental legislation has been accepted by current courses. The European policy on environmental protection focuses on global problems (climatic changes and biodiversity). There has been a rapprochement between the environmental policy and the developing policy, but it has to go on until the total integration of these two sectors. Trade, Economic Policy, Agriculture, Fishery, are also areas where global visions are necessary. One of the imperatives of globalization is the inclusion of principles of environment protection and sustainable development in economic negotiations, as well as the development of harmonic relations between trade policies and environmental protection at an international level. This is fully identical with the preset conditions by the Amsterdam Agreement. At the same time, not so old experiences, and in particular the failure of the multilateral agreement about investment negotiations show that the acquisition of a broad social support about trade and investment liberalization will be quite difficult unless there is a control upon the environmental protection and sustainable development. Environmental Protection and Advancement programs which have been compiled by the Commission were for a five-year term. The last Action Plan was foreseen to last ten years. Within first four EU plans for environmental protection (1973-1992), 200 legal measures were undertaken. The fifth plan is quite significant in terms of its fundamental approach to the issue.

The Maastricht Agreement from February 1992 puts huge emphasis on environmental protection within the EU policy. The agreement has to with the following issues:

- promotion of a sustainable development of the environment,
- establishment of a higher level of environmental protection,
- integration and implementation of the environmental protection in policy-making processes in all areas.

From now on, the sustainable development will become one of the key topics of the European project. The fifth project about environmental protection in the EU entitled "Towards Sustainability" includes the period from 1993 to 2000. It consisted of a general strategy moving rapidly towards the sustainable development and it defined 5 main sectors: industry, energy, transport, agriculture and tourism in which the environmental protection has great impact in terms of policy-making. For every single sector of the above-mentioned ones, there are areas, entireties and deadlines. This kind of strategy requires responsibility by all key factors (government, organizations, municipalities, and the community) because the advantages are available only if all parties included understand the necessity of possession division.

**Keywords:** *European Standard, Macedonia Environment,*

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