

**ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION OF UKRAINE:
TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN UNION APPROACHES**

**Igor Yakymenko*, Olena Dotsenko, Victoria Negretova, Oleksandra Pobuta,
Maryna Grychenko, Svitlana Madzhd**

National University of Food Technologies, Kyiv, Ukraine

**Speaker: iyakymen@gmail.com*

Environmental legislation of Ukraine is an important part of national legislation and based on fundamental principles of sustainable development. These include some particular articles of the Constitution (the main law) of Ukraine (VRU, 1996), the Law of Ukraine on Environmental Protection (VRU, 1995), relevant articles of Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses (1984) and Criminal Code of Ukraine (VRU, 2001) and many others. Starting from 2014, Ukraine began the implementation of key elements of EU legislation in terms of the EU – Ukraine Association Agreement (AA, 2014). And according to the Cabinet of Ministry of Ukraine, currently Ukraine implemented about 80% of European Union legal norms into national legislation as for the environmental protection (CMU, 2024). Good example of effective implementation of the EU laws into the legislation of Ukraine is an adapting a new Law of Ukraine on Waste Management (2022), which introduces European principles and European hierarchy in waste management into Ukrainian legislation.

Meanwhile, one of the crucial parts of the legislation of Ukraine, which needs urgent development is laws on legal responsibility for violators of environmental laws. For example, due to old-fashion Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses, Ukraine imposes just symbolic fines for environmental pollution, mostly no more than a few euros both for citizens and officials. Knowing these norms will rather provoke wrongdoers to break the laws than follow good social practices according to the law.

No doubt, all parties of the society – citizens, business, authorities and social services are interested in clean environment for present and future generations. That is why we believe, the work should be done urgently, even despite the other huge challenges for the country at the moment.

References:

- AA. (2014). Association Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part.
- CMU. (2024). Report on Implementation of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union for 2023.
- VRU. (1995). Law of Ukraine on Environmental Protection.
- VRU. (1996). Constitution of Ukraine.
- VRU. (2001). Criminal Code of Ukraine.