**EU environmental reporting and monitoring obligations are streamlined**

On 31 May 2018 the European Commission published a Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the alignment of reporting obligations in the field of environment policy and thereby amending Directives 86/278/EEC, 2002/49/EC, 2004/35/EC, 2007/2/EC, 2009/147/EC and 2010/63/EU, Regulations (EC) No 166/2006 and (EU) No 995/2010, and Council Regulations (EC) No 338/97 and (EC) No 2173/2005.

The proposal is a result of the comprehensive Fitness Check evaluation on reporting and monitoring of EU environment policy published in June 2017 and the accompanying action plan. A cross-cutting and comprehensive analysis of reporting obligations in all relevant pieces of environment legislation has been carried out in the context of the Fitness Check evaluation. This also looked at the coherence of existing obligations. As a result, several pieces of legislation were identified where the reporting obligations could be amended to streamline them.

The proposal forms part of the activities on better regulation in the field of environment policy and aims to improve the evidence base for implementing EU policy in order to ensure that the European Commission is getting the right information in the right form at the right time. Other key elements are increasing transparency for the public and simplifying reporting with a view to reducing administrative burden.

Discussion on the dossier in the Council of the EU commenced during the Bulgarian Presidency. In the framework of the discussions until now Member states expressed support for the main objectives of the document, namely increasing awareness and transparency, reducing administrative burden and using innovative information technologies for collection and release of information. However, numerous proposals for amendments of the original text have been made, and the main concerns are connected with the implementation of the provisions regarding information confidentiality. Negotiations continue during the Austrian Presidency, which will seek the final acceptance of the dossier by the end of the year.