

# LIGHT POLLUTION IN EUROPEAN LEGISLATION

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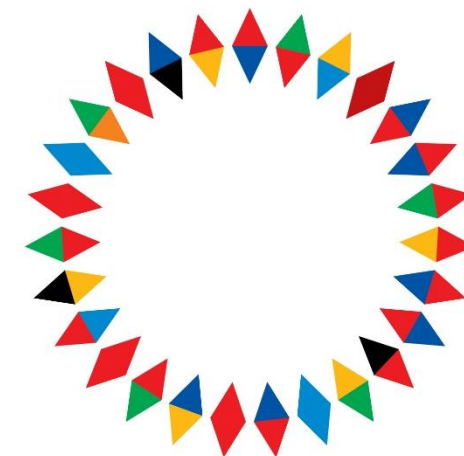
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Light Pollution 2024

Prague, 6th March



Ministerstvo životního prostředí



EU2022.CZ

Light pollution  
reduction measures  
in Europe

The 'Brno appeal to reduce light  
pollution in Europe'

# Light pollution conference 2024

**March 6<sup>th</sup> 2024, Prague**

Czech Academy of Sciences, Room No. 206

Ministry of the Environment  
of the Czech Republic



COMMISSION

Consultation processes  
- Have your say!

Evaluations & impact  
assessments & reports

European Committee of  
the Regions (CoR)

European Economic and  
Social Committee (EESC)

proposes  
legislation

EEA

ESA -  
COPERNICUS

JRC

COUNCIL

PARLIAMENT

codecision

# Light pollution – European level

- Message from the EC (October 2022, LP 2022 workshop):  
*„there are already tools at hand, one just needs to use them“*
- Existing policies, legal proposals, legislative acts:
  - European Green Deal + 8th Environmental Action Programme + Zero Pollution Action Plan
  - Nature Restoration Law
  - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
  - Ecodesign policy
  - (Taxonomy/ Sustainable Finance Directive)  
Do no significant harm principle

# EGD/ 8<sup>th</sup> EAP



## • 8<sup>th</sup> EAP priority objectives:

- pursuing a **zero-pollution ambition**, including for air, water and soil and protecting the health and well-being of Europeans
- protecting, preserving and restoring **biodiversity**, and enhancing natural capital
- reducing environmental and climate pressures related to production and consumption (**particularly in the areas of energy, industry, buildings and infrastructure, mobility, tourism, international trade and the food system**)

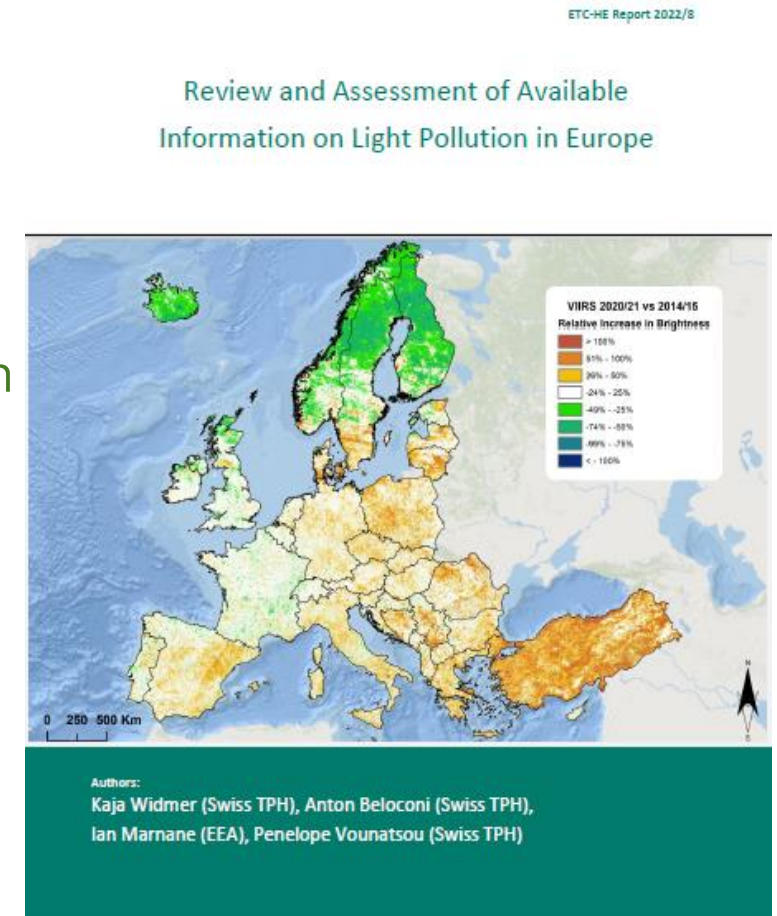
# Zero Pollution Action Plan

- „The objective of zero pollution is to **reduce air, water and soil pollution to levels that are no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems** and that respect the boundaries with which the earth can cope, thus creating a toxic-free environment.”
- Vision for 2050, targets for 2030
- Light is a pollutant of emerging concern
  - Research needed to better understand the scale and the impacts of light pollution
  - Light/human health nexus



# Zero Pollution Action Plan

- Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook Report (Dec 2022)
- **ETC-HE Report 2022/8 Review and Assessment of Available Information on Light Pollution in Europe**
- 2024
  - Evaluation of actions taken within the ZP AP – consultation process
  - Update of the Zero pollution monitoring and outlook
  - Linking the monitoring the 8th EAP monitoring, Global Biodiversity Framework indicators
  - New data for noise
  - Pilot use of remote sensing
- 2025
  - ZP AP Evaluation report



# Nature Restoration Law

- A key component of the EU Biodiversity strategy
- Targets for restoration of ecosystems, habitats, species:
  - targets based on existing legislation (for wetlands, forests, grasslands, river and lakes, heath & scrub, rocky habitats and dunes)
  - **pollinating insects – monitoring methodology**
  - **forest** ecosystems
  - **urban** ecosystems
  - **agricultural** ecosystems
  - **marine** ecosystems
  - **river** connectivity
- Operationalized by MSs **National Restoration Plans** – submitted to EC in 2 years
- EEA – technical reports on progress towards the targets
- EC – report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law

**81%**

of habitats are in poor status

**Every 1 euro**

invested into nature restoration adds €8 to €38 in benefits

**One in three**

bee and butterfly species are in decline

# National Restoration Plans

- Articles 11 and 12 describe the requirements for NRPs
  - Area to be restored, restoration measures, their timing, monitoring plan, financing needs, public participation
- Synergies of other MSs NRPs encouraged (transboundary issues)
- **Annex VII – List of examples of restoration measures referred to in Article 11(8):**
  - „(30) Stop, reduce or remediate pollution from pharmaceuticals, hazardous chemicals, urban and industrial wastewater, and other waste including litter and plastics as well as light in all ecosystems”.
- (44a) „With artificial light increasing, light pollution has become a pertinent issue. Its sources include building exterior and interior lighting, advertising, commercial properties, offices, factories, streetlights and illuminated sporting venues. Light pollution is a driver of insect declines. Many insects are drawn to light, but artificial lights can create a fatal attraction. Declining insect populations negatively impact all species that rely on insects for food or pollination. Some predators exploit this attraction to their advantage, affecting food webs in unanticipated ways”. [Am. 2]
- 27th February 2024 – the text tightened

**(49)** *Scientific evidence suggests that artificial light negatively impacts biodiversity. Artificial light can also impact human health. When preparing their national restoration plans under this Regulation, Member States should be able to consider to stop, reduce or remediate light pollution in all ecosystems.*

# Environmental Impact Assessment

- **Annex IV – Information referred to in Article 5(1) of the Directive 2014/52/EU (Information for the EIA Report)**
  - *1. Description of the project, including in particular:  
(d) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, **light**, heat, radiation) and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases.*
  - *5. A description of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment resulting from, inter alia:  
(c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, **light**, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste;*
- Not transposed equally in all national EIA laws; e.g. In Czech Republic  
-> methodological guidance to include light

# Ecodesign for light sources

- ... .. Ecodesign Framework Directive states that in its implementing measures 'health, safety and the environment shall not be adversely affected'. The impact assessment accompanying the new ecodesign implementing act for light sources did not highlight concerns for adverse effects on biodiversity of light pollution...
- Regulation (EU) 2019/2020 for ecodesign requirements for light sources and separate control gears
  - Requirements on energy efficiency, functions, information and labelling for professionals and end-users
  - Environmental benchmarks based on BAT
  - Revision due until 2024

Lighting Europe has already set up an internal focus group including the research and development manager, compliance manager, product manager and marketing manager, to adapt all its internal procedures and products to the new standards.....

# TAXONOMY – DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM PRINCIPLE

- Alignment between public investments and the DNSH principle
  - in line with EU and national climate targets and support for broader environmental objectives via public financial management practices

The six environmental objectives of the EU Taxonomy



# POSSIBLE MOVES FORWARD 2024+

- **FOCUS – Climate change / Biodiversity Protection Framework**
  - Global – Indicator sets and reports (EEA)
  - European - Goals, Indicator sets and reports (EEA) National
  - National - **climate/energy action plans + Nature restoration plans**
- **European Environment Agency** – data and information agency - monitoring
- **European Commission 2024+**
- **European Council**
  - high level political priorities 2024-2029 – „Strategic agenda“ – energy?
  - setting **non-formal working group of EU's member states** – comments on legislative proposals
  - Upcoming presidencies – **Hungary, Poland, Denmark, Cyprus, Ireland**
- **European Parliament**
  - contact with EMPs before and after European elections

**PROBLEM MAGNITUDE = MONITORING**

**SYNERGIES WITH COMMON GOALS – ENERGY SAVING,  
ECOSYSTEM PRESSURES, HUMAN HEALTH**

**PROBLEM SOLUTION:**

- **DARK OR LEAST HARMFULL LIGHTS (INTENSITY AND COLOUR), ONLY IN  
PUBLIC OR LEGITIMATE INTEREST**

**COORDINATION, INTERDISCIPLINARY NETWORK,  
AGENTS OF CHANGE**

# Thank you for your attention



**Ministerstvo životního prostředí**



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