

**WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
AND
THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

At the EU-US Summit in June 2021 both parties agreed *“to continue and strengthen our cooperation to tackle climate change, environmental degradation and the loss of biodiversity, promote green growth, protect our oceans, and urge ambitious action by all other major players.”* These Working Arrangements contribute to operationalizing this commitment. The purpose of these arrangements is to facilitate the continued cooperative relationship between DG ENV and the EPA through a pragmatic, flexible approach.

DG Environment and EPA intend to engage in regular high-level discussions. EPA Administrator Michael Regan and European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius, recognize the importance of policy approaches that support global environmental goals, promote sustainable economic growth, and protect vulnerable communities. Additionally, they acknowledge the critical role that equitable transition, emerging environmental innovation, stakeholder engagement and regulation should play to enhance capacity to prevent, reduce and manage pollutants and promote circularity in efforts to tackle climate change, ecosystem degradation and protect the environment benefitting our economies, nature and the health of our citizens. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- policy dialogue at multiple levels;
- policy and technical information exchange;
- cooperation in multilateral fora;
- joint organisation of conferences, seminars, workshops, training courses;
- collaborative research activities;
- study tours and visitor exchange; and
- innovative approaches to environmental management.

Areas of Cooperation may include but are not limited to climate change, circular economy, environmental justice and just transition, marine litter and plastics, water management, lead and mercury management, and air quality. EPA and DG ENV also recognize ongoing cooperation between EPA and ECHA on the management of chemicals.

DG ENV and EPA intend to designate focal points to work together to facilitate information flows, identify specific cooperative activities, organize expert meetings, and Video Conferences (VCs) and teleconferences, as needed. The focal points are expected to regularly review areas of cooperation and related activities, and to make proposals for future cooperative efforts.

Any activities carried out under these working arrangements are subject to the availability of resources. Each side will bear its own expenses for costs arising from any activities carried out as part of the cooperation. DG ENV and EPA offer their services without expectation of payment and expressly waive any future claim for compensation. As appropriate and as

needed, other government experts and organizations might also contribute to US-EU cooperation in one or several of the areas outlined above.

These working arrangements do not create any legal or financial obligations for either side under domestic or international law. DG ENV and EPA may mutually decide to review and modify these arrangements. This agreement modifies the original 2019 *Working Arrangements for Continued Environmental Cooperation Between the European Commission Directorate General for the Environment and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*.