



Make it Work

Newsletter Make it Work

nr. 1, July 2015



The Make it Work Project is an initiative by The Netherlands (Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment), the UK (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) and Germany (Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety).

Make it Work is the project that aims to establish a more coherent and consistent framework for the EU environmental acquis through developing drafting principles on the use of cross-cutting instruments and procedures in EU environmental directives and regulations. To achieve that, a forum for discussing broader, strategic approaches to smarter EU environmental law has been established. In this forum a coalition of the Member States together with the European Commission conduct a dialogue about the modernisation of the EU environmental legislation and exchange the best practices about their national legislation.

MiW aims at delivering environmental outcomes more efficiently and effectively, without lowering existing protection standards. Principles drawn up will ensure the protection of the environment.

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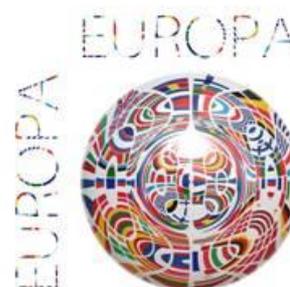
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Introduction

Dear colleague,
you receive this newsletter because you have attended a Make it Work project workshop and/or expert meeting or because you are otherwise involved or interested. This newsletter aims to inform you about recent developments of the Make it Work project.

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Drafting principles for a smarter acquis

The Make it Work project aims to develop for key tools and procedures drafting principles that can feed in to evaluations of EU environmental legislation, be taken into account by the Commission when it is drafting legislative proposals and be used by the Council and the Parliament when considering Commission proposals.

Compliance Assurance

The objective of the drafting principles developed for compliance assurance provisions is to improve the coherence and consistency of these provisions. "Compliance assurance" encompasses compliance promotion (helping the regulated community understand its obligations), compliance monitoring (including inspections, surveillance, etc.) and enforcement (actions taken when non-compliant activities are identified). At the last MiW conference held in February in London it was agreed that the drafting principles on compliance assurance provisions are now ready to be published for a broad consultation. For this reason the MiW team is launching a [Dialogue App](#) which enables all interested parties to give their feedback on the principles and also on the MiW project as a



Monitoring and Reporting

Following the discussions at the Make it Work workshop in London last February the MiW team started work on monitoring and reporting. An initial analysis has been carried out and the resulting paper was discussed with the Commission. DG Environment and the MiW team are keen to cooperate on this topic.

Reporting is mentioned as priority in the recent European Commission Better Regulation Agenda. The Commission sees the importance of clear reporting and monitoring requirements and wants to improve the implementation by including a broad review of reporting obligations. The aim of the review is to see how the burden could be alleviated and to achieve the simplification of the reporting obligations under EU environmental law (reducing ambit and frequency, realigning timing, avoiding duplications, using once provided information by many).

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Recent Developments

- There has been an **exchange of letters** between the Dutch Minister for the Environment Wilma Mansveld and the Commissioners Frans Timmermans and Karmenu Vella. In a joint reply to Mansveld the Commissioners recognize that in terms of objectives the project fits well in the Commission Better Regulation program and that the holistic approach complements the sectoral approach of the Commission's Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT). They are also pleased that Make it Work does not seek to question current levels of environmental protection.
- A **MiW Dialogue App** has been launched to engage the



wider audience of stakeholders in the development of drafting principles including those Member States which did not yet take part in the discussion. At the moment you can join two discussions: one on the MiW project as a whole, and one on the drafting principles document on *compliance assurance*. Please register and share your ideas, comments, observations with us. **Your feedback matters!**

- The MiW team held a presentation at the OECD. The OECD are interested in the project and may provide assistance by carrying out research for the project.

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Make it Work in Commission's communication on the Better Regulation

On 19 May 2015 the European Commission published the communication ["Better regulation for better results - An EU agenda"](#). Make it Work is mentioned in the communication as a best practice of cooperation between the Commission and Member States to improve the implementation of environmental legislation.

Better Regulation is high on the agenda of the Juncker Commission. In the presented new initiatives the Commission emphasizes that Better Regulation is about improving the *quality* and design of the legislation. *"Better Regulation is about making sure we actually deliver on the ambitious policy goals we have set ourselves"*. The proposals should contribute to restoring the confidence of governments, citizens, businesses and organizations in the added value of the European Union. Next to that it should answer the question if regulation is really necessary, or whether there are other ways to get things done effectively.

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Dutch EU Presidency 2016

The Netherlands Presidency of the EU starts on 1st January 2016. Better Regulation is one of the priorities for the Dutch presidency. To contribute to Better Regulation in the field of the environment, Make it Work will organize a high level conference (DG level) on 5 April 2016. The details about the conference will follow soon. In addition to that, we are plan to organise a policy debate in the June Council on Make it Work and on what other instruments can be used in addition to legislation.

Innovation is another important topic of the presidency. The innovation agenda will be a.o. reflected during the combined informal Environment and Transport Council with the overarching theme of sustainable mobility. The environmental part of the informal council will be about green solutions for mobility. The Circular Economy, for which a Commission proposal is expected at the end of 2015, is high on the priority list of the Netherlands. As part of this, the Netherlands want to draw attention to the Green Deals at European level. These deals could support the transition to a circular economy and help better achieve the environmental objectives. Naturally, much attention will also be paid to climate change: the follow-up to the meeting on climate change in Paris at the end of 2015, the revision of the ETS directive, and the decision on burden sharing. Finally, there is a possibility that during the Dutch Presidency a revision of the EU 2020 strategy could take place.



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Important dates

- ✓ July 2015: Launch of the [MiW Dialogue App](#)
- ✓ October/November 2015: Expert Meeting on reporting (Brussels)
(exact dates will be communicated soon)
- ✓ December 2015: MiW Project Workshop (Edinburgh)
(exact dates will be communicated soon)
- ✓ 5 April 2016: MiW High Level Meeting (Amsterdam)



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Make it Work in Picture

For a quick overview of what are the aims of the Make it Work project, you can watch a short MiW movie:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcvemR9pHso>

Colophon

Publication of the Make it Work team, the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, Simpler and Better Programme.

Frequency every six months.

Editorial:

Paulina Chromik
paulina.chromik@minienm.nl
Mobile: +31 611 797 500

Anke Willemstein
anke.willemstein@minienm.nl
Mobile: +31 631 753 337

Interesting websites:

www.omgevingswet.pleio.nl
[Make it Work on YouTube](#)
[Make it Work on IEEP website](#)

For more information you can also contact
postbus.makeitwork@minienm.nl

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