

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002645/25
to the Commission
Jonas Sjöstedt (The Left)
(30 June 2025)

Subject: Minerals agreement between the United States and Ukraine

Ukraine has recently signed a bilateral agreement with the United States aimed at facilitating US access to strategic natural resources in Ukraine. The agreement includes a clause explicitly stating that it should not hinder Ukraine's EU accession process. However, there is a lack of clear information on how environmental safeguards will be ensured and how the agreement aligns with EU environmental legislation, particularly the Water Framework Directive ⁽¹⁾, the Extractive Waste Directive ⁽²⁾ and the proposed soil monitoring law ⁽³⁾.

1. Can the Commission confirm that, as part of the accession negotiations, Ukraine will be required to fully incorporate EU environmental legislation including the Water Framework Directive and the Extractive Waste Directive into its national legal framework prior to membership?
2. Does the Commission agree that an agreement which lacks clear and binding environmental safeguards risks undermining Ukraine's alignment with the EU environmental *acquis* and could therefore hinder the accession process, despite clauses to the contrary?
3. How does it assess Ukraine's decision to temporarily suspend the environmental impact assessment requirement for extractive projects, in light of EU environmental legislation and the long-term goals of environmental protection and sustainable development?

Submitted: 30.6.2025

Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(18 November 2025)

It is the Commission's understanding that discussions on the effective operationalisation of the United States-Ukraine Reconstruction Investment Fund are being finalised, therefore a full assessment is not yet possible.

The Commission provisionally assesses that the provisions of the formal Agreements do not appear to constitute a direct breach of Ukraine's current obligations towards the EU.

Upon accession, Ukraine is generally required to fully apply the EU *acquis*, including the Water Framework Directive and Extractive Waste Directive and to take all necessary steps to eliminate any incompatibility of EU law with international agreements concluded with a third party.

The temporary and partial suspension of the environmental impact assessment by Ukraine has been done in the context of the martial law.

The Commission has on several occasions encouraged Ukraine to ensure that the application of martial law remains limited to what is strictly necessary.

The Commission remains committed to supporting Ukraine in its efforts to resume the full implementation of the environmental legislation at the earliest possible opportunity. Several technical assistance projects are already in place to assist Ukraine in meeting its obligations under EU environmental *acquis*.

¹ Directive 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/60/oj>.

² Directive 2006/21/EC of 15 March 2006 on the management of waste from extractive industries, OJ L 102, 11.4.2006, p. 15, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2006/21/oj>.

³ COM(2023)0416.