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Biorefinery Porto Marghera and the „San Marco Gas“ LPG storage. Read more [here](#).

## **Two-day seminar devoted to the revision of the Action plan for Chapter 11.**

In the organisation of the PLAC III project, a two-day seminar dedicated to the revision of the Action Plan for Negotiating Chapter 11 (Agriculture and Rural Development) and the drafting of a new one was held in Vršac on 29 and 30 November 2023. The seminar brought together representatives of several administrations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, the PLAC III project team and project experts. The aim of the activity carried out in cooperation with the line Ministry was to update the Action Plan for Negotiation Chapter 11 so that the new document would take into account the new Union acquis within the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period 2023-2027 as well as progress in the harmonisation process achieved by 2023. Project experts presented the latest CAP reform (adopted in December 2021) and the new legislative framework, as well as the strategic plans of the Common Agricultural Policy. Along with the line Ministry representatives, they have discussed the revision of the Action plan. Read more [here](#).



Strategy with new Union acquis, the preparation of recommendations, measures and activities for the new strategy and the drafting of the new Strategy itself, with an Action Plan. A special part related to the development of a contingency plan for crisis management in case of an outbreak of classical swine fever. The current version of the Strategy was necessary to be upgraded in view of recent changes of EU legislation and the progress in harmonisation achieved so far. Read more [here](#).

## **New Strategy for transposition of the Union acquis in Chapter 12 drafted.**

Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, the team of the PLAC III project and project experts discussed the revision of the draft Strategy for the transposition, implementation and enforcement of the Union acquis in Chapter 12 at a three-day seminar held in Vršac from 5 to 7 December 2023. The seminar was part of the project activity of providing support to the line ministry in updating the draft Strategy with an Action Plan for its implementation. The project support included preparation of a legal gap analysis of the compliance of the existing draft of the

**In 2023, the PLAC III project has organised one study visit (to Italy, related to Negotiating Chapter 27), two seminars during which drafts of strategic documents in Negotiating Chapters 11 and 12 were produced, as well as 21 workshops that encompassed areas of 8 Negotiating Chapters. The workshops involved representatives of beneficiary institutions – Serbian Government’s Ministries, governmental agencies and bodies as well as representatives of stakeholder organisations.**





**Negotiating Chapter 27: the biggest number of activities, waste management in the focus.** In the period from September to the end of December 2023, the PLAC III project has implemented five activities in the areas of the Negotiating Chapter 27. The activities were carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection as a beneficiary institution and were related to a wide scope of areas. The largest number was devoted to the management of various waste streams: management of medical and pharmaceutical waste, construction/demolition waste as well as electrical and electronic waste. With the support of the project, drafts of several by-laws and amendments to the Law on Waste Management were drafted, which will contribute to the harmonisation of national

legislation with the Union acquis. In addition, an activity related to nature protection was finalised - harmonisation of legislation with the EU Regulation on Wildlife Trade. A workshop was held on harmonisation of national legislation with the EU laws related to limiting CO2 emissions for new passenger cars and light commercial vehicles. Read more in the [news](#) category of the project web site.

**Negotiating Chapter 15: energy efficiency of buildings and opening of the electricity market.** Project activities in the

energy sector included energy efficiency and energy properties of buildings, opening of the electricity market and risk management in the electricity sector. With the support of the project to the line Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, amendments were drafted to the Law on Planning and Construction and to two accompanying rulebooks that regulate the area of energy properties of buildings. Also, the draft of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Building Restoration Strategy, as well as the draft of recommendations for technical measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings were prepared. In the area of the electricity market, the project's support to the Ministry of Energy and Mining resulted in the drafting of a proposal to amend the Law on Energy, which enables citizens to participate in the electricity market. Another related activity focused on the alignment with the EU Regulation on preparedness for risks in the electric power sector. In order for Serbia to comply with its demands, drafts of amendments to the Law on Energy were prepared, as well as a draft of a Governmental Decree on preparedness for risks in the power sector. The adoption of those legal acts aligned with Union acquis is one of the obligations that Serbia took over by accepting the Treaty on the Establishment of the Energy Community. Read more in detail in the [news](#) category of the project web site.



**Legislation on official food controls, food donation and sustainable use of pesticides drafted.** Negotiating Chapter 12 is among the chapters in which the PLAC III project has the largest number of activities. In addition to drafting a new Strategy for the transposition and implementation of the Union acquis, the project has continued to support the Republic of Serbia in meeting the criteria for opening negotiations in that chapter. In close cooperation with the beneficiary institutions - the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Ministry of Health – project experts worked in improving the legislation on official food controls based on risk assessment, which resulted in a draft implementing guide for

phytosanitary official controls. In the same area, a proposal of legislation on recycled plastic materials and articles that come into contact with food was drafted. The proposal for a new Law on Plant Protection Products, which includes provisions on sustainable use of pesticides, was prepared. In order to regulate food donation and reduce food waste, a policy proposal for food donation and prevention of food waste that is healthy and safe has been drafted, which is one of the important measures of the EU "from farm to fork" strategy aimed at creating sustainable food systems. More details are available on the project [website](#).



**Chapter 13: revision of the draft Law on Structural Support and Market Organisation in Fisheries.** With the PLAC III project support, an expert revision of the draft Law on Structural Support and Market Organisation in Fisheries was carried out. The line Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management has prepared the first draft of the Law. The project has supported the line Ministry in assessing the compliance of the draft of the new law with the relevant Union acquis and in preparing a proposal for a revised draft law, after identifying legal gaps. Proposed legislation was presented at two workshops held in Belgrade – firstly for the line Ministry representatives and the second one for the stakeholder organisations. Read more [here](#).



expert presented what the ACAA agreement is and what its benefits are, as well as what are the pre-requisites for negotiating the agreement and what quality infrastructure needs to be harmonised. Read more [here](#).

**Chapter 1: towards the improvement of quality infrastructure systems.** The PLAC III project provided support to the Ministry of Economy, as the beneficiary institution, in preparation of detailed institutional and implementation gap assessments of quality infrastructure systems in Serbia, related to low-voltage equipment and electromagnetic compatibility, as a step towards negotiations on ACAA (Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products). At a workshop for the line Ministry representatives, project

**Chapter 3: further alignment of the legislative framework with the Third Postal Directive.** PLAC III project has continued its support to the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications in harmonising the legislation on postal services with Union acquis. The Law on Postal Services has yet to be fully aligned with the provisions of the so-called Third Postal Directive 2008/06/EC. In addition, Serbia should further align its legislation with Regulation (EU) 2018/644 on cross-border parcel delivery services. Within the scope of a new activity, amendments to the Law on Postal Services based on the legal gap analysis in relation to the Third Postal Directive, conducted also through the PLAC III project, were drafted. Read more [here](#).



**Chapter 11: how to create support schemes for healthier school meals.** The draft of the national programme of measures to support the improvement of eating habits of children and youth in the fruit and vegetable sector, as well as the rulebook for implementing the measures, were prepared with the support of the PLAC III project. The PLAC III project has provided support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, which is responsible for proposing a legislation regulating the market for all agricultural products. A proposal of School Fruit and Vegetable Programme, which is a set of support measures for improving the eating habits of children and youth in the fruit and vegetable sectors and their products was drafted. The Programme should encompass kindergartens, primary and secondary schools. Read more [here](#).

**Chapter 32: support to the Governmental Audit Office of EU Funds.** As part of the activities in the Negotiating Chapter 32, the PLAC III project has provided support to the Office for the Audit of the European Union Fund Management System. The Office, established by the Decree of the Serbian Government, is acting as the audit authority for the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). As a result of project support, a proposal for the necessary amendments to the current Audit Manual to achieve full compliance with the requirements of IPA III was drafted. Read more [here](#).

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