





Basic information	
2025/0244(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Awaiting committee decision
Protection of the environment through criminal law Subject 3.70.16 Law and environment, liability	



Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Legal Affairs		KYUCHYUK Ilhan (Renew)	07/04/2026
			Shadow rapporteur BUDA Daniel (EPP) PAJÍN Leire (S&D) FURORE Mario (The Left)	
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Environment, Climate and Food Safety		The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	 Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union				
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Justice and Consumers		MCGRATH Michael	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/07/2025	Preparatory document	COM(2025)0434 	
17/02/2026	Legislative proposal published	05824/2026	Summary
12/03/2026	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

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Forecasts	
06/07/2026	Indicative plenary sitting date

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2025/0244(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 083-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting committee decision
Committee dossier	JURI/10/03714

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE786.991	20/04/2026	
Council of the EU				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Legislative proposal	05824/2026	17/02/2026	Summary	
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2025)0433 	29/07/2025		
Preparatory document	COM(2025)0434 	29/07/2025		

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Protection of the environment through criminal law

PURPOSE: to conclude the Council of Europe convention on the protection of the environment through criminal law.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law was signed on 3 December 2025, subject to its conclusion at a later date. The Convention is consistent with the Union's objectives of ensuring a high level of environmental protection and improving environmental quality, as well as combating environmental crime, including through criminal law.

The Convention lays down provisions on its purpose and scope, legal definitions and terminology, criminal offences, the liability of legal persons, sanctions and other measures, aggravating and mitigating circumstances, procedural rights and cooperation, preventive measures and civil society participation regarding environmental crime.

The Union should become a party to the Convention alongside its Member States, given that both the Union and its Member States have competences in the areas covered by the Convention. The Convention should be concluded on behalf of the Union with regard to matters within the Union's competence insofar as the Convention may affect common rules or alter their scope. In areas of shared competence, the Member States retain their competence to the extent that the Convention does not affect common rules or alter their scope.

CONTENT: the draft Council decision aims at approving the **Council of Europe Convention on the protection of the environment through criminal law**.

The aim of the Convention is to effectively prevent and combat environmental crime, to promote and enhance national and international co-operation and to establish minimum rules to guide states in their national legislation.

The Convention applies to the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of criminal offences established in accordance with this Convention, namely:

- offences related to **illegal pollution**, placing products on the market in breach of environmental requirements, chemical substances, radioactive materials or substances, mercury, ozone-depleting substances and fluorinated greenhouse gases;
- offences related to the unlawful collection, treatment, transport, recovery, disposal or shipment of **waste**;
- offences related to the unlawful operation or closure of an **installation** involving dangerous substances;
- offences related to the unlawful recycling of **ships** and the ship-source discharges of polluting substances;
- offences related to the unlawful abstraction of **surface water** or groundwater and trade in wood from illegal logging;
- offences related to unlawful **mining**;
- offences related to unlawful killing, destruction, taking and possession of **protected wild flora or fauna**, trading in protected wild fauna or flora, unlawful deterioration of habitats within a protected site and offences related to invasive alien species;
- **particularly serious offence** when committed intentionally and leading to particularly serious damage or destruction or causing irreversible, widespread and substantial damage, or long-lasting, widespread and substantial damage to an ecosystem of considerable size or environmental value, or to a habitat within a protected site, or to the quality of air, soil or water.

In order to ensure the uniform and effective application of the Convention, the Union should, in particular, avail itself of the possibility provided in Article 56(3) of the Convention to specify the scope of the term 'unlawful' and certain notions used for the purpose of defining criminal offences under the Convention by means of a reservation. A reservation in this regard is attached to this Decision.

Ireland and Denmark did not participate in the adoption of this decision and are not bound by it or subject to its application.