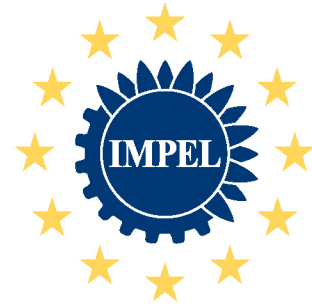




**European Committee
of the Regions**



European Union Network for
the Implementation and Enforcement
of Environmental Law

IMPEL ‘Extraordinary’ General Assembly

13/14 June 2018

Committee of the Regions, Brussels

v.22.05.18

Purpose of ‘extraordinary’ General Assembly

On the 18 January 2018, the [European Commission published an Environmental Compliance Assurance \(ECA\) Action Plan to increase compliance with EU environmental legislation.](#)

IMPEL is a key partner for DG Environment in helping to implement this plan. The Action Plan also fits, in part, with [IMPEL’s ‘Next Generation’ ambition](#) as many of the actions are linked, for example, on building capacity. This General Assembly meeting therefore, will aim to inform our network’s contact points, be an opportunity to exchange information and get buy-in from members on an agreed approach going forward.

13 June 2018, 9am-10.30am - Introductions & scene setting

- a) Introductions and welcome by IMPEL Chair, Mr Chris Dijkens. Chris will set out why we are here and why we are holding an extra General Assembly meeting
- b) Keynote speech from Mr Aurel Dordea Ciobanu, Director (Dir E) of Implementation and Support to Member States at DG Environment, European Commission. Subjects to cover a broad overview of the ECA initiative, the role of IMPEL in supporting this process and possible funding
- c) An introduction from the IMPEL Board on:
 - A recap of the situation to date, including what the Board has done so far on behalf of IMPEL and what the General Assembly has already agreed
 - ‘Next Generation IMPEL’ and IMPEL’s response to the ECA Position Paper – a recap and summary of the key papers underpinning this process
 - Feedback to the General Assembly from the Board on its impressions of the ‘Compliance & Governance Forum’ (first meeting took place on 13 March 2018)
 - Financing actions in 2018 & future financing of network activities
 - Next Steps - a discussion on expectations for 2018 and how we wish to continue including, plans for the IMPEL Conference in September 2018 and then in 2019.

10.30am-11am – Coffee Break & Networking

13 June 2018, 11am-11.30am - Introductions & scene setting...continued

- d) The wider context: views of ECA from our partner networks
- EU Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE)
 - European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE)
 - ENVI CrimeNet, network of police officers with a focus on environmental crime

13 June 2018, 11.30am-12.30pm - Links between ‘Next Generation IMPEL’ and ECA Position Paper

Ms Ana Garcia, Vice Chair of IMPEL will provide a general introduction in plenary on the links between ‘Next Generation IMPEL’ and the ECA Position Paper, and set the scene and expectations for the breakout / group discussion.

12.30pm-1.30pm – Lunch

Breakout groups / group discussion

After lunch, we will commence our group discussions. Each participant will have the opportunity to visit each ‘station’ – see below. Each group discussion will last approximately 2 hours and each group will visit 2 stations on day 1 (13 June), and 2 stations on day 2 (14 June). To find out which group you are in, please see the participant list.

General Assembly participants are asked to read the background papers for each ‘Station’ and contribute to discussions by giving their views, opinions and feedback. A rapporteur will note down contributions and report back to Plenary afterwards.

Station A

Supporting capacity building and developing a ‘Knowledge & Innovation Centre’ for environmental authorities.

Station B

IMPEL flagship programmes and their future: *IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI) & Enforcement Actions*.

Station C

ECA Initiative Action Plan:

- Developing guidance documents (for ECA Actions 4, 5 & 7)
- Extractive industries & Assessment Frameworks (ECA Actions 6 & 9)
- Geospatial analysis / Copernicus / INSPIRE (ECA Action 8).

Station D

Developing partnerships & IMPEL’s evidence base

- Strategic Engagement with partner networks
- Developing IMPEL’s membership base
- ‘Implementation Challenge’
- Feedback loop.

13 June 2018:

- **1.30pm-3pm - Breakout group (1)**
- **3pm-5.00pm - Breakout group (2) – please note; 4pm-4.30pm – Coffee Break**

14 June 2018:

- **9am-10.30am - Breakout group (3) – please note; *10.30am-11am – Coffee Break***
- **11am-12.30pm - Breakout group (4)**

14 June 2018, 12.30pm-1.15pm - Plenary & feedback

- a) Feedback of results from the breakout groups
- b) Organisational aspects – There will be a plenary discussion on resources (human and financial). How should we work with partner networks? How can we make our ambitions operational? How can we scale up IMPEL's ambitions? What are the challenges and what are the strengths and weaknesses?

14 June 2018, 1.15pm-1.30pm - Conclusions

IMPEL Chair, Mr Chris Dijkens, to conclude the General Assembly by summarising the key next steps and then to close the meeting.

14 June 2018, 1.30pm-2.30pm – Lunch