

CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION IN BULGARIA

AN EXCERPT FROM

The 2015 Global Climate Legislation Study **A Review of Climate Change Legislation in 99 Countries**



Michal Nachmany, Sam Fankhauser, Jana Davidová, Nick Kingsmill, Tucker Landesman, Hitomi Roppongi, Philip Schleifer, Joana Setzer, Amelia Sharman, C. Stolle Singleton, Jayaraj Sundaresan and Terry Townshend

www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/legislation/



**Grantham Research Institute on
Climate Change and
the Environment**



GLOBE
The Global Legislators Organisation



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Bulgaria

Legislative Process

The Republic of Bulgaria is a parliamentary democracy with its latest Constitution adopted in 1991 after the fall of the Communist regime in 1989. The President is head of state, directly elected for a 5-year term with a two-term limit. The Prime Minister is head of the Government (Council of Ministers), which represents the executive branch. Legislative power is vested in both the Government and the National Assembly. The Supreme Court of Cassation and the Supreme Administrative Court are the highest judicial bodies.

The unicameral National Assembly (Parliament) is composed of 240 members elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The electoral system is closed-list proportional representation. The last (pro-term) parliamentary election was held in October 2014 and the next is planned for autumn 2018. Any member of the National Assembly or the Council of Ministers has the right to introduce a draft law. If the draft is adopted by the National Assembly after two readings, it is sent to the President of the Republic, who signs a decree for its promulgation or returns the bill to the National Assembly for further debate. The Act is promulgated in the State Gazette and enters into force within three days, unless specified otherwise.

The Council of Ministers adopts ‘secondary legislation’: decrees, ordinances (implementing certain provisions or sections of laws), regulations (implementing a law in its entirety), rules, orders and decisions. The individual ministers issue rules, regulations, instructions and orders (to instruct subordinate bodies on the implementation of normative Acts).

Approach to Climate Change

Bulgaria ratified the UNFCCC in 1995 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. It submitted its first National Communication to the UNFCCC in 1996, followed by communications in 2001, 2002, 2006, 2010 (resubmitted in response to declaration of non-compliance with the Kyoto Protocol in 2010) and 2013. The next communication to the UNFCCC is currently being prepared. Bulgaria, a country in transition, adopted 1988 as the base year for the implementation of the Protocol. For the second commitment period (2012-2020), it has committed to the joint EU “20-20-20” targets of the “climate and energy package”. Following the upwards revision of targets by the Third National Action Plan on Climate Change for the period 2013-2020, Bulgaria has committed to reduce its GHG emissions by at least 18.5% by 2020 (base year 2005), limit the growth in ‘non-ETS’ emissions to below 20% (base year 2005), source 20% of its gross final energy production and 16% of its gross final consumption from renewables by 2020, source 10% of final energy consumption in the transport sector from renewables, and increase energy efficiency by 25% by 2020 (base year 2005).

Bulgaria has met its international commitments for emissions reductions to date. From 1988 to 2011, emissions decreased by 45.8% (46.4% with LULUCF), exceeding the reductions target for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (8%, 2008-2012). The Government places climate change among its main priorities, although economic development remains the key priority as a country in transition. More than one-fifth of the labour force is employed on a minimum wage of EUR1 (USD1.25) per hour, with household income often dependent on the informal economy (almost 32% of GDP). This is why the majority of legislation related to climate change mitigation and adaptation does not go beyond implementation of EU legislation.

The Ministry of Environment and Water (MEOW) is responsible for the design and implementation of climate change policy and the Executive Environment Agency for the co-ordination of the National

GHG Inventory. The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change (set up in 2000) and the Inter-ministerial Working Group for Development of the National Allocation Plan (set up in 2005) coordinate climate measures in key sectoral policies such as energy, households and services, industry, transport, agriculture, forestry and waste management. The following organisations support the climate change activities of the MOEW: Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Energy, Sustainable Energy Development Agency, Joint Implementation Steering Committee, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the National Statistical Institute, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and a number of lower-level government offices.

The Climate Change Mitigation Act (2014) represents the key climate change mitigation legislation. It lays down the principles of the state policy in the climate sector, the procedures for issuing GHG emissions permits, the responsibilities for organising national inventories, the rules for operation of the emissions trading mechanism and procedures for financing green projects. Specific national targets concerning the Climate-Energy Package are contained in strategic documents, including Europe 2020: National Reform Programme (2014 update); National Development Programme: “Bulgaria 2020”; National Environmental Strategy 2009-2018; Third National Climate Change Action Plan 2013-2020; Energy Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria until 2020; National Energy Efficiency Programme until 2015; National Long-term Programme for the Promotion of the Use of Renewable Energy Sources 2005-2015; National Programme for Promotion of the Biofuels Use in the Transport Sector 2008-2020; and National Strategy for Development of the Forestry Sector 2006-2015.

The principal objectives of climate-related policy are the development of a highly efficient and green energy sector and establishment of a single internal energy market, while overcoming high energy and carbon intensity of the economy and dependency on energy imports. Climate change mitigation measures are mainly financed from the state budget, the Enterprise for Managing Activities on Environmental Protection, the National Trust Eco Fund and the National Science fund. Other contributions come from EU Environmental Funds, Kyoto Protocol Joint Implementation Mechanism and Green Investment Scheme, and other international and bilateral agreements.

At the local level, municipalities are responsible for efficient production, supply and use of energy (e.g. energy savings through buildings renovation, energy efficient street lighting) and are mandated by the Energy Efficiency Act to prepare municipal energy efficiency plans. Although not leading directly to measurable reductions in emissions, the National Strategy for R&D Development 2020 (2009) defines energy, energy efficiency, and development of green and eco-technologies as the top scientific research priority. According to the 6th National Communication to the UNFCCC, BGN90m (USD57.8m) is to be dedicated for their implementation.

Energy supply

The energy sector has the largest share in the national GHG emissions. The primary energy generation mix is dominated by coal (52.1%), followed by nuclear (34.4%), renewables 10.3% (fuels and waste 7.1%, electricity generation 2.8%, heat energy 0.4%), natural gas (2.9%), and oil (0.2%) (2011). However, domestic energy production does not match energy demand, of which more than 70% has to be met by imports, mostly from Russia.

The Ministries of Economy and of Energy are responsible for co-ordination of energy policy, assisted by the Sustainable Energy Development Agency (SEDA), the State Energy and Water Regulatory Commission, the Agency for Nuclear Regulation and the Ministry of Environment and Water. The policies and measures in the energy sector are based mainly on the Energy Strategy of Bulgaria until 2020, the National Long-term Programme for the Promotion of the Use of Renewable Energy Sources 2005-2015, the National Renewable Energy Action Plan and the National Long-Term Programme to Encourage the Use of Biomass for the Period 2008-2020. The main climate change mitigation target

related to energy supply – 16% of energy from renewables in gross final consumption of energy by 2020 – has already been reached (16.4% in 2012). To ensure a more sustainable transition to low-carbon technologies without disproportionate impacts on electricity prices a new Energy Strategy of Bulgaria until 2030 is currently being developed.

To increase energy security, a number of projects have been implemented or are in progress, such as the underground Chiren Gas Storage facility with a capacity of about 450m³/yr. However, the “South Stream” Project (a planned gas pipeline to transport Russian natural gas through the Black Sea to Bulgaria and other EU states) has been cancelled so new options are needed. A number of renewable energy projects are under way, including the construction of new large hydropower capacity through the Joint Implementation mechanism and support to micro hydropower through feed-in tariffs. Further potential exists to reduce electricity losses in transmission networks.

Energy demand

Bulgaria has the highest energy intensity of the EU-28, with 2.5 times more energy consumption per unit of GDP than the EU average. Although GHG emissions decreased substantially between 1988 and 2011 in energy generation (13.7%), manufacturing industry (79.1%) and other sectors (64.9%), with a slight increase in the transport sector, the structure of final gross energy consumption remains oriented towards fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal add up to more than 50% in 2011).

A number of policy instruments contribute to achieving a 25% energy efficiency increase by 2020 compared to 2005 levels, including the National Long-term Programme for Energy Efficiency Until 2015, the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for 2013-2015, the National Programme for the Renovation of Residential Buildings and the Financing Strategy for Building Insulation to Improve Energy Efficiency. In addition, a new National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency was adopted in July 2014 to transpose the EU Directive on energy efficiency into Bulgaria’s legislation. For the building sector, minimum energy performance standards have been set as well as eco-design requirements, energy labelling and soft-loan mechanism to support purchase of efficient appliances. In the industrial sector, individual energy saving targets and mandatory audits have been set. There are also economic incentives, including “Investments in green industry” and “Energy efficiency and green economy” grants, the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Sources Fund (EERSF), and the Residential Energy Efficiency Credit Line (REECL).

Carbon pricing

The EU ETS, introduced in September 2005, is Bulgaria’s main carbon pricing initiative. In the third period of EU ETS, most allowances are subject to auctioning. The revenues generated from auctioning allowances should be used for activities to reduce the adverse impact of climate change. The revenues are disbursed under the National Green Investment Scheme to finance energy efficiency projects, development of energy from renewable sources, development and deployment of environmentally friendly technologies, educational measures, scientific research and measures to improve the administrative capacity and management of activities under the climate change mitigation policy.

REDD+ and LULUCF

Forestry is an important economic sector, with significant state investments over the last 40 years. In 2011, forest covered 37.4% of the country and forests support valuable ecosystems and control soil erosion. They are also recognised as having a key function for climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration. In the last decade the sequestration of GHG from forest areas offset between 10.7%-18.9% of total GHG emissions. In 2010 (latest available data), around 42.2% of forests were reserved for special protective and rehabilitative purposes. Since 1990 forest biomass stock has been increasing. However, the quality and quantity of forest land is threatened by several factors,

including fires, floods, wind damage and disturbances by insects. Between 2007 and 2013 more than 500,000 ha forests were damaged by forest fires. Most of them (about 80%) have not yet recovered and they are prone to be further damaged by insects and diseases.

To respond to those and other challenges, several pieces of legislation have been adopted. The main legislation related to forests and LULUCF, partly reflecting EU policies, are the National Strategy for Development of the Forestry Sector 2013-2020 (2013) and the Strategic Plan for the Development of the Forest Sector 2014-2023, as well as the more general Forest Act. Forest policy contributes indirectly to climate change mitigation through forest protection and afforestation. The National Forest Fund supports financially the activities of the State Forest Agency, including investment in forestry, afforestation, forest protection and certification.

Transportation

The transportation sector is one of the largest emitters of GHGs. The most significant contributors to emissions are private cars and heavy-freight vehicles, due mainly to a significant reduction of subsidies for the railway transport and closure of some railway routes, leading to a shift in the transport structure. The main policy and strategy documents in the sector are the Strategy for Development of the Transport System until 2020 (2010), and the National Strategy for Integrated Development of Infrastructure for 2006–2015 (2006). They lay the basis for the Operational Programmes on Transport (OPT) 2007-2013 and 2014-2020, which aim at developing railway, road and waterway infrastructure and stimulating the development of a low-carbon transport mix. Energy efficiency measures in the transport sector include fuel taxes (excise duty and VAT are about 50% of the petrol and diesel fuel prices), technical inspections, speed limits outside of the cities, and reduced excise duty on biofuels (zero excise duty for biofuels and natural gas, reduced tax rates for LPG). The National Programme for Promotion of the Biofuels Use in the Transport Sector 2008-2020 (2007) sets the national indicative targets for biofuels consumption: from 2% in 2008 to 10% in 2020. Other measures have been taken to promote the use of renewables in the transportation sector, including tax exemptions for electrical vehicles.

Adaptation

According to the 6th National Communication to UNFCCC (2013), the climate in Bulgaria not only became warmer but also drier at the end of the 20th century and observed warming continued at the beginning of the 21st century and climatic scenarios reveal an increased risk and vulnerability due to soil droughts. During the last decade however, precipitation totals and extreme weather frequency have increased, with heavy rains causing severe floods (notably in 2006 and 2014).

In order to reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change, the MOEW initiated the process towards development of a National Adaptation Strategy. As a first step, in June 2014 a Framework national climate change risk and vulnerability assessment for the economy was finalised. Its main objective is to assess the risk of climate change-related natural disasters on the basis of climate models and scenarios. The Framework covers: agriculture, water, urban environment, energy, transport, construction and infrastructure, ecosystems and biodiversity, human health and tourism. A separate chapter on cross-border co-operation on issues related to the impacts of climate change is included in the document. In parallel, the MOEW – with the support of the World Bank, has developed the financial disaster risk management and insurance options for climate change adaptation to analyse the importance of the insurance business in the prevention of and adaptation to climate change risks. Both the Framework document and the 'Financial disaster risk management study' should serve as a basis for the development of the 'National Adaptation Strategy until 2030'.

Other adaptation measures have been outlined for different sectors. The Executive Forest Agency (associated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food) has presented a Programme of measures to adapt forests in the Republic of Bulgaria and mitigate the negative impact of climate change on them

(2011), which is to be integrated into the National Adaptation Strategy. In the water sector, the first River Basin Management Plans were developed in 2010, with the second River Basin Management Plans expected to be completed by the end of 2015. Flood Risk Management Plans are also under preparation, with first four basin regions assessed in 2011.

Bulgaria – Legislative portfolio

Name of law	Climate Change Mitigation Act
Date	11 March 2014
Summary	<p>In pursuance of its international commitments and in order to synchronise Bulgarian legislation with the European law, the Climate Change Mitigation Act outlines the overall policy to be followed in order to mitigate climate change and its impacts and fulfil international obligations within the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, as well as the EU legal framework.</p> <p>The Act integrates the already existing climate change mitigation related articles of the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i>, namely provisions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the National Environmental Monitoring System (including the National GHG Inventory System), directed by the Minister of Environment and Water through the Executive Environment Agency, originally established by the EPA and related regulation • the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allowances Trading Scheme, for which the Minister of Environment and Water (acting jointly with other ministers) elaborates a National Allocation Plan every five years • the National Trust Eco Fund, established in 1995 after signing a swap deal 'Debt for Nature' with Switzerland and assigned in 2010 with responsibility for managing the funds received by Bulgaria within the Green Investment Scheme and other programmes <p>The Act further regulates instruments available under the Kyoto Protocol (Joint Implementation, CDM), administration of the national GHG trading register, and reduction of GHG emissions from fuels used for transport and energy and the voluntary emissions reduction scheme.</p> <p>The Act also reaffirms the National Action Plan on Climate Change as the "instrument which determines the framework of state policy in the field of climate change for each separate period of action under the policies of the European Union and international treaties to which Bulgaria is a party". The most recent (Third) National Action Plan (replacing the second one published in 2004) was adopted in 2012. It provides for transition to a low carbon and resource efficient economy and includes measures to achieve the target of over 18.5% GHG emissions reduction by 2020 compared to the 2005 levels and 20% share of renewables in energy production by 2020.</p> <p>The Act further establishes the National Expert Council on Climate Change as an advisory body to the Minister of Environment and Water. The Council includes representatives of the relevant Ministries, the State Agency for National Security, the Executive Environment Agency, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the National Association of Municipalities and non-profit organisations, whose activity is directly related to climate change mitigation".</p> <p>The Act also mandates the Minister of Environment and Water and other competent ministers to draft, after consultation with the National Council of Experts on Climate Change, a national strategy on climate change adaptation. The adaptation strategy is to be prepared for not less than 20 years, with the exception of the first strategy to be drawn up for the period up to 2030 inclusive, and should be adopted by the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>The Act sets the target of minimum 6% reduction of the lifecycle GHG emissions of liquid fuels and energy for transport per unit of energy by 31 December 2020 compared to the 2010 fuel standards. It provides for every supplier of liquid fuels and energy to the transport sector to submit to the MOEW by 31 March each year a verified report on the GHG intensity of products delivered the previous year. It also establishes coercive measures and administrative penalty provisions in case of non-compliance with the present Act.</p>

Name of law	Energy from Renewable Sources Act
Date	3 May 2011 (most recent amendment 11 April 2014)
Summary	The Energy from Renewable Sources Act replaces the Renewable and Alternative Energy Sources and Biofuels Act (2008), which was the first national legislation entirely dedicated to the renewable energy sources, mainly introducing the requirements of the related EU directives. The 2008 Act established support mechanisms that provided for “equal preferential treatment for producers of electricity (green certificates); mandatory inclusion of utilities generating electricity from RES and biofuels into the national grid; establishing preferential prices for purchasing energy generated from RES (feed-in tariffs); and reducing the administrative burden on producers. The Act resulted in a rapid development of RES (wind and photovoltaic), which put upward pressure on electricity prices. As a result in June 2011 the Parliament adopted the Energy from Renewable Sources Act. The new legislation kept RES preferential treatment options but introduced a preference for energy from biomass and shifted the balance of power from RES producers to grid operators and allowed for a substantial reduction of the prices of energy from photovoltaic (PV)”.

Name of law	Forestry Act and the National Strategy for Development of the Forestry Sector in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2013 - 2020
Date	8 March 2011 (most recent amendment 25 July 2014)
Summary	<p>The Act sets up a basic framework for the conservation of forests and (consequently) the support of the functions of ‘forest areas’, which include “climate regulation and carbon absorption”. Especially relevant for forest restoration and indirectly for CO² absorption is the chapter on “Afforestation and protection of forest areas against erosion and floods”.</p> <p>The Act further mandates elaboration of the National Strategy for Development of the Forestry Sector. The National Strategy for 2013-2020 includes the contribution of the forest sector to climate mitigation as part of the strategic vision for 2013-2020. It further lays down three strategic objectives for the medium term:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure sustainable development of the forestry sector by achieving an optimal balance between environmental functions and provision of long-term economic benefits and services 2. Enhance the role of forests in the economic growth of the country and balanced regional socio-economic development 3. Increase the contribution of the forest sector in the green economy”. The corresponding priorities are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintaining healthy, productive and multifunctional forest ecosystems that contribute to mitigating climate change 2. Conservation, restoration and maintenance of biological and landscape diversity in forest areas 3. Enhancing the vitality and competitiveness of the forest sector 4. Exploiting the potential of the forest sector to contribute to development of green economy

Name of law	Energy Efficiency Act (repeals the Law on Energy Efficiency 2004)
Date	14 November 2008 (most recent amendment 28 November 2014)
Summary	<p>This Act, implementing EU energy efficiency directives, lays down the foundations of the energy efficiency policy. It aims to promote energy efficiency through a system of measures for enhancing security of energy supply, competition in the energy sector and environment protection. It also mandates the Council of Ministers to submit the National Energy Efficiency Strategy to the National Assembly for adoption and elaborates regularly National Action Plans for Energy Efficiency. The most recent plan included national indicative targets for energy savings by 2016 of at least 9% of final energy consumption for 9 years (average 1% per year), to be achieved thanks to obligation to adopt municipal energy efficiency programmes, requirements for energy efficiency labelling, use of minimum standards for energy efficient appliances, energy efficiency labelling, obligatory audits and amendments of the Energy Performance Standards for existing buildings. The Minister of Economy and Energy is responsible for implementing policy on energy efficiency improvement.</p> <p>The Act further provides for: energy efficiency improvement activities and measures and provision of energy services; creation of a national information system for ensuring accessibility and availability of information on the condition of energy efficiency; funding mechanisms for energy efficiency improvement and energy savings certificates; energy efficiency control; and administrative penalty provisions.</p> <p>It creates the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Sources Fund, with the income mainly raised from grants from international financial institutions, international funds, Bulgarian and foreign natural or legal persons, with a mandate to support a broad range of investments, with priority funding for “a) implementation of measures to increase energy efficiency in end-use; b) use of renewable energy in final energy consumption”.</p>

The Act also introduces Energy Service Companies and proposes specific activities and measures for improving energy efficiency and energy services (introduced by amendments in 2013), such as “certification for energy efficiency of new buildings; inspection and certification for energy efficiency of buildings in operation; survey of industrial systems; inspection for energy efficiency of heating systems with boilers and air conditioning systems in buildings; managing energy efficiency; and improvement of the energy performance of the outdoor lighting”.

Name of law	Clean Ambient Air Act
Date	29 June 2006 (most recent amendment 28 November 2014)
Summary	The Clean Ambient Air Act regulates the limitation of emissions into the air from stationary sources and the quality requirements for liquid fuels – among others the activities directly related to GHG emissions. In addition, since 2008, Article 25 on Common methodology for emissions inventory specifically includes CO ₂ , CH ₄ and N ₂ O (plus relevant ODS and SF ₆) among the regulated substances.

Name of law	Energy Act and the National Energy Strategy till 2020
Date	9 December 2003 (most recent amendment 28 November 2014)
Summary	One of the aims of the Energy Act is to create conditions for the “promotion of the combined generation of electricity and heat” (art. 2). In its part on combined heat and power generation introduces the requirements of the related EU directives and the use of instruments such as green certificates and preferential feed in tariffs and mandates the state regulations to the licensed activities in the power sector and purchase obligations for the Transmission and Distribution Companies of all electricity produced from high efficient cogeneration, and for district heating companies to buy all utilised waste thermal energy.

The Act also mandates regular production of the National Energy Strategy. The most recent one, Energy Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria until 2020 was published in 2011. The Energy strategy is worked out by the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism and approved by the Council of Ministers.

The present National Energy Strategy till 2020 reflects the up-to-date European energy policy framework and the global trends in the development of energy technologies. The main priorities in the Energy Strategy are:

- “to guarantee the security of energy supply
- to attain the targets for renewable energy
- to increase the energy efficiency
- to develop a competitive energy market and policy for the purpose of meeting the energy needs
- to protect the interests of the consumers”

These priorities also determine the Government’s vision for development of the energy, namely:

- maintaining a safe, stable and reliable energy system
- keeping the energy sector a leading branch of the economy with definite orientation to foreign trade
- focus on clean and low-emission energy – from nuclear and renewable sources
- balance between quantity, quality and prices of the electric power produced from renewable sources, nuclear energy, coal and natural gas
- transparent, efficient and highly professional management of the energy companies

The strategy also lays down the main national targets for the energy sector: 16% share of energy from renewables in gross final energy consumption by 2020; 10% share of energy from renewables in the gross final energy consumption in transport by 2020; and energy efficiency increase by 25% by 2020.

Name of law	Spatial Planning Act
Date	31 March 2001 (most recent amendment 28 November 2014)
Summary	Spatial Planning Act regulates the procedures for preparation, approval and amendment of general and detailed spatial development plans of settlements. The bylaws issued on the basis of the Spatial Planning Act lay down the standards of urban planning and development of land.

Based on the Spatial Planning Act was developed the National Concept for Spatial Development for 2013-2025 (5 November 2012), which outlines the directions for land-use planning, governance and protection of the national territory and creates preconditions for spatial orientation and coordination of sectorial policies. The main objective of the Concept is “spatial co-ordination of the processes in the national territory through establishing a spatial and land-use planning base and a regulator for implementation of both regional planning and individual socio-economic sectorial planning at the national level in the context of the common European

spatial development for the purposes of achieving complex integrated planning”. The Concept integrates climate change mitigation and adaptation concerns, especially through considering among the major directions of development of the agrarian and forestry sector “sustainable use and management of natural resources – promotion of practices contributing to adaptation to climate change and compatible with protection and improvement of the environment, natural resources, soils and genetic diversity”, taking into account the GHG emissions reduction potential of forests, as well as the importance of spatial planning for improving climate adaptation capacity (e.g. reduction of occurrence of natural disasters).

Name of law	Agricultural Land Protection Act
Date	24 April 1996 (most recent amendment 28 November 2014)
Summary	The Agricultural Land Protection Act allows land use change of agricultural land only in certain specific cases. The owners and the users of agricultural land are entitled to tax and credit preferences when implementing the mandatory limitation on agricultural land use as well as when implementing projects to restore and improve the fertility of agricultural land. The Agricultural Land Protection Act contains a legal framework covering some of the activities envisaged for the agriculture sector in the National Action Plan on Climate Change, such as phasing out burning of stubble and plant waste on agricultural lands and promoting agricultural practices aimed at further reducing GHG emissions.

Bulgaria – Executive portfolio

Name of Policy	Programme for accelerated gasification of Republic of Bulgaria till 2020
Date	14 October 2011
Summary	The Programme aims to improve the energy efficiency in the household heating sector. Currently, only 1.5% of households are connected to the natural gas grid. The Government aims to increase this percentage to 30% in 2020 and replace the electricity used for heating by highly efficient natural gas appliances. The Programme sets the target of 1 million households connected to the improved gas infrastructure, for an estimated investment of about BGN400 million (USD257 million). The estimated benefits are reducing the energy intensity of primary energy consumption by around 6% in 2020 compared to 2009, i.e. about one-third of the overall energy intensity target for Bulgaria.

Name of Policy	Early-warning system in case of disasters (Ordinance 26/2009 of the Council of Ministers)
Date	07 April 2009
Summary	The Ordinance provides for the National early- warning disaster system to: 1. Foster continuous relationship for exchanging information and action coordination within the executive power and a component of the rescue system as defined in the Law on Disaster Protection in the event of imminent or occurring disaster; 2. Warn and inform the public of impending or occurring disaster, the dynamics of its development, the measures to limit its impacts and appropriate actions to be taken by citizens. The ordinance starts to be implemented in individual municipalities – e.g. Sofia, where the early-warning system for flooding should cover 50% of the citizens of Sofia by 2020.

Sources

- CIA (2014). *The World Factbook*. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bu.html>, last consulted on 21/07/2014
- Drzaven vestnik (2014). *State Gazette*. <http://dv.parliament.bg/DVWeb/index.faces>. Last consulted on 20/07/2014
- ECOLEX - gateway to environmental law (2013). *Bulgaria's Environmental Law*. <http://www.ecolex.org/ecolex/ledge/view/SearchResults?screen=Legislation&index=documents&sortField=searchDate&country=Bulgaria>, last consulted on 29/07/2014
- Eurostat (2013). *Greenhouse gas emissions in non-ETS sectors*. http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=t2020_35&plugin=1, last consulted on 31/07/2014
- Eurostat (2014). *Energy intensity of the economy*. <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/graph.do?jsessionid=9ea7d07e30df095f072c8125442fa2adf6ecbd94470a.e34MbxSaHmMa40LbNiMbxaNa34Se0?tab=graph&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tsdec360&toolbox=type>, last consulted on 31/07/2014
- Focus News Agency (2013). 'Deputy Agriculture Minister: Fires have affected 16,000 daa of forests in Bulgaria this year'. <http://www.focus-fen.net/opinion/0000/00/00/3364/>, last consulted on 20/07/2014
- Konstantinov, E. (2014). *Public Administration in Bulgaria: Structures*. http://www.cecl.gr/RigasNetwork/databank/REPORTS/r13/Bu_13_Konstantinov.html, last consulted on 20/07/2014
- Law Portal of Bulgaria (2014). <http://www.lex.bg/search>, last consulted on 30/07/2014
- MOEW - ExEA, BULGARIA (2013). *Bulgaria's National Inventory Report 2013 - Submission under UNFCCC and under the Kyoto Protocol*. <http://eea.government.bg/bg/output/unfccc/NIR-13-eng.pdf>, last consulted on 20/07/2014
- MF Bulgaria (2014). *Europe 2020: National Reform Programme*. http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2014/nrp2014_bulgaria_en.pdf, last consulted on 31/07/2014
- Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria (2014). *Official website*. <http://www.moew.government.bg/>, last consulted on 31/07/2014
- National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria (2014). *Constitution; Legislation*. <http://www.parliament.bg/en/>, last consulted on 21/07/2014
- UNFCCC (2014). *6th National Communication of the Republic of Bulgaria*. [http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/application/pdf/vi_nc_bulgaria_2013\[1\].pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/application/pdf/vi_nc_bulgaria_2013[1].pdf), last consulted on 29/07/2014