

FRENCH EXPERIENCE ON CARBON NEUTRALITY FOR UKRAINE

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23.06.2022 Ukraine received candidate status for EU membership [1]. One of the areas that will be reformed in the near future is Ukrainian legislation. The corresponding report on the initial assessment of the progress in the implementation of the EU legal acts (EU ACQUIS) has recently been submitted [2]. One of the relevant and important directions is environmental ecology for Ukraine and EU member states, where attention is focused on carbon neutrality due to global warming.

Ukraine has a relevant regulatory act - the Law of Ukraine «On Alternative Energy Sources» of 20.02.2003 № 555-IV [3]. It is undergoing constant changes given external and internal factors. In the opinion of the author, it is better to adopt the experience of EU member states, which are similar in several criteria and indicators to our state. Based on the information on nuclear power plants in EU countries in 2020 posted on the website eurostat, the leading country is France [4]. France and Ukraine before the introduction of the current martial law are similar in size of territory, population, and have nuclear power plants [5, 6]. They do not depend on weather conditions and are the most environmentally friendly sources of energy, as they do not emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. However, these power plants also have disadvantages. For example, the disposal of spent nuclear fuel, which emits radiation long after use [7].

After the adoption of the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015), which Ukraine ratified, EU legislation began to be updated [8]. The European Green Deal and the Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30.06.2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 («European Climate Law») (hereinafter - «European Climate Law») are adopted [9, 10]. French legislation is being revised and reformed to implement them: the Environmental Code has been amended accordingly; Law № 2015-992 of 17.08.2015 relating to the energy transition for green growth has been adopted [11]. It seems that reforming legislation in the way described above will not provide the opportunity to obtain the expected or planned result. Moreover, after a certain period, it will be necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the legal norms of these legal acts to identify gaps, unsettled issues or non-working legal norms. The National Low-Carbon Strategy is being adopted to minimize this problem [12, 13]. Based on the analysis of this strategy and the scheme presented by the French Ministry of Ecological Transition regarding the implementation of this strategy, the following conclusions can be drawn [12, 14]. The aim of its adoption is to achieve carbon neutrality, i.e. «to have a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks» and to reduce carbon dioxide emissions [12, 14, 15]. And a similar sense of carbon neutrality is also spelled out in Article 2(1) of «European Climate Law» [10]. This is done by adopting carbon budgets that set thresholds for greenhouse gas emissions [13]. The National Low-Carbon Strategy describes ways to achieve its goals [12, 14].

In the author's opinion, using the experience of France in Ukraine is appropriate and can be used after the end of martial law. First, an integrated approach, settled at the legislative level to solve this problem. Second, the positive and negative aspects of the implementation of these regulations can be monitored. Third, there is no rejection of nuclear power in France with a carbon-neutral course.

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