Commission Priority Actions from Ireland Environmental Implementation Review 2022	Status	Notes	Source	Source	Source		Key
Introduce new policy instruments, including economic instruments, to promote prevention, make reuse and recycling more economically attractive.	Implemented	Multiple new measures have been introduced.	1				Ignored: the State has taken no action on this.
Shift reuseable and recyclable waste away from incineration and landfilling.	Ignored	The EU has found efforts in this regard insufficient, and therer is no intention in government to phase out incineration.	1	2			Delayed: the State has committed to this but insufficient progress has been made, or it was achieved significantly after the original timeline.
Increase recycling rates by making the separate collection obligation more effective. Carry out a review of recent reforms to the waste collection market	Ignored	There has been no improvement to the effectiveness of the separate collection obligation.	1				Committed: the State has committed to this and it is on track for implementation
Ensure that a waste management plan in line with the revised Waste Framework Directive is in place.	Implemented	There is such a plan.	1				Implemented: this is current policy and practice in the State.
Address serious delays and deficiencies in Ireland's marine Natura 2000 network through identification, selection and designation of sites under the Birds and Habitats Directives.	Ignored	There continue to be delays.	1				
Complete the designation of terrestrial SACs and put in place the necessary conservation measures based on clearly defined conservation objectives, so that they may meet their objective of maintaining or restoring species and habitats of community interest to a favourable conservation status across their natural range.	Ignored	According to the Commission: "While Ireland has already made significant progress in formally designating the SACs and defining conservation objectives, the important part of the judgment with regard to establishing conservation measures still needs to be implemented."	1				
Take action to end illegal turf cutting on raised-bog SACs and to ensure that any turf cutting on blanket-bog SACs is fully compatible with their protection in Natura 2000.	Ignored	We have been brought to the EU Court of Justice over our failures on this.	1				
Take practical steps to address the serious decline of waders, and further develop the conservation programme for the curlew, both in Natura 2000 sites and the wider countryside.	Ignored	While there are programmes with this objective, waders an the curlew are still in decline. There has been no update on the curlew conservation programme since 2023.	1	2	3		
Step up action on implementing the recommendations set out in the Irish CAP Strategic Plan	Ignored	There are ongoing issues and lack of ambition specifically re: organic farming.	1				
Step up implementation action on the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation.	Ignored	This priority action was repeated in the 2025 Implementation Review, indicating continued failure.	1				
Implement the recommendations made by the Commission in the staff working document accompanying the Communication on recommendations for each Member State and region on the 2018 updated reports for Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the MSFD.	Ignored	Evidence of addressing recommendations made in 2022 is not clear in the 2025 review nor in the government's marine strategy on these articles.	1	2			
Ensure regional cooperation with Member States sharing the same marine (sub) region to address predominant pressures.	Implemented	The marine strategy outlines the State's approach to regional coordination	1				
Continue supporting the mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services, and ecosystem accounting development, through appropriate indicators for integrating ecosystem extent, condition and services (including some monetary values) into national accounts; continue supporting the development of national business and biodiversity platforms, including natural capital accounting systems to monitor and value the impact of business on biodiversity.	Implemented	Subsequent work on natural capital accounting and ecosystem services mapping has taken place.	1	2	3		
As part of the NAPCP take actions towards reducing emissions from the main sources mentioned above.	Ignored	The EU reported ongoing non-compliance with a number of air pollutants.	1				
Ensure full compliance with EU air quality standards and maintain downward emissions trends for air pollutants to reduce adverse air pollution impacts on health and the economy with a view to reaching WHO guideline values in the future	Implemented	The EU found significant progress in this regard, and Ireland is on track for full compliance.	1				
Accelerate the ratification of the amended Gothenburg Protocol under the UNECE Air Convention.	Implemented	The Protocol has been ratified.	1				
Continue addressing air pollution from the energy sector.	Implemented	Substantial progress was identified by the EU.	1				
Strengthen control and enforcement to ensure compliance with Seveso-III Directive provisions, especially on EEPs.	Implemented	Substantial progress was identified by the EU.	1				
Sign and ratify the TEIA convention	Ignored	Ireland is not a signatory to this Convention.	1				

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New physical modifications of water bodies should be assessed in line with Article 4(7) of the WFD. In these assessments alternative options and adequate mitigation measures have to be considered.	Ignored	Modifications subject to judicial review on environmental grounds have neverthless argued they are exempt from the test as the modifications will not lead to deterioriation.	1	2			
Maintain efforts to reduce diffuse nutrients pollution and to address hydromorphological pressures	Ignored	Nutrient pollution remains significant, as do hydromorphological pressures.	1	2			
Maintain efforts to improve monitoring, in particular of hydromorphological conditions, priority substances and groundwater quantity	Ignored	In the 2025 water quality monitoring report from the EPA, none of these characteristics are described.	1				
Urgently ensure an appropriate control over water abstraction and hydromorphological changes in compliance with the Water Framework Directive.	Ignored	In a 2025 judgment, the EU Court of Justice found Ireland had failed to correctly transpose the Water Framework Directive.	1				
Efforts should be made to improve coordination in the implementation of water, marine and nature policies.	Delayed	In the absence of successful implementation of these bodies of policy in the first place, coordination cannot be said to have happened.					
Review its action programme regarding the high nutrients phosphorus surplus and continue to follow- up on the monitoring of hotspot areas that show increasing nitrate concentrations.	Implemented	The most recent Nitrates Action Plan has actions relating to areas of increasing nitrate levels and phosphorus surplus	1				
Complete implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive for all agglomerations, by building up the necessary infrastructure.	Ignored	Non-compliance was found by the CJEU again in 2024.	1				
Upgrade the administrative capacities for implementation and enforcement in order to follow a zero-tolerance approach to non-compliance	Ignored	No progress has been shown and the priority action was repeated in the 2025 implementation review.	1				
Increase the uptake of renewables.	Ignored	We are not on track for meeting targets in this area, and particularly in terms of share of energy we face difficulties given expanding energy demands. Slow progress in off-shore wind, grid turning away renewables, remain issues.					
Decarbonise transport.	Ignored	We are off-track to meet emissions target in transport sector.	1				
Improve energy efficiency in existing residential and commercial buildings	Ignored	EU identify no progress in this regard and we are far from meeting domestic retrofit targets.	1				
Upgrade the current power infrastructure and strengthen its ability to cope with high shares of variable generation.	Ignored	There is some progress made in this regard, but the grid still turning away significant proportions of renewables (up to a fifth), and is under further strain from large energy users.	1				
Reduce non-CO2 emissions in agriculture while enabling the agro-food industry to transition to sustainable modes of production.	Ignored	Agricultural sectoral emissions remain far off target and the predicted reductions are less than previously thought.	1				
Exercise continuous vigilance over the sustainable use of biomass and its actual impacts on carbon sinks and biodiversity due to the increasing share of biomass in the energy sector.	Implemented	There is a biomass sustainability verification process in place.	1				
To devise an environmental financing strategy to maximise opportunities for closing environmental implementation gaps, bringing together all relevant administrative levels.	Ignored	There is no such strategy.					
To ensure an increased level of financing, and further exploit opportunities in private financing, for the environment to cover the investment needs identified across the environmental objectives and to close investment gaps.	Ignored	The EU Commission reports no improvement in the 2025 implementation review.	1				
Improve access to spatial data and services by forming stronger linkages between the Federal INSPIRE website and regional portals, identify and document all spatial datasets required for implementating environmental law229, and at least make the data and documentation accessible “as is” to other public authorities and the public through the digital services as set out in the INSPIRE Directive	Ignored	Ireland is performing well on this except with regards accessibility.	1				
Make significant improvements to ensure that high costs and the lack of clarity about those costs in advance of any legal action do not hinder the effective access to justice in environmental matters. It is recommended that Ireland draw up an action plan to address problems with prohibitively expensive judicial procedures in the environmental field	Ignored	The State has actively worked against this recommendation, introducing fee caps that make environmental justice prohibitively expensive for potential litigants.	1				

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Better inform the public about their access to justice rights, in particular by referring to a range of resources, such as judicial and administrative portals, and to the Commission eJustice fact sheets on access to justice in environmental matters.	Ignored	The government does not refer people to the eJustice factsheet.	1	2			
Ensure that abusive SLAPP suits designed to deter legitimate environmental access to justice are identified and prevented via the appropriate means, e.g. via a fast track complaints mechanism.	Delayed	We transposed the SLAPP Directive late.	1				
Deliver an SEA portal to co-ordinate information on plans and programmes and consider whether it would be feasible to monitor the level of public participation in the EIA and SEA processes.	Delayed	While there is a government commitment to developing such a portal it has not yet been delivered.					
Make information available on the enforcement of environmental law, including on ELD cases and on formal arrangements for cooperation among bodies responsible for combatting environmental crime.	Implemented	There is such a register on the EPA website.	1				