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Климатическая повестка в странах-членах ЕАЭС: общие подходы и различия

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Аннотация: в статье исследуются подходы в реализации климатической повестки отдельных стран, которые входят в Евразийский экономический союз (ЕАЭС). Страны ЕАЭС реализуют политику, направленную на разработку национальных стратегий в области климата, а также вырабатывают общие подходы к формированию механизма, который должен быть создан на основе сближения и унификации национальных законодательств. Однако на подходы стран ЕАЭС большое влияние оказывают различные факторы, среди которых значительные различия в экономическом потенциале стран-участниц, а также ориентация на проведение самостоятельной экономической политики. Сказываются экологические проблемы в странах ЕАЭС, которые влияют на их решения в сфере реализации климатической повестки. Повышенное внимание к проблеме изменения климата объясняется возрастающим негативным влиянием на социально-экономическое развитие государств, межгосударственные отношения. Изменение климата отрицательно сказывается на жизни населения многих стран мира. В глобальном масштабе изменение климата наносит непоправимый ущерб экосистеме планеты. Изменение климата затрагивает значительное количество сфер жизнедеятельности и, в первую очередь, вопросы, связанные с водными ресурсами и продовольственной безопасностью. В результате, климатические изменения стали неотъемлемой частью мировой политики, все активнее влияя на международные отношения. При этом, комплекс мер, которые предлагают страны для минимизации негативного влияния от изменения климата, не реализуются на практике. Данная проблема в полной мере проявляется и в рамках ЕАЭС. В итоге, в статье сделан вывод, что страны ЕАЭС должны вырабатывать единые подходы, которые позволят снизить влияние на климат и тем самым, позволят выполнить цели климатической повестки. В задачи стран ЕАЭС входит реализация низкоуглеродных проектов, а также не вводить торговые барьеры, связанные с климатическим регулированием.

Ключевые слова: ЕАЭС, климат, низкоуглеродные проекты, климатическое регулирование, экономическая политика, экология

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Climate agenda in the EAEU member states: similarities and differences

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Abstract: the article examines the approaches used by the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states to implementing the climate agenda. The EAEU countries are pursuing policies aimed at developing national climate strategies. Additionally, they are working on the formulation of common approaches for establishing a unified mechanism, which is to be created through the convergence and harmonization of national legislations. However, the approaches of the EAEU countries are significantly influenced by various factors, including substantial disparities in the economic potential of the member states and their independent economic policies. Furthermore, environmental challenges among the EAEU countries also impact the approaches of individual states within the integration association. The increased attention to the issue of climate change is explained by its growing negative impact on the socioeconomic development of various states and on international relations. Climate change adversely affects millions of lives in many countries worldwide. On a global scale, climate change is causing irreparable damage to the planet's ecosystem. It affects a significant number of spheres and, primarily, issues related to water resources and food security. Consequently, climate change has become an integral part of world politics, increasingly influencing international relations. At the same time, the set of measures proposed by countries to minimize the negative impact of climate change has not been put into practice. This problem is fully evident within the EAEU as well. The article concludes that the EAEU countries must develop unified approaches that will reduce their impact on climate and thereby enable the fulfillment of the climate agenda's goals. The tasks for the EAEU countries include implementing low-carbon projects and refraining from introducing trade barriers associated with climate regulation.

Key words: EAEU, climate, low-carbon projects, climate regulation, economic policy, ecology

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INTRODUCTION

The problem of climate change has long been considered exaggerated. It is widely believed that «climate change is a natural process that has occurred throughout human history»[1], and that «global warming is an Arctic problem that will never affect us [1].» These statements contradict the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, published in its Synthesis Report on Climate Change 2023. The document notes that «a significant change in average annual temperature has been observed in the first two decades of the 21st century, and the global surface temperature has increased faster since 1970 than in any other 50-year period in history[2]. «Human activity has already» led to an increase in global temperature by about 1.2 °C[3], «which has negatively affected all natural systems. In this regard, «the climate agenda has become a key element of international relations and regional integration, forming a set of measures aimed at combating climate change and the adverse consequences of common concern to humanity»[4].

The climate agenda includes such objectives as «climate change mitigation, adaptation to change, effective financing of environmental programs, legal regulation, and the transfer of green technologies. Climate change mitigation encompasses actions taken to reduce the volume of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, their concentration, and their absorption»[5].

When studying national approaches, strategic documents of the EAEU member states were used. Among them: the Kazakhstan-2050 Strategy[6], the national contribution of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the global response to climate change[7], the Concept for the transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a «green economy»[8], the Strategy for achieving carbon neutrality of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2060[9], the Environmental Code[10]; the National Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2030[11], the Concept of Environmental

1 Debunking eight common myths about climate change. 04.06.2024. URL: https://www.unep.org/ru/novosti-i-istorii/istoriya/razvenchivaem-vosem-rasprostranennykh-mifov-ob-izmenenii-klimata (Accessed: 06.08.2025)

2 2IPCC, 2023: Sections. In: Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, p. 42. URL: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_LongerReport.pdf

3 Global Temperature. Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet. URL: https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/global-temperature/?intent=121 (Accessed: 11.08.2025)

4 Order of the Government of the Russian Federation of October 29, 2021 No. 3052-r. URL: http://static.government.ru/media/files/ADKkCzp3fWO32e2yA0BhtIpyzWfHaiUa.pdf (Accessed: 15.08.2025)

5 Climate change mitigation. URL: https://unfccc.int/ru/temy/smyagchenie—izmeneniya—klimata (Accessed: 15.08.2025)

6 Strategies and Programs. URL: https://www.akorda.kz/ru/official_documents/strategies_and_programs (Accessed: 15.08.2025)

7 On approval of the updated national contribution of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the global response to climate change: Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated April 19, 2023 No. 313. URL: https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P2300000313 (Accessed: 13.08.2025)

8 On the Concept for the Transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a «Green Economy»: Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated May 30, 2013 No. 577. URL: https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/U1300000577 (Accessed: 12.08.2025)

9 On approval of the Strategy for achieving carbon neutrality of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2060: Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated February 2, 2023 No. 121.. URL: https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/U2300000121#z167 (Accessed: 10.08.2025)

10 Environmental Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan: Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated January 2, 2021 No. 400- VI 3 PK. URL: https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/K2100000400#z4 (Accessed: 20.08.2025)

11 National Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2030. URL: https://mineconom.gov.kg /froala/uploads/file/c0b08234504a02fe68c6d6d8eadcbf4b51899f6f.pdf (Accessed: 20.08.2025)

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Safety of the Kyrgyz Republic for the period up to 2040[12], as well as joint projects within the framework of UNDP[13]; the Law «On Atmospheric Air Protection» dated 16.12.2008[14], the nationally determined contribution of the Republic of Belarus to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions dated 29.09.2021[15], the Strategy for Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus for the period up to 2035[16]; Armenia's targets, nationally determined contributions to reduce CO_2 emissions by 40 % compared to 1990 levels[17]; Federal Law of the Russian Federation No. 296-FZ of July 2, 2021[18], the Strategy for the Socioeconomic Development of the Russian Federation with Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions until 2050 of October 29, 2021[19], the National Action Plan for the Second Stage of Adaptation to Climate Change through 2025 of March 11, 2023[20], and the Report on Climate Features in the Russian Federation for 2024[21].

Overall, the EAEU countries' policies are aimed at implementing preventive measures and, at the same time, implementing adaptation measures. The EAEU countries shape the climate agenda primarily at the national level.

KAZAKHSTAN'S APPROACHES

For Kazakhstan, a carbon-intensive economy, the climate agenda is a strategic priority. Furthermore, water resources used in electricity generation are particularly important for Kazakhstan. According to Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, «Temperatures in the Central Asian region are rising twice as fast as the global average. The region suffers from extreme weather events-glaciers are melting, desertification is occurring, and water shortages are growing»[22]. «The country's climate is changing and getting hotter every year: in 2020, the climate norm was exceeded by 1.92 °C[23]».

[12] Draft concept of environmental safety of the Kyrgyz Republic. URL: https://aarhus.kg/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Kontseptsiya-ekologicheskoj-bezopasnosti-Kyrgyzstana.pdf (Accessed: 19.08.2025)

[13] Kyrgyzstan has presented a key plan for adaptation to climate change. 19.03.2025. URL: https://www.undp.org/ru/kyrgyzstan/press-releases/kyrgyzstan-has-presented-key-plan-adaptation-climate-change (Accessed: 22.08.2025)

[14] Law of the Republic of Belarus «On the Protection of Atmospheric Air» of 16.12.2008 No. 2–3. URL: zakon_respubliki_belarus_ot_16_dekabrya_2008_g._no_2-z_ob_ohrane_atmosfernogo_vozduha_.pdf (Accessed: 21.08.2025)

[15] Nationally Determined Contribution of the Republic of Belarus to the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030: Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of September 29, 2021 No. 553. URL: https://minpriroda.gov.by/uploads/folderForLinks/post-553.pdf (Accessed: 19.08.2025)

[16] Environmental Protection Strategy of the Republic of Belarus through 2035: Order of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus dated 24.12.2024 No. 370-OD. URL: Strategija-v-oblasti-oxrany-okruzhajuschej-sredy-Respubliki-Belarus-na-period-do-2035-goda.pdf (Accessed: 23.08.2025)

[17] EU 4 Climate: Armenia has set an environmental goal for 2021–2030. 06.05.2021. URL: https://euneighbourseast.eu/ru/news/latest-news/eu4climate-armeniya-opredelila-ekologicheskuyu-czel-na-2021–2030-gody/ (Accessed: 23.08.2025)

[18] Federal Law No. 296-FZ of July 2, 2021 «On Limiting Greenhouse Gas Emissions». URL: https://www.pnp.ru/law/2021/07/02/federalnyy-zakon-296-fz.html#:~: text= Federal Law No. 296 — FZ of July 2, 2021, the abbreviated indicator (Accessed: 21.08.2025)

[19] Order of the Government of the Russian Federation of October 29, 2021 No. 3052-r. URL: http://static. government.ru/media/files/ADKkCzp3fWO32e2yA0BhtIpyzWfHaiUa.pdf (Accessed: 19.08.2025)

[20] Order of the Government of the Russian Federation of March 11, 2023 No. 559-r. URL: http://static. government.ru/media/files/DzVPGlI7JgT7QYRoogphpW69KKQREGTB.pdf (Accessed: 18.08.2025)

[21] Report on climate features in the Russian Federation for 2024. URL: https://www.meteorf.gov.ru/upload/pdf_download/Report on climate features in the Russian Federation for 2020–24.pdf (Accessed: 22.08.2025)

[22] Kazakhstan views green transition as strategic priority — Tokayev. 04.04.2025. URL: https:// kaztag. kz / ru / news / kazakhstan — rassmatrivaet — zelenyy — perekhod — kak — strategicheskiy — prioritet — tokaev (Accessed: 26.08.2025)

[23] Lowering the Temperature: How Kazakhstan is Fighting Climate Change. May 12, 2023. URL: https://www.undp.org/ru/kazakhstan/news/snizhaya-gradus-kak-kazakhstan-boretsya-s-izmeneniem-klimata (Accessed: 26.08.2025)

Based on these objectives, the government has set a goal aimed at improving the environmental situation in the country. In Kazakhstan, the following objectives have been set for the implementation of green economy and environmental protection policies: achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, stimulating investment in green technologies, developing a low-waste economy, decarbonizing the economic sector, improving the efficiency of water use and protection, preserving biodiversity, and managing waste. The Strategy also states that Kazakhstan intends to maintain cooperation with the EAEU solely as an economic union, although this does not preclude cooperation on the climate agenda.

Kazakhstan intends to adhere to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Concept notes that «a green transition is relevant for all key sectors of economic development. In accordance with the amendments introduced by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 10, 2024, Kazakhstan intends to achieve responsible resource use, modernize approaches to production as part of the Third Industrial Revolution, and more. Kazakhstan has set a high pace of change on the climate agenda: achieving carbon neutrality by 2060, revising legislation in line with the Strategy to 2050, changing pollution assessment methodology, and raising quality standards for products and services, which will require significant investment and a change in development trajectory. The country's government is actively developing the carbon market as part of the 2060 Strategy, aimed at achieving carbon neutrality. CO_2 trading encourages companies to reduce their emissions by allowing them to sell surpluses to other businesses to generate additional waste. Despite the progress achieved and the initiative to regulate emissions through a market-based approach, the measure remains ineffective: the cost of a carbon unit at auction (1 ton) is 1.1–1.2 US dollars»[24].

KYRGYZSTAN'S POLITICS

Kyrgyzstan is also facing climate change, primarily due to its plateaus and mountains. Melting glaciers and rising average annual temperatures threaten water supplies. Kyrgyzstan is also striving to implement a «green» economic transition. According to President S. Japarov, «climate change is a global challenge requiring immediate action»[25].

The draft National Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic for the period up to 2030 highlights the country's development as a center for green energy as a key development vector. To develop green energy, Kyrgyzstan advocates for the creation of a mechanism aimed at the rational use of water and energy resources. Kyrgyzstan prioritizes environmental protection to ensure sustainable development. The country also supports global initiatives and successfully implements them into national legislation. For example, the Government of the Republic has ratified the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, and adopted the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic «On State Regulation of Greenhouse Gas Emission Policy»[26].

Kyrgyzstan is striving to follow global trends in improving its monitoring system. This is due to «rising average annual temperatures, the rate of change of which is constantly accelerating»[27]. Kyrgyzstan, like Kazakhstan,

[24] Greenhouse gas emission quotas. URL: https://ccx.kz/kvoty-na-vybrosy-parnikovyh-gazov (Accessed: 12.08.2025)
[25] Green economy is one of Kyrgyzstan's priorities. 05.05.2025. URL: https://ecfs.msu.ru/news/»zelenaya»-ekonomika—-odin-iz-prioritetov-kyirgyizstana (Accessed: 12.08.2025)
[26] On the Concept of Environmental Safety of the Kyrgyz Republic: Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic of November 23, 2007 UP No. 506. URL: https://base.spinform.ru/show_doc.fwx/show_doc.fwx?rgn=20276 (Accessed: 14.08.2025)
[27] Climate Change Kyrgyzstan. URL: https://www.meteoblue.com/ru/climate-change/Kyrgyzstan_Kyrgyzstan_1527747 (Accessed: 18.08.2025)

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intends to gradually «introduce a market mechanism for trading greenhouse gas emissions quotas; however, in the current situation, the country's emissions levels and economy are not ready for the deployment of a full-scale national system. However, Kyrgyzstan retains the option of implementing the mechanism within a regional framework as part of the creation of the EAEU trading system»[28].

ARMENIA'S APPROACHES

Global climate change has also impacted Armenia. «Over the past two years, the temperature anomaly ranged from 1.6 °C to 1.8 °C»[29]. Armenia is striving to actively implement «green» measures in its national policy. It ratified the Paris Climate Agreement, while «approving updated Nationally Determined Contributions with the goal of reducing CO_2 emissions by 40 % from 1990 levels»[30]. Unlike its EAEU partners, the country is focusing on a «green» energy transition using the potential of renewable energy sources, primarily solar energy. According to the Strategic Plan for Energy Development until 2040, solar and wind energy are considered the most preferable methods of generating electricity. Firstly, energy generation through this method is the least expensive. Secondly, «the development of solar energy will strengthen the country's energy security and eliminate dependence on imports from other sources»[31]. The Government of the Republic intends to increase the country's resilience to global and local climate impacts by approving the National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change for 2021–2025.

BELARUS'S APPROACHES

The Republic of Belarus is also experiencing global climate change. According to the latest data, average temperatures in the country are rising 3.5 times faster than the global average. According to the Environmental Portal of the Republic of Belarus, «in 2024, the average air temperature in the country exceeded the climate norm by 1.5 °C to 9.5 °C»[32].

The steady rise in average annual temperatures is leading to a number of environmental problems, including heavy rains, droughts, peat fires, and changes in river flow patterns. To adapt to climate change, the Government of Belarus has implemented a number of strategic documents and laws: the Law «On Atmospheric Air Protection» of December 16, 2008[33], the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan until 2030[34], the Nationally Determined Contribution of the Republic of Belarus

[28] Member of the Board of Directors of the KFB on the development of the greenhouse gas emission trading market. November 17, 2023. URL: https://kyrtag.kg/ru/interview/chlen-soveta-direktorov-kfb-o-razvitii-rynka-torgovli-kvotami-na-vybros-parnikovykh-gazov (Accessed: 28.08.2025)

[29] Climate Change Armenia. URL: https://www.meteoblue.com/ru/climate-change/ Armenia _ Armenia _174982 (Accessed: 28.08.2025)

[30] EU 4 Climate: Armenia has set an environmental goal for 2021–2030. 06.05.2021. URL: https://euneighbourseast.eu/ru/news/latest-news/eu4climate-armeniya-opredelila-ekologicheskuyu-czel-na-2021–2030-gody/ (Accessed: 27.08.2025)

[31] Republic of Armenia Energy Sector Development Strategic Program to 2040. URL: https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/Energy%20Sector%20Development%20Strategic%20Program%20to%202040%20.pdf (Accessed: 26.08.2025)

[32] Climate characteristics. URL: https://ecoportal.gov.by/klimat/klimaticheskie—kharakteristiki/?year=2024 (Accessed: 27.08.2025)

[33] Law of the Republic of Belarus «On the Protection of Atmospheric Air» of 16.12.2008 No. 2–3. URL: zakon_respubliki_belarus_ot_16_dekabrya_2008_g._no_2-z_ob_ohrane_atmosfernogo_vozduha_.pdf (Accessed: 26.08.2025)

[34] Nationally Determined Contribution of the Republic of Belarus to the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030: Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of September 29, 2021 No. 553. URL: https://minpriroda.gov.by/uploads/folderForLinks/post-553.pdf (Accessed: 25.08.2025)

to the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions of September 29, 2021[35], and the Environmental Protection Strategy of the Republic of Belarus through 2035[36].

Belarus's national climate agenda primarily focuses on improving the energy efficiency of life support systems, implementing greenhouse gas emissions reporting, and developing environmental standards and regulations. Belarus's forests serve as a key and primary means of absorbing carbon dioxide. This is evidenced by the dynamic 1.55-fold increase in forest area[37]. In this regard, the country is constantly implementing measures to increase forest productivity and improving monitoring systems for the condition and processes occurring under the influence of climate change[38].

Thus, forest and peatland restoration programs in the Republic of Belarus play a key role in implementing national and global adaptation plans. Under the Paris Agreement, Belarus has committed to reducing CO_2 emissions by at least 35 % of 1990 levels by 2030, taking into account the «Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry» sector.

RUSSIAN POLICY

The Russian Federation is facing the consequences of global climate change. Due to the vastness of its climate zones, average annual temperature changes vary across regions. For example, according to data from the Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring, in 2024, average annual temperatures in the European and Asian parts of Russia exceeded the norm by between 1.16 °C and 1.36 °C. «On average, the deviation in average air temperature values across Russia for 1991–2020 was 1.21 °C, with the most pronounced changes observed in five Federal Districts of the Russian Federation: the Northwestern District (an increase of 1.31 °C), the Central District (1.75 °C), the Southern District (1.86 °C), the North Caucasus District (1.57 °C), and the Siberian District (1.54 °C)»[39]. These changes primarily negatively impact the northern part of the country, which is occupied by permafrost. The thawing process threatens all life-support systems in Siberia and the northern European part of the country. Rising temperatures are also negatively impacting other parts of the country: «forest fires have increased exponentially in recent years, leading to biodiversity loss and large-scale carbon emissions»[40].

Russia's southern regions are facing soil degradation and desertification, while declining water levels in major rivers, including the Volga and Don basins, have been recorded in recent years. According to RusHydro, «by the end of October 2023, hydropower reserves in the Volga-Kama Cascade reservoirs had decreased by 29 %. The shallowing of rivers affects more than 80 million people

[35] Ibid.
[36] Environmental Protection Strategy of the Republic of Belarus through 2035: Order of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus dated 24.12.2024 No. 370-OD. URL: Strategija-v-oblasti-oxrany-okruzhajuschej-sredy-Respubliki-Belarus-na-period-do-2035-goda.pdf (Accessed: 26.08.2025)
[37] Forest Carbon Resource of Belarus / L. N. Rozhkov [et al.] / edited by L. N. Rozhkov, I. V. Voitov, A. A. Kulik. — Minsk: BSTU, 2018. — p. 60. URL: https://elib.belstu.by/bitstream/123456789/30748/1/Lesouglerodnyj_resurs_belarusi.pdf?ysclid=mafsspztei948033616 (Accessed: 24.08.2025)
[38] National Action Plan for the Adaptation of Forestry in Belarus to Climate Change until 2030: Resolution of the Board of the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus dated December 5, 2019. URL: https://minpriroda.gov.by/uploads/files/3-Minlesxoz-Nats.-plan-po-adaptatsii.pdf (Accessed: 23.08.2025)
[39] Report on climate features in the Russian Federation for 2024. 2025. p. 17. URL: https://clck.ru/3M63uD
[40] Forest fires in 2024: statistics, main causes. 09.08.2024. URL: https://forestcomplex.ru/rf-protection/lesnye-pozhary-2024-goda-statistika-osnovnye-prichiny/?ysclid=mafun36b1l818949135 (Accessed: 10.08.2025)

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and negatively impacts fish migration and spawning»[41].

The Russian Federation is actively implementing measures to combat climate change and improving its national legislative framework. Russia ratified the Paris Agreement in 2019, committing to «reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 70 % of 1990 levels»[42]. Federal Law No. 296-FZ of July 2, 2021, became the first comprehensive document defining the criteria for climate projects and measures to limit emissions. Articles 7 and 8 introduce measures to regulate carbon dioxide emissions, as well as state accounting to obtain reliable information [2]. Moreover, Russia is «systematically developing strategic documents in the field of climate policy aimed at increasing the sustainability of key sectors of the economy and social infrastructure: the Strategy for the Socioeconomic Development of the Russian Federation with Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions until 2050 of October 29, 2021»[43], the National Action Plan for the Second Stage of Adaptation to Climate Change for the Period up to 2025 of March 11, 2023[44].

In its decisions, the government relies on the need to modernize the fuel and energy sector, including the development of nuclear energy and renewable energy sources. Belarus's previously described experience in using forests as a key carbon sink is also applicable to Russia. «The country possesses the world's largest forest carbon sinks, covering an area exceeding 461.7 million hectares, which absorbs 1.6 billion tons of CO_2 annually[45]. «The Federal Forestry Agency of the Russian Federation «annually plans the volumes and sites of work for the purpose of conducting a state forest inventory»[46], assessing forest conditions and implementing conservation measures [3].

Thus, Russia's climate policy has acquired a more institutionalized form since 2020. This has enabled monitoring and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, mobilizing efforts to develop a national carbon management system, developing updated verification and certification methods, and monitoring and protecting forests. Despite the late start of the climate agenda, Russia has made significant progress in implementing «green» measures in recent years.

As a result, in the face of global climate change, EAEU countries are striving to more actively shape national climate agendas and respond to problems based on the domestic specifics of environmental challenges. Climate policy is still in its infancy and institutionalization in all EAEU countries, with varying degrees of readiness. Based on the experience of each EAEU member country, both common trends and differences can be noted. One commonality is the signing and ratification

[41] Bottom visibility: how to solve the problem of shallowing of the Volga. November 17, 2023. URL: https://iz.ru/1606383/kseniia-nabatkina/dna-vidimost-kak-reshit-problemu-obmeleniya-volgi (Accessed: 17.08.2025)

[42] Federal Law No. 296-FZ of July 2, 2021 «On Limiting Greenhouse Gas Emissions». URL: https://www.pnp.ru/law/2021/07/02/federalnyy-zakon-296-fz.html#:~: text= Federal Law No. 296 — FZ of July 2, 2021, the indicator is abbreviated (Accessed: 14.08.2025)

[43] Order of the Government of the Russian Federation of October 29, 2021 No. 3052-r. URL: http://static. government.ru/media/files/ADKkCzp3fWO32e2yA0 BhtIpyzWfHaiUa.pdf (Accessed:19.08.2025)

[44] Order of the Government of the Russian Federation of March 11, 2023 No. 559-r. URL: http://static.government.ru/media/files/DzVPGlI7JgT7QYRoogphpW69KKQREGTB.pdf (Accessed: 23.08.2025)

[45] The area of forests that absorb greenhouse gases increased by almost 1 million hectares in 2024. July 22, 2024. URL: https://tass.ru/ekonomika/21415863 (Accessed: 21.08.2025)

[46] Order of the Federal Forestry Agency No. 556 of May 5, 2022, «On Approval of the Regulations for the Organization and Conduct of Activities on State Forest Inventory by the Central Office of the Federal Forestry Agency, Territorial Bodies of the Federal Forestry Agency, and Organizations Subordinate to the Federal Forestry Agency». URL: https://rosleshoz.gov.ru/documents/rosleshoz/pr-556–2022–05–06/ (Accessed: 28.08.2025)

of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Secondly, EAEU countries have developed national programs aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Thirdly, each EAEU member is formulating its own climate agenda, focusing on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. Russia, as the largest EAEU economy and a major emitter of greenhouse gases, has demonstrated significant progress in institutionalizing its climate agenda, actively implementing new methods. Kazakhstan is the only country in the union with a fully functioning emissions trading system, bringing the country closer to building a «green» economy. The Republic of Belarus is focused on reducing its carbon footprint and actively monitoring the health of forests, which are key carbon sinks. EAEU members are gradually implementing national climate transformation, taking into account their capabilities and vulnerabilities to change.

AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EAEU COUNTRIES

EAEU member countries are taking a number of steps to develop coordinated efforts aimed at regulating emissions, creating a unified carbon trading mechanism, and transitioning to a low-carbon economy. This is due to the fact that several EAEU countries possess significant resource bases, with hydrocarbon production dominating.

The largest exporters of hydrocarbon resources in the EAEU are Russia and Kazakhstan. Russia «has significant resource potential in the field of mineral raw materials necessary for the development of low-carbon energy».[47] According to Rosstat, in 2023, «the share of the oil and gas sector in the structure of Russia's GDP amounted to 16.5 %»[48]. Kazakhstan also has significant coal and oil reserves, which determines their energy policy and economy. «The country's coal reserves exceed 33 billion tons, which is 2.2 % of world reserves»[49]. According to the Bureau of National Statistics of Kazakhstan, «the share of the oil and gas sector in the structure of the country's GDP amounted to 16.2 %»[50]. However, the production and use of oil and petroleum products leads to environmental pollution, and often «to environmental disasters»[51]. In addition to large-scale environmental disasters, oil production negatively impacts soil pollution at drilling sites and near oil storage facilities. The fact that Russia and Kazakhstan have a significant resource base also entails a negative impact on the implementation of the transition to a «green» economy.

In 2021, in accordance with the Resolution of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, the formation of a high-level working group was announced to develop proposals for harmonizing the positions of EAEU member states on the climate agenda. In the context of developing dialogue between countries, a number of initiatives were proposed: «to establish a working group to harmonize positions within the framework of the climate agenda,

[47] Order of the Government of the Russian Federation of April 12, 2025 No. 908-r. URL: LWYfSENa10uBrrBoyLQqAAOj5eJYlA60.pdf-Yandex Documents (Accessed: 27.08.2025)

[48] The share of the oil and gas sector in Russia's GDP fell to 16.5 % in 2023. 04.05.2024. URL: https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/6632852 (Accessed: 22.08.2025)

[49] Mineral resources of Kazakhstan and their locations. 14.08.2023. URL: https://www.nur.kz/family/school/1712125-poleznye-iskopaemye-kazahstana-i-ih-mestorozdenia/?ysclid=maiv5cbvvk637216081 (Accessed: 17.08.2025)

[50] The share of the oil and gas sector in Kazakhstan's economy decreased by 3.3 percentage points over the year. July 31, 2024. URL: https://kz.kursiv.media/2024-07-31/lgtn-oil-gdp / (Accessed: 17.08.2025)

[51] Environmental disaster: what is known about the fuel oil spill off the coast of Kuban. December 21, 2024. URL: https://kuban.rbc.ru/krasnodar/21/12/2024/6766ca219a7947b8a8cf2d20 (Accessed: 18.08.2025)

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to create a climate data bank, and to develop digital initiatives»[52]. This was especially true given that, within the framework of their national policies, the countries had already implemented a systematic transition and taken measures aimed at responding to the global threat of climate change and increasing carbon dioxide emissions. This harmonizing of the Parties' policies will ultimately «allow for the creation of a unified approach to monitoring, verification, and emission absorptivity»[53].

Active work in this area began in 2022. A set of measures for cooperation within the climate agenda was adopted. These included fulfilling commitments in a number of areas, including national regulatory review, the development of market and non-market carbon regulation mechanisms, green finance, and more.

The next step in institutionalizing the climate agenda of the EAEU countries was the introduction of green project criteria, first proposed in 2023 by the Eurasian Economic Commission and later supplemented by the Protocol of March 26, 2025. The introduction of a model taxonomy of green projects is fundamental to the development and updating of national legislation. This taxonomy represents a classification system based on the areas and criteria for green project compliance, from sustainable land use to green city planning. Unifying verification and financing rules is critical for a region highly dependent on hydrocarbon resources. Harmonization of approaches is essential in the context of cross-border partnerships, which subsequently increases the transparency and predictability of risks for EAEU members.

Currently, the EAEU member states continue to work toward a coordinated climate agenda. In 2023, the Eastern Economic Forum hosted a conference, «The SCO and EAEU Climate Agenda: Moving Toward Common Goals»[54]. At the 2024 St. Petersburg International Economic Forum session, «The EAEU, SCO, and BRICS Climate Agenda: Partnership for Sustainable Development,» organized at the initiative of the Eurasian Economic Commission, the focus was on the countries' national climate agendas and their aspirations to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, and for Kyrgyzstan, by 2050. Other plans were also presented, including the development of a «green» transformation concept and the creation of an open carbon trading system[55].

Thus, the EAEU climate agenda is currently undergoing stages of institutionalization. Despite differences in economic development, GDP structures, and environmental challenges, states have expressed their willingness and commitment to developing a coordinated agenda on social and environmental responsibility. Key areas include harmonizing environmental legislation, developing a taxonomy, and promoting transparency and openness in financing systems for green projects. The Eurasian Economic Commission plays a special role in coordinating green initiatives, serving as a platform for developing actions and action plans.

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[52] Resolution of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council No. 10 «On the establishment of a high-level working group to develop proposals for harmonizing the positions of the Eurasian Economic Union member states within the framework of the climate agenda» dated August 20, 202. URL: err_23082021_doc.docx (Accessed: 29.08.2025)

[53] Statement on economic cooperation of the Eurasian Economic Union member states within the framework of the climate agenda. URL: https://eec.eaeunion.org/upload/medialibrary/ec0/Zayavlenie-ramka-.pdf (Accessed: 29.08.2025)

[54] Klementovichus Ya. The climate agenda as a new regulatory mechanism and the basis for the formation of a multipolar model of global development. 20.09.2024. URL: https://roscongress.org/materials/klimaticheskaya-povestka-kak-novyy-mekhanizm-regulirovaniya-i-osnova-dlya-formirovaniya-mnogopolyarn/ (Accessed: 27.08.2025)

[55] Ibid.

BARRIERS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SINGLE POLICY

Despite the steps and efforts taken to harmonize agendas, cooperation between states is fraught with a number of challenges. First and foremost, these are differences in levels of economic development. Russia is the largest economy in the EAEU. Its GDP in 2024 was 200 trillion rubles, equivalent to $2.47 trillion[56]. Kazakhstan's[57] GDP in 2024 was $164 billion, while Kyrgyzstan's was $17.2 billion[58], Belarus's was $81 billion[59] and Armenia's was $25 billion[60]. The data show that economic asymmetry exists within the EAEU. Countries with higher GDPs, primarily Russia and Kazakhstan, have greater capacity to finance environmental programs and the green transition in the context of the climate agenda. The countries' financial resources allow them to use internal reserves without resorting to international organizations. Kyrgyzstan, with significantly weaker resources, is forced to seek assistance from international organizations such as the UN Development Programme, the Green Climate Fund, and the International Development Association. UNDP plays a significant role in Kyrgyzstan and is a key partner in implementing sustainable financing instruments, while the International Development Association, together with the Green Climate Fund, are Kyrgyzstan's main lenders. Consequently, significant differences in the economic potential of EAEU member countries pose a barrier to the development of a unified climate agenda. To overcome this problem, the establishment of a special fund or a series of mechanisms aimed at solidarity financing and technical assistance is required.

Differences in the national strategies of the EAEU have a significant impact. Despite the aspirations of member countries, the climate agenda and regulatory framework are currently only in their infancy. Armenia, unlike its EAEU partners, is emphasizing a «green» energy transition using the potential of renewable energy sources, primarily solar energy. Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan are developing national mechanisms for trading greenhouse gas emissions quotas. Russia, for its part, created a greenhouse gas emissions registry in 2023, requiring each company to report on the regulation and form of emissions. In Kyrgyzstan, greenhouse gas emissions are not systematically recorded. Consequently, national approaches, focused on domestic rather than Union-wide issues, are slowing the development of unified and unified legislation on the climate agenda.

Partnerships among EAEU countries in scientific and technical cooperation and data exchange are weak. The model taxonomy developed in accordance with the EAEU Treaty is only available in two countries of the integration association: Russia and Kazakhstan.

Finally, geopolitical factors are at play. For example, Armenia's decision to «move toward European integration»[61]. Although the law on Armenia's initial accession to the EU does

[56] On the current situation in the Russian economy. Results for 2024. URL: about _ the _ current _ situation _ in _ the _ russian _ economy _ results _ for 2024. pdf (Accessed: 26.08.2025)

[57] Kazakhstan's economy grew from 65 to 85 trillion tenge in three years. 12.12.2024. URL: https://bank.kz/news/finansy-news/ekonomika-kazahstana-vyrosla-s-65-do-85-trln-tenge-za-tri-goda/ (Accessed: 17.08.2025)

[58] The end of 2024, Kyrgyzstan's GDP exceeded $17 billion. 01.14.2025 URL: https://fergana.media/news/136201/?ysclid=maj0c25pe0494222788 (Accessed: 19.08.2025)

[59] Belarus's. URL: https://www.gb.by/novosti/vvp-belarusi-v-2024-godu-sostavil-2466-m (Accessed: 21.08.2025)

[60] Armenia's GDP grew by 5.9 % in 2024. February 21, 2025. URL: https://www.interfax.ru/world /1010206 (Accessed: 23.08.2025)

[61] What does Armenia's decision to begin its participation in the European Union mean? 04.04.2025. URL: https://www.rbc.ru/politics/26/03/2025/67e3ed5f9a7947bf487f2ca (Accessed: 25.08.2025)

not stipulate specific actions, it already calls into question the country's continued participation in the EAEU and contradicts Yerevan's obligations under the Treaty Establishing the Union.

CONCLUSION

EAEU member countries must pay attention and take steps to shape an effective climate agenda within the Union. Each state, both individually and within the Union, has significant potential for developing cooperation in this area. Developing a unified approach and leveraging successful national case studies is key to establishing a unified climate agenda. Joint efforts to create a supranational document containing common goals, adaptation mechanisms, and financing, aligned with national development strategies, could provide powerful advancement on the climate track. Furthermore, the successful implementation of a model taxonomy throughout the Union will strengthen and stimulate investment in the development of safe and environmentally friendly infrastructure. At the conference «The EAEU Climate Agenda: New Trends and Practical Solutions,» ideas were previously voiced for the creation of a Eurasian Climate Competence Center, a Eurasian Sustainable Finance Fund, and a Eurasian School of ESG Transformation as a preparatory stage for companies in the energy transition. In the future, the Eurasian Economic Commission and national governments will require numerous consultations, meetings, and forums to successfully shape a unified climate agenda.

Thus, the issue of climate change has become especially pressing. The modern climate agenda is becoming increasingly defined and articulated in global discussions each year.

EAEU member states require improved coordination of efforts, as climate policy is still in its infancy and institutionalization, with varying degrees of readiness. The Union's countries have come a long way in a short period of time. All EAEU countries are signatories and ratifiers of the Paris Climate Agreement, have submitted action plans to reduce CO2 emissions, and are continually improving their national climate legislation.

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