

Issue 5/2021

Special Report on Polluter Pays Principle Shows Great Inconsistencies

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) recently published its Special Report on 'The Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) – Inconsistent application across EU environmental policies and actions'. As a conclusion, the report shows, that the PPP is included in European legislation. However, the application in Member States remains sporadic across the Union, even though the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) stipulates its responsibilities.



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The polluter pays principle requires that polluters should bear the costs of their pollution. The European Court of Auditors (ECA) shows in their newest report that this is not always the case in the EU. While the European environmental policies usually support this principle in its Directives, its coverage remains incomplete and the sectors and the Member States apply it disproportionately.