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## Serbian Ministry of Environmental Protection Completes Study Tour in Athens under Chapter 27 Project

A delegation from the **Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia – Sector for Environmental Management**, led by **Assistant Minister Aleksandra Imširagić Đurić**, carried out a study tour in Athens, Greece, from 15–19 September 2025. The Sector oversees key horizontal policy areas including **environmental impact assessments (EIA), industrial emissions prevention and control, environmental risk management, as well as access to information and public participation in decision-making**. The delegation included 13 senior representatives of the Ministry—heads of the respective departments and the Environmental Inspectorate—who actively participated in all sessions.

Organized within the framework of the EU-funded project “**EU for Improving Chapter 27 Planning and Implementation in Serbia**”, and in close cooperation with the **European Public Law Organization (EPLO)**, the study visit was hosted jointly by the **EPLO and the Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy**. It provided Serbian experts with first-hand insight into European best practices on **public participation and coordinated environmental procedures**.

Prominent international experts from **Italy, Ireland, and Greece** enriched the exchange by offering practical perspectives on EIA, IPPC, and Seveso procedures, as well as strategies for overcoming common challenges in implementing EU environmental legislation.

The hosts ensured excellent organization and hospitality at the **EPLO headquarters**, supported by the Greek Ministry, creating an inspiring environment for professional dialogue and networking. **Professor George Kremlis**, Director of the Circular Economy & Climate Institute at EPLO and Honorary Director of the European Commission, skilfully moderated the interactive sessions with international experts.

A highlight of the visit was the **field trip to The Ellinikon**, Europe’s largest urban regeneration project, where participants explored how sustainable urban planning, large-scale permitting, and community engagement are integrated in practice.

The study tour came at a particularly important moment: **Serbia has recently adopted new laws on environmental impact assessment (EIA), strategic environmental assessment (SEA), and the management of risks from major accidents involving chemicals, aligning national legislation more closely with the EU acquis**. A number of implementing acts under these laws—supported by the Chapter 27 project—are in preparation for adoption by the Government by the end of this year. In addition, a **new Law on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC)** is currently under technical discussion.

This timely study visit not only strengthened professional exchanges between Serbia, Greece, and other EU Member States but also boosted the accession country’s preparedness for the effective implementation of EU environmental standards under Chapter 27. **By building capacity and fostering cooperation, the visit has paved the way for stronger, more coordinated application of the SEA, EIA, IPPC, and**



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**Seveso directives—bringing Serbia a step closer to its EU accession goals.**